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Habitat for Humanity exceeds \$7.5 million capital campaign goal and celebrates Weavers Grove

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (May 25, 2023) – Habitat for Humanity of Orange County had a lot to celebrate this past weekend around its newest community Weavers Grove.

Weavers Grove is a mixed-income community offering affordable homeownership to Habitat families as well as market-rate homes. Buying a home at the lower end of the market is difficult in Chapel Hill. Of the 238 single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes, and condominiums, 102 will be Habitat homes owned by people who live or work in Orange County. The remaining market-rate homes will offer new opportunities for Chapel Hill homebuyers, at or slightly below today's median home price.

On Saturday, May 20, the community gathered at the site to be part of two celebrations. In the morning, board members, construction partners, elected officials, and the capital campaign committee gathered for an event to celebrate the success of Weavers Grove and all the partners who have helped bring the community to life. Originally a \$5 million campaign, fundraising began in the spring of 2020 and was set to continue through December 2024. Due to increased construction costs during the pandemic, the goal was raised to \$7.5 million. Organizational leadership announced on Saturday that the campaign has raised \$8,069,750 from 284 donors, 18 months ahead of schedule.

“Habitat put out a call for a community-driven campaign to accelerate the infrastructure of Weavers Grove. The Orange County community answered the call in a major way,” said Habitat for Humanity of Orange County Vice President of Development Shanell Smaw. “Just like the Weavers Grove community, the capital campaign has sought to be a place where everyone can see themselves. 89% of donations came from individuals in the community who believe in the vision of Weavers Grove.”

In the afternoon, the public was invited to visit the site and attend a community celebration. This included self-guided walking tours, engaging activities for children, community mural painting which will one day hang in the Weavers Grove Community Center, and even a visit from the Tar Heels' mascot Rameses. There were also information tables for people to learn more about Weavers Grove, Habitat for Humanity, and the market rate builders Garman Homes and White Oak Properties.

“Weavers Grove is a unique, cohesive community designed to foster strong connections and empower residents to relax, dine, play and thrive together. Strategic design choices will invite each resident to participate fully as part of the fabric of their community,” said Garman Homes Founder and CEO Alaina Money-Garman. “Our team is honored to play a part in bringing affordable, mixed-income housing options to the Chapel Hill area, and feel this is a model that can be tested and replicated in communities across the country.”

As infrastructure construction wraps up, volunteer opportunities to raise walls on the Habitat homes will begin this summer. The market rate homes will be available in the near future. Learn more about this community at www.weaversgrove.org.

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About Habitat for Humanity of Orange County

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County has helped over 300 families build and purchase new homes and over 200 families repair existing homes in Orange County. Habitat homes are built through the use of volunteer labor and donations of money and materials. Qualified homebuyers complete 275 hours of sweat equity and purchase the home from Habitat through an affordable mortgage priced at less than 30% of family income. For more information, please visit www.orangehabitat.org.

About Garman Homes

Founded by Jim Garman and Alaina Money-Garman in 2007, Garman Homes is a privately-held home building company based in Cary, NC. The company operates two brands, Fresh Paint by Garman Homes and Nonfiction by Garman Homes, which builds townhomes and single-family detached homes throughout North Carolina. Driven by the belief that a home building company can change the world by treating people with transparency and respect, empowering them to create their dream, improve their lives and make the world a better place, Garman ranked #197 in sales volume on the 2020 Builder 200 list, growing steadily year over year. For more information, please visit www.garmanhomes.com.

About White Oak Properties

Since the company's inception in 1982, White Oak Properties has been the creator of numerous successful upscale condominium and townhome communities throughout North Carolina's Triangle area. During its span of over 30 years in the development industry, White Oak Properties has received significant acclaim through Community Appearance Awards for its number of projects and platinum Best in American Living Award from the National Association of Home Builders. At the helm of White Oak Properties is company founder Roland Gammon. With a passion for building and structure, Roland owned a small residential renovation company before launching his celebrated development career. He works alongside his son, Jed Gammon, serving as Project Manager. For more information, please visit <http://www.whiteoakinc.com/>.