



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland receives \$237, 900 grant from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to help improve wellness of low-income older Americans in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties by combining home repairs with health care services

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland implements award-winning aging-in-place research by Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties.

Silver Spring, MD, (July 23rd, 2018) – Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland (HFHMM) today announced it will use a \$237,900 grant from [The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation](#) to support aging-in-place services for low-income older adults over 65. Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland will implement the Community Aging in Place – Advancing Better Living for Elders (CAPABLE) program designed by [Johns Hopkins School of Nursing](#) that combines services in nursing and occupational therapy with Habitat’s expertise in home repairs.

“We are grateful for the generous grant from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, which will allow us to better address the ties between home and health for our community’s older adults,” said John Paukstis, President/CEO of HFHMM. “Through CAPABLE, we will work in partnership with Holy Cross Hospital to help homeowners to stay healthy and safe as they grow older in their homes.”

Through the CAPABLE program, HFHMM will assess the overall condition of a house in partnership with the homeowner and local health care providers to prioritize critical home repairs that will improve the health and safety of the home and its owner.

“Helping low-income and vulnerable older adults to age in their communities with independence and dignity is one of our biggest areas of giving and we’re thrilled to begin this new partnership with Habitat for Humanity,” said Aaron Merki, managing director for programs and grants for The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. “We believe combining health services with home repairs will make aging in place safer and healthier for the over 80 percent of Americans growing older in their homes.”

The CAPABLE program is based on the idea that disabilities in older adults result from a combination of medical and environmental factors. Researchers from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing identified low-income adults as being more vulnerable to these factors because they tend to have reduced access to primary care and an increased likelihood of living in homes needing critical repairs, but often lack the physical or financial resources to address them. Throughout the two-year period, HFHMM will work closely with the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing to measure and analyze results.

About Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, Inc. (HFHMM) is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International that serves Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland. Since 1982, HFHMM has partnered with the community and low-income families living in substandard conditions to provide over 415 decent and affordable housing solutions. HFHMM supports the notion that good, stable housing matters for neighborhoods. Better quality of living leads to stronger citizens and families. Habitat for Humanity is about changing lives, one home at a time. Visit our website at www.HabitatMM.org.

About The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States, provides approximately \$100 million in annual grants to nonprofits that provide direct services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families, primarily in the United States and Israel. Grants are focused on meeting basic needs and enhancing an individual's ability to meet those needs with emphasis on older adults, the Jewish community, and the Foundation's priority communities of Maryland, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, rural communities in the United States, and the State of Israel. The trustees, some of whom also serve as executive officers of the Foundation, are Chair Robert T. Kelly, Jr., Donn Weinberg, Alvin Awaya, Fay Hartog-Levin, and Paula B. Pretlow. Rachel Garbow Monroe serves as the Weinberg Foundation's President and Chief Executive Officer. For more information, please visit www.hjweinbergfoundation.org