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Fauquier Habitat, Oak View Bank Team Up To Help Three Local Families Make Critical Home Repairs

Warrenton, Va. – Fauquier Habitat for Humanity and Oak View National Bank have joined forces to help three local families make critical home repairs as part of a Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Grant.

The grant, offered by Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, provided funds to assist qualified homeowners with energy efficient upgrades, weatherization, and safety and accessibility improvements. Grants were provided in the amount of up to \$15,000 each to eligible owner-occupied homes. As long as the owners stay in their home for the next five years, the grant will be forgiven. This means the homeowner will only have to repay the grant if they sell their home within the five years.

"The grant program became available during the fall as long as the funds last. We are excited that we were able to help three local families this year," said Fauquier Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Brenda Drerenberger.

The grant required Fauquier Habitat for Humanity to work with a local bank to assist homeowners with the application process. Oak View National Bank stepped forward, offering its expertise and guidance at no cost.

"We are extremely grateful to Oak View National Bank for supporting this grant initiative," said Drerenberger. "Caren Eastham, Executive Vice President of Oak View National Bank, spent many hours navigating the required paperwork of this grant. Helping local families improve their living conditions by providing a hand-up is a core part of our mission, one that Oak View National Bank believes in also. One of the families we helped is a single grandmother raising her grandchildren. The repairs will help cut her electric bills in half, leaving her with a few more dollars each month to feed and clothe her family."

Critical repairs funded by the grant included roof replacement in all three homes, HVAC replacement in two of the homes and five new windows in one of the homes. Gracious contractors throughout the region supported the repair initiative by providing at-cost or close-to-cost services.

For information on Fauquier Habitat For Humanity, visit www.fauquierhabitat.org or call (540) 341 4952.

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About Habitat for Humanity International: Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 500,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than two million people. For more information visit habitat.org.

About Fauquier Habitat for Humanity: Fauquier Habitat for Humanity (www.fauquierhabitat.org) works in partnership with the Fauquier and Rappahannock County communities to eliminate the blight of poverty housing. Since 1991, it has built 44 homes and rehabilitated sever others for qualified, low-income families that need a hand up. Like all Habitat for Humanity recipients Fauquier Habitat for Humanity families pass a detailed qualification process, participate in a continuing education program, and invest hundreds of hours of their own labor into building their Habitat houses. Once they move in, the make regular mortgage payments and remain engaged in Habitat for Humanity's ongoing education program as well as their community. Fauquier Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International.

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