



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County aims to improve home affordability in Northwest Harris County through national advocacy campaign**

*Habitat organizations across the country are mobilizing to influence policy and system changes at the federal, state and local levels*

**HOUSTON, TEXAS (June 13, 2019)** — Nearly 19 million households across the United States are spending at least half of their income on a place to live, often forgoing basic necessities such as food and health care to make ends meet. In Houston, the National Association of Realtors shows that the median price for a single-family home is \$237,900, the average monthly mortgage payment is \$1,375.00. This has increased by 3.50% since 2017. For an apartment, the median monthly rent for a 2-bedroom is \$1,020.00, this does not include utilities. The stability that housing should bring continues to remain out of reach for many people.

On Wednesday, Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County joined Habitat organizations across the country to launch a new national advocacy campaign aimed at improving home affordability for 10 million people in the U.S. over the next five years.

Marking significant growth in Habitat's commitment to ensuring that everyone has a safe and decent place to call home, the Cost of Home campaign seeks to identify and improve policies and systems through coordinated advocacy efforts at the local, state and federal levels.

Cost of Home focuses on improving housing affordability across the housing continuum in four specific policy areas: increasing supply and preservation of affordable homes, equitably increasing access to credit, optimizing land use for affordable homes, and ensuring access to and development of communities of opportunity.

Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County already has taken several steps toward these goals. Our Executive Director, Soleil Watt recently participated in Habitat on the Hill, where she joined with hundreds of home affordability advocates on Capitol Hill in addition to meeting with Senator Ted Cruz to ask for support in legislation that includes critical housing needs and home affordability.

“We assist families to be able to access the tools they need to create a better life for themselves and their families,” says Soleil Watt, Executive Director. “Through helping to provide shelter, together we make it possible for children to have access to better education, families have a renewed sense of hope, and lives are changed through improvements in both physical and mental health.” She continues, “Through housing, we provide stepping stones for families to invest in their future and sculpt a legacy to thrive.”

More details about Habitat’s Cost of Home policy platform and campaign activation are available at [habitat.org/costofhome](http://habitat.org/costofhome). For more information or to speak to Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County about the campaign, please contact Soleil Watt at [swatt@habitatnwhc.org](mailto:swatt@habitatnwhc.org) or call (281)477-0460 to make an appointment.

#### About Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County

Habitat for Humanity Northwest Harris County was established in 1989 by 12 area churches as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3), faith based, volunteer driven organization dedicated to eliminating sub-standard housing. We are one of several Habitat affiliates in metropolitan Houston. To learn more about your local Northwest Harris County affiliate, visit [habitatnwhc.org](http://habitatnwhc.org)

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