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Pensacola Habitat for Humanity seeks world travelers

Pensacola, FL (September 28, 2016) Pensacola Habitat for Humanity is recruiting volunteers to combine their love of travel with an interest in Habitat's work of "building homes, community, and hope". The local affiliate will host two trips in 2017: one to San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala in Central America and another to Mulanje, Malawi in Africa. The Guatemala team will travel to March 4-12 and the Malawi team will travel to August 5-13. PHFH will hold a Global Village interest meeting Tuesday, October 25th at 6pm at Habitat's main office, located at 300 W. Leonard St. in Pensacola. The meeting is open to the public and will provide information about both trips.

Volunteers participating in the Guatemala trip work with local families to build smokeless stoves. In Guatemala, 52% of the population has suffered from respiratory diseases and pneumonia is the number one cause of death among Guatemalan children under the age of five, as a result of open fire cooking. This practice, which consumes huge amounts of firewood, also contributes to deforestation and often brings about accidents where family members are burned. Smokeless stoves, which cost only \$100 each and take a team around four hours to build, have the greatest impact on Guatemala's most vulnerable populations: the women and children of the country's poorest families who spend more time in the home.

"We get to the home in the morning, meet their family, and often, they will have cleared off the floor where breakfast was and it's still hot! We then come in and level it all off, do some measurements, get the angles right, and build a stove by lunch time," explains Larry "Skip" Vogelsang, the Chairman of Pensacola Habitat's Board. "Over the course of the week you meet 8-10 different families and play with their kids. It's really cool! You're walking away from each one thinking--no more smoke in that house!"

The Malawi team will have the opportunity to bring stability and opportunity to orphans, vulnerable children, and other people experiencing extreme difficulties. This trip will partner with local residents to construct a cinderblock home for children who have been orphaned by AIDS or Malaria and their caretaker. According to Habitat International, poverty is widespread, with 4 out of 5 families living in substandard homes with little hope of ever being able to afford a decent house. A typical village hut is built of mud bricks with a dirt floor and grass thatched roof, which requires frequent repair. The conditions put the families at high risk of all kinds of diseases and pests. Habitat Malawi provides new homes that are fully subsidized for orphans and other vulnerable groups of people

The cost for local residents is approximately \$1,000 for the Guatemala trip and approximately \$1,700 for the Malawi trip, which includes in-country transportation, lodging in a hotel or guest house, meals, building materials, and translation services. Participants are responsible for their own airfare to and from the destination and spending money. Fundraising resources will be provided to volunteers interested in raising support for their trip.

This will be the local affiliate's fifth trip to Guatemala in recent years and first trip to Africa. Past teams have helped with the construction of homes, smokeless stoves, and latrines in Guatemala and Nepal. For more information on our Global Village trips or to make a donation supporting the work being done by Habitat in Guatemala or Malawi, please call 850-434-5456 or email volunteer@pensacolahabitat.org.

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About Pensacola Habitat for Humanity

Founded in 1981 Pensacola Habitat for Humanity has built and renovated over 1,200 homes. Pensacola Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical, Christian ministry whose purpose is to build homes and improve communities in partnership with low and very low income families in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Pensacola Habitat for Humanity is not a give-away program. Through the use of donations, in-kind gifts and volunteer labor Habitat builds simple decent homes and sells the homes at cost with a no-interest mortgage to deserving families. For more information, visit www.pensacolahabitat.org.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Anchored by the conviction that housing provides a path out of poverty, since 1976 Habitat has helped more than 5 million people through home construction, rehabilitation and repairs and by increasing access to improved shelter through products and services. Habitat also advocates to improve access to decent and affordable shelter and offers a variety of housing support services that enable families with limited means to make needed improvements on their homes as their time and resources allow. As a nonprofit Christian housing organization, Habitat works in more than 70 countries and welcomes people of all races, religions and nationalities to partner in its mission. To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit habitat.org.

About NeighborWorks America

For more than 35 years, NeighborWorks America has created opportunities for people to improve their lives and strengthen their communities by providing access to homeownership and to safe and affordable rental housing. In the last five years, NeighborWorks organizations have generated more than \$24.5 billion in reinvestment in these communities. NeighborWorks America is the nation's leading trainer of community development and affordable housing professionals.