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Austin Habitat for Humanity Received a \$8.5 Million Transformational Investment From Mackenzie Scott to Purchase Land to Hit the Affordable Housing Crisis Head On

Austin, Texas (March 22, 2022) – Austin Habitat for Humanity, an affiliate of the Habitat for Humanity International organization, has received a transformational investment of \$8.5 million from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The gift is part of an unprecedented donation of \$436 million to support Habitat for Humanity's International office and 84 Habitat affiliates across the nation. This pivotal funding will significantly further Habitat's vision of a world where everyone has equitable access to a safe, decent and affordable place to call home.

"This gift is beyond impactful for Austin Habitat for Humanity; it's transformational. It truly changes what we can achieve and the lives we can impact. We are extraordinarily thankful for MacKenzie Scott's generosity and the sweeping impact of her philanthropy." stated Mason Ayers, Board Treasurer of Austin Habitat for Humanity

Austin Habitat will utilize this remarkable investment to acquire land to build significantly more affordable homes in their service area of Bastrop, Blanco, Caldwell, Hays, and Travis counties. As the median home price rises past \$565,000 in the City of Austin, families cannot realize the benefits of homeownership, including financial stability, the ability to pay for quality healthcare, education advancement, and a safe community for their families to thrive. Now more than ever, many Central Texans cannot purchase homes, and affordable rental options are becoming out of reach. This extraordinary financial investment is a game-changer that will help build capacity and sustainability for Austin Habitat for Humanity and will provide the resources to purchase the land required to build even more affordable homes for as many families as possible.

Ross Sabolick, Austin Habitat for Humanity Board Chair, stated, "We are grateful for the gift, supporting Austin Habitat's critically important work of creating affordable homeownership opportunities in Central Texas. This is the single largest donation we have ever received in our 37-year history. This generosity will change the lives of families in the Austin area who will now be able to afford their own home."

"Habitat works to break down barriers and bring people together — to tear down obstacles and build a world where everyone has a decent place to live, no matter who we are or where we come from," said Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford. "This incredible gift helps make that work possible."

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About Austin Habitat for Humanity

Since 1985, Austin Habitat for Humanity has built over 500 affordable homes across Central Texas and founded the nation's first ReStore in 1992. Austin Habitat was selected due to our strong reputation for high-quality homes built with integrity and compassion. Driven by a vision that everyone deserves a decent place to live, we build homes, community, and hope. Learn more about Austin Habitat at austinhabitat.org.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity found its earliest inspirations as a grassroots movement on an interracial community farm in South Georgia. Since its founding in 1976, the Christian housing organization has become a leading global nonprofit working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries. Families and individuals need a hand-up partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering, or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit habitat.org.