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MEDIA RELEASE: *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

WAUKEGAN, IL, July 7, 2021/PRNewswire/ -- **Habitat for Humanity Lake County Announces New Executive Director.**

Habitat for Humanity Lake County has named Joel Williams as its next Executive Director. Late last year, the organization began a nationwide search. It brought forth scores of qualified candidates that met the organization's board criteria for leadership, community engagement, housing development and nonprofit organization effectiveness.

Williams brings 15 years of housing and not-for-profit experience in Lake County to this position. He most recently served as Executive Director at University Center of Lake County. Prior to that, he was Executive Director at PADS Lake County and also worked as a community development administrator at the Lake County Government Planning, Building & Development Department. He received his bachelor's degree at Elmhurst University and master's degree at DePaul University in Public Service Management.

"We are delighted to have found such an experienced leader with local roots and a deep commitment to the Habitat mission," said Barry Kalian, Board Chair. "While the Search Committee reviewed applications from a number of capable individuals, Joel's track record and passion stood out."

Williams wants to continue the good work Habitat has done in the community for years, building new homes while also focusing on rehabilitation and renovating existing properties. For the upcoming year, he said a main goal for the program is to engage partners throughout Lake County, finding ways to collaborate and further the provision of affordable housing.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity," Williams said. "Habitat for Humanity has accomplished so much in Lake County. There are still families in need of safe, affordable housing – and this past year showed us all just how important a stable home is. I look forward to being a part of Lake County's transformational and sustainable community development."

Habitat for Humanity Lake County, founded in 1989, provided a path to home ownership for 204 families with over 900 people, and added more than \$7 million dollars to the tax rolls in its service area with homes in 6 different municipalities.

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. Homes are built with donated funds and with largely volunteer labor, including Habitat homebuyers who help build their own homes. Habitat home buyers also pay an affordable mortgage on their homes, with payments based on their income. The Habitat ReStore, located in the Gurnee, IL accepts donations of household goods, construction materials, furniture and appliances. The sale of ReStore donations provides additional funds for housing. Currently, land is available for 6 homes and families are approved for the program.

More information about Habitat for Humanity Lake County is available at www.habitatlc.org or at 847-623-1020