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Chatham Habitat for Humanity in Washington, DC, to advocate for comprehensive affordable housing policies

Pittsboro, NC (2/13/19) – Representatives of Chatham Habitat for Humanity joined hundreds of other Habitat leaders, homeowners and volunteers in Washington, DC, this week to encourage lawmakers to support policies that promote broader access to safe, decent and affordable housing to address the affordable housing crisis facing communities across the U.S., including Chatham County.

“With scarce affordable housing options available, many families in Chatham County are forced to decide between spending money on a safe and stable place to live and food to eat,” said George Bernhardt, Chatham Habitat business manager. “No one should have to make that choice, so we’re trying to make sure affordable housing is on Congress’ list of priorities.”

Bold action is needed to address the increasing costs of housing. Chatham Habitat is calling on federal lawmakers to support comprehensive legislation that addresses the housing affordability crisis across the rental and homeownership spectrum. Recent budget requests submitted by the current administration have proposed eliminating programs that are used by local communities to finance the development of new, affordable homes. Habitat for Humanity and other affordable housing advocates have worked with Congress to reject those cuts in previous years.

Bernhardt and the North Carolina delegation met with staff of Representatives Walker, Butterfield, and Budd. They emphasized the need for HOME, SHOP, USDA 502, and National Service funding to advance the development of affordable housing.

Chatham Habitat has used SHOP funds to help with purchase and development of land for 60 homes. Federal HOME funds are used by the NC Housing Finance Agency as they partner to fund mortgages for more than 130 Chatham Habitat homes.

Dania Rosales Gonzales moved into her Chatham Habitat home a few weeks ago. She and her husband, Hugo, applied after searching for a stable living environment to raise their young son. Dania received our Dick Forbis Scholarship two years in a row and plans to use the money to finish her nursing degree at UNC-Chapel Hill.

To foster more success stories like Dania's, Chatham Habitat is calling on Congress to prioritize budget solutions that will invest more resources, not less, in programs that support efforts to build and maintain affordable housing.

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About Chatham Habitat for Humanity

Chatham Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that works in partnership with God and people to create self-help opportunities for families to own affordable homes, improve their lives, and strengthen their communities. To find out more about Chatham Habitat for Humanity and its other volunteer opportunities, please visit chathamhabitat.org.