



We build strength, stability, self-reliance *and* shelter.

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Paterson Habitat for Humanity, Habitat for Humanity International and 83 other Habitat affiliates receive transformational \$436M gift from MacKenzie Scott

Paterson Habitat for Humanity will use gift to address affordable housing shortage in Passaic County.

Paterson, NJ (March 22, 2022) — Paterson Habitat for Humanity, along with Habitat for Humanity International, and 83 other U.S. Habitat affiliate organizations, recently received a total of \$436 million in unrestricted giving from American author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. Of that total, Paterson Habitat for Humanity received \$4.5 million. This transformational donation will substantially help further Habitat’s vision of a world where everyone has equitable access to a safe, decent and affordable place to call home.

“We are humbled by the transformative, life-changing gift that Ms. Scott has extended to us,” said Paterson Habitat CEO Scott Millard. “This ground-breaking donation will allow us to invest more aggressively in expanding our services and mission impact across Passaic County. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of Ms. Scott and profoundly grateful she has chosen to put her faith in our ability to address the affordable housing crisis across Passaic County. She is sending a loud and clear message: We are worth the investment!”

Paterson Habitat for Humanity will use this significant gift to invest in increasing our capacity and to serve more families in our community, which is currently facing an affordable housing crisis unlike any we have ever seen. From 2014 to 2019, median home values in NJ rose 11% resulting in the loss of over 129,000 affordable units across the state as prices increased. Then, in 2021 alone, home prices have increased by over 20% more. In our hometown of Paterson, the price of a single buildable lot has increased more than fourfold since before the pandemic. The crisis is acute. There are not enough houses, let alone affordable houses, available to meet the housing needs of our city, county, and country.

“A gift of this size, especially during these challenging times, brings us renewed hope for the possibilities it creates and for the recognition it brings to the dedicated leaders, staff, and volunteers of Paterson Habitat,” said Giancarlo Di Lonardo, Board President.

“Habitat works to break down barriers and bring people together — to tear down obstacles and build a world where everyone, no matter who we are or where we come from, has a decent place to live,” said Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford. “This incredible gift helps make that work possible.”

About Paterson Habitat for Humanity

In 1984, leaders in Paterson started a local Habitat for Humanity to serve the Paterson and Passaic County area. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Paterson Habitat to build or improve a place they can call home. Through the merger of affordable home ownership and community redevelopment efforts Paterson Habitat works to revitalize distressed neighborhoods and create communities people want to call home. To learn more visit, patersonhabitat.org.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity found its earliest inspirations as a grassroots movement on an interracial community farm in south Georgia. Since its founding in 1976, the Christian housing organization has 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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