For Immediate Release 05/12/22 through 05/25/2022

Changing Lives One Home at a Time

 Habitat for Humanity East Polk in Partnership with Coca Cola Beverages of Florida

Welcomes New Homeowner!

**Lake Wales, Florida On Thursday, May 26, at 6:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County will dedicate house #175 for brand new homeowner Mercede Simmons.** Ms. Simmons has contributed countless hours of volunteer work alongside the Habitat team and is excited for this opportunity for affordable homeownership. The Dedication Ceremony is the culmination of a preparatory journey and the beginning of a new chapter in Ms. Simmons’ life as she experiences homeownership thanks to an affordable mortgage underwritten by Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County. Volunteers, community members, and Habitat staff will gather to celebrate with her in a joyous program that will include recognition, gratitude, and prayerful dedication of this new home. Live music, refreshments, and tours of the house will be available for attendees.

# Community Impact

 Founded in 1987, Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County has assisted 175 homeowners in achieving housing stability. “There is nothing quite like homeownership,” said Mark Ferreira, Executive Director; “Homeownership means housing security and a sense of belonging.”

From Ms. Simmons: “This particular journey to homeownership has not been easy. There were times I wanted to quit but with support and encouragement from so many, I am finally here. I will be a homeowner! Many thanks to the Habitat team, Coca Cola, and every volunteer who gave so much.”

**Volunteers Wanted to Help Change Lives:**

Habitat for Humanity of East Polk provides a wide range of volunteer opportunities; please visit our website www.habitateastpolk.org to find out more and to get involved.

# For more information, press only:

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