



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT

Shallina Goodnight  
Public Relations Chair  
Junior League of Springfield  
417.350.2140  
[Shallina.Goodnight@oxfordhealthcare.net](mailto:Shallina.Goodnight@oxfordhealthcare.net)

### WOMEN OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SPRINGFIELD TO BUILD HOME WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

**SPRINGFIELD, MO, Nov. 13, 2014**— The Junior League of Springfield (JLS) is teaming up with Habitat for Humanity of Springfield (Habitat-Springfield) in **“Women Build 2015 – A Partnership for Building Better Communities.”** The partnership’s year-long efforts will culminate this spring in the construction of a new three-bedroom home for a Springfield family in need.

JLS’s partnership with Habitat-Springfield in Women Build is part of its ongoing focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect in the Springfield area through advocacy, direct service and volunteer time.

“When families with children lack quality long-term housing, an unfortunate product of this instability can be child abuse and neglect,” said JLS President Katie Moore. “Home ownership is a powerful tool in improving the lives of our community’s children. JLS is proud to partner with Habitat for Humanity in helping a deserving Springfield family to achieve the stability, security and dignity that can come with home ownership.”

The project kicked off in September with JLS member Betsy Miller leading a Habitat homeowner preparedness course on home organization. In all, JLS members will teach six such preparedness classes by March 2015, when the home construction begins.

Habitat for Humanity’s Women Build program works to recruit, educate and nurture women to build – and advocate for – simple, decent and affordable houses in their communities. “We are so excited to collaborate with our friends at the Junior League of Springfield,” said Larry Peterson, Habitat-Springfield’s executive director. “We look forward to working together to better our community. According to the Homeownership Alliance of Nonprofit Downpayment Providers, children of homeowners have a 25 percent higher high school graduation rate and are 116 percent more likely to graduate from college. This collaboration can help our community stop the cycle of poverty.”

Between March 5 and May 16, more than 100 JLS members are expected to volunteer in building the new home in the Legacy Trails Subdivision. JLS members will also assist Habitat-Springfield in recruiting local women and women’s groups to volunteer on the build.

Volunteers with skill levels ranging from novice to expert will work half-day and full-day shifts between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. each Wednesday through Saturday during the build.

To volunteer on the JLS Women Build project, visit the JLS website at [www.jlsspringfield.org/?nd=WomenBuild](http://www.jlsspringfield.org/?nd=WomenBuild) and fill out a Volunteer Interest Form. Potential volunteers may also contact Tommy Hawkins, Habitat-Springfield volunteer coordinator, at [tommyhawkins@habitatspringfieldmo.org](mailto:tommyhawkins@habitatspringfieldmo.org) or (417) 829-4001.

For more information about Habitat-Springfield – including volunteer policies, family selection procedures, homeowner responsibilities, homeowner preparedness class information and other volunteer opportunities – please visit the Habitat-Springfield website at [habitatspringfieldmo.org/](http://habitatspringfieldmo.org/).

Contact Jessica Tindall, Done in A Year Project Chair, by phone 417-693-3845 or email [jtindall@oakstarbank.com](mailto:jtindall@oakstarbank.com) or Shallina Goodnight, PR Chair, by phone 417-350-2140 or email [Shallina.Goodnight@oxfordhealthcare.net](mailto:Shallina.Goodnight@oxfordhealthcare.net) or visit [www.jlspringfield.org](http://www.jlspringfield.org) for more information.

About the Junior League: The Junior League of Springfield is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League of Springfield reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism. Since 1959, JLS has contributed more than \$4.7 million dollars and more than 1.4 million hours of volunteer service to the Springfield community. For more information, please visit our website at [www.jlspringfield.org](http://www.jlspringfield.org), Facebook at [www.facebook.com/JLSpringfield](https://www.facebook.com/JLSpringfield) or Twitter @JLSgf.

Proceeds benefit the projects of the Junior League of Springfield and its signature project, Isabel's House, the Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks.

Since 1959, the Junior League of Springfield has contributed over \$4 million and more than 1.3 million hours of volunteer service to the Springfield community. For more information, please visit the Junior League of Springfield website at [www.jlspringfield.org](http://www.jlspringfield.org).

#### **About Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, MO**

Habitat for Humanity of Springfield believes every person in the Springfield and surrounding area deserves to live in safe, decent, affordable housing. As one of 2,300 affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat Springfield builds an average of 10 homes each year. Since 1988, Habitat Springfield has either built or rehabilitated over 250 homes, providing shelter for more than 600 men, women and children in Greene County. Habitat Springfield partners with deserving families and individuals to build homes, and we rely on support from the community to provide compassionate construction. Community volunteers and corporate sponsors help Habitat Springfield fulfill our mission to provide safe and affordable housing to those who would otherwise go without.

Families who partner with Habitat for Humanity go through a rigorous application and selection process and are then expected to perform 350 volunteer hours before closing on their home. Once families complete the program requirements, they are financed for a zero-interest home loan, which is later recycled back into the program through homeowner payments, to provide funding for future projects.

#### **About Habitat for Humanity International**

Habitat for Humanity International is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization that seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Since 1976, Habitat has served more than 500,000 families without regard to religion, race, gender or nationality by constructing, rehabilitating or repairing homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to financing to help families improve their shelter conditions. For more information, to donate or to volunteer, please visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org), or follow us at [www.facebook.com/habitat](https://www.facebook.com/habitat) or at [www.twitter.com/habitat\\_org](https://www.twitter.com/habitat_org) or join Habitat's blog community at [www.habitat.org/blog](http://www.habitat.org/blog).