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March 31, 2022

To: Commissioner Jeff Radar

Re: Funding program request for Habitat DeKalb

Dear Commissioner Radar,

By now, you likely have heard about the incredible gift of \$436 million given to Habitat for Humanity International and 84 affiliates selected by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. While Habitat DeKalb was not among the 84 affiliates, we celebrate this news both with HFHI and with our colleagues who will directly benefit from this transformational gift. Habitat's U.S. network comprises 1,100 affiliates, and only 7% of affiliates received funding from Ms. Scott's gift. We share this not to take away from Ms. Scott's amazing generosity, but to let you know we continue to need your support as much as ever to address the critical need for affordable housing solutions in our community.

Habitat DeKalb manages two major programs for DeKalb residents:

- Affordable Home Ownership for low-moderate income families
- Aging in Place/Housing Plus for seniors and veterans

The Aging in Place/Housing Plus program is a movement to not only enable people to age safely in their homes but also to create an environment where older adults can continue to learn and contribute, develop relationships with people of all ages, maintain a healthy lifestyle, live independently, and receive healthcare and support services that are community-based. At the end of the day, a livable community for older adults is a livable community for everyone. We currently have 294 DeKalb County senior and/or veteran homeowners on our waitlist requesting these services.

When older homeowners can stay safely at home, we:

- Reduce the number of older adults entering nursing homes
- Keep older adults in the community of their choice
- Mitigate factors such as isolation and loneliness that affect mental health
- Decrease the number of fall-related ER visits
- Lessen the burden on emergency health systems and social services
- Support intergenerational transfer of wealth

Our repair program includes HVAC, roofing, weatherization, electrical, accessibility items, plumbing, and minor landscaping. The average repair cost \$8000-\$12,000. We respectfully request your support of Habitat DeKalb's AIP/Housing Plus program in the amount of \$100,000.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Hammers Up!

Building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter

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