



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

Publix Super Markets Charities Breaks Ground at Charleston Habitat for Humanity Home for Veteran

North Charleston, SC – May 15, 2018 – On Thursday, May 3, Publix Super Markets Charities and Charleston Habitat for Humanity broke ground at a new home site on Houston Street in North Charleston.

Publix donated \$75,000 towards a new home for a local veteran family. Construction began this week and is expected to be completed by late summer 2018. "Publix Charities is proud to support the Charleston Habitat for Humanity and the work they do in the community. We believe that no individual or family should have to worry about the basic needs of food or shelter." said Kelly Williams-Puccio, Executive Director of Publix Super Markets Charities.

Publix District Manager Charles Gainer and local Store Managers, Donald Calabrese, Theresa Chambless, Vicki Parker, Tina Faust, and Tiki Vietri, wielded shovels for a ceremonial "first dig." Also in attendance were City Councilman Bob King with City of North Charleston, a retired Two Star General, Charleston Habitat Executive Director Lynn Bowley, Board Chair John Goodwin of Stono Construction and Board Member Joe Mulé of Kirkman Broadcasting.

"We are so grateful to Publix and Publix Super Markets Charities for their continued support and dedication to making homeownership a reality for families in the Charleston area," said Bowley. "They have not only funded and helped to build homes for our Habitat families, but also stocked their pantries. There would be far fewer Habitat homes and families impacted without their generosity."

Who wasn't in attendance? A veteran homeowner. Charleston County has over 31,000 veteran residents, or 11% of the population; however, Charleston Habitat has had very few qualified applicants. With the median price of a home in Charleston County at \$315,000 and rising, options for affordable housing are quickly disappearing. Veterans Build is a comprehensive initiative to provide housing and volunteer opportunities to U.S. veterans, military service members and their families in Charleston County. "If you are a veteran in need of an affordable home, please connect with us," said Kristen Williams, Charleston Habitat's Director of Development. "If you qualify and are selected to become our first Veterans Build homeowner, you will have a house by the time the leaves change."

To learn more about Veterans Build or to receive an application, please contact Candice Sims candice@charlestonhabitat.org or (843) 203-4022.

About Charleston Habitat

Established in 1989, Charleston Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian housing organization that brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. Serving Charleston, North Charleston, and West Ashley, the local affiliate has built 87 new homes, renovated 17 houses, and supported 45 homes in Honduras - improving over 600 lives through home ownership. More than 4,000 volunteers donate between 15-20K hours every year to help build and repair homes. For more information, please visit www.charlestonhabitat.org.

About Publix Super Markets Charities

George Jenkins, founder of Publix Super Markets and affectionately known as “Mr. George” believed in giving. From the day he opened his first Publix, he made sure his associates, customers, and community were taken care of. In 1966, Mr. George established the Foundation with the vision it would continue giving long after he was gone. Under the leadership of Carol Jenkins Barnett, Mr. George’s daughter, Publix Super Markets Charities remains committed to serving the communities in which Publix operates. To learn more, visit www.publixcharities.org.

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