



News From: Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County
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Woods Promoted to Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County

ST. PETERS, Mo. (Oct. 1, 2019) – Habitat for Humanity of St Charles County, dedicated to creating quality, affordable homes where families partner, build and buy, promoted Michelle Woods to executive director.

Woods joined the Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County team in 2011 as the local affiliate's first homeowner support manager. In this role, Woods spearheaded the homeowner education and family support program, including the Homebuyer Readiness Program, which includes working in tandem with community partners to provide free financial planning and management skills, comprehensive workshops and one-on-one coaching to potential partner families. In her tenure at Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County, she has provided stewardship to more than 30 families in the transition to successful homeownership, as well as provided resources and training to countless other community members in need. In addition, she has been a staunch advocate in the community to garner accessible, affordable housing options for families in need, as the chair of the Continuum of Care for St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties while serving on the St. Charles County Housing Team.

Prior to joining Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County, Woods worked for more than two decades at organizations in the social services industry to serve area families in need including Youth in Need, the Missouri Division of Social Services–Family Support Division and as a school crisis counselor.

Woods holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Missouri State University in Springfield and a master's degree in social work from University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"We are excited for Michelle to take over as executive director of the organization," said Greg Boschert, chairman, board of directors of Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County. "She has been an integral part of our team over the last eight years and we are confident her passion for our mission and love for our Habitat families will allow us to continue serving families in St. Charles County well into the future."

About Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County builds safe, decent and affordable homes with hard-working families in St. Charles County. The nonprofit community-level affiliate acts in partnership with and on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, an international, non-governmental, nonprofit organization devoted to building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County has built 89 homes for Habitat families since 1997, with more than 2,000 volunteers donating 14,000 hours each year.

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County offers a 'hand up' opportunity that transforms lives, builds a strong foundation and forges lasting relationships with communities for a bright future. Applicants and co-applicants selected for a Habitat home agree to perform a minimum of 150 "sweat equity" hours each, for a total of at least 300 hours, in the building of their home or other Habitat projects. In collaboration with community partners, Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County offers free financial coaching and skills to potential homeowners through the Homebuyer Readiness Program, in which participants learn about credit, debt, budgeting, setting goals and saving money. In addition, the organization guides homeowners through an affordable mortgage repayment process.

To help fund and support these efforts, Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County operates Habitat St. Charles ReStore habitatstcharles.org/restore/ a retail outlet located at 186 Mid Rivers Center in St. Peters. ReStore, which opened in 2007, has diverted over 100,000 tons of waste from local landfills by selling donated new and used building materials, appliances, furniture and select home goods items back to the general public at fair prices. Funds raised allow Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County to be self-sustaining, with nearly 100 percent of every dollar donated going directly toward building simple, decent, affordable homes for deserving families in St. Charles County.

In addition, Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County hosts the annual Frame the Future Gala as its premier fundraiser in November, a trivia night each spring and sponsors Women Build, an international effort to empower women to help families build strength, stability and independence through hands-on learning.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to 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 in need of 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

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