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**Lori Anderson Announces Retirement as Executive Director
of Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County**

Alexandria, MN (April 8, 2025) – After more than two decades of transformational leadership, Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County's Executive Director, Lori Anderson, announced her retirement effective this fall. "I am excited to share my plan to retire from my role as Executive Director. This transition will allow me the gift of more time to spend with my family and friends, travel, and fully enjoy the lakes area I love so much. It is the right moment – for both me and Habitat. I've had the honor of walking alongside families, volunteers, staff, and community partners in building something with lasting change. As I step into this next chapter, I do so with the confidence of knowing that Habitat is stronger than ever and well-positioned for continued impact and growth."

As a steadfast advocate for affordable housing, Lori's journey with Habitat is a testament to her resilience, adaptability, and passion for her work. Angie Krebs, current Habitat board chair, aptly remarked, "In our community, Lori is known for her strong relationships with donors, community leaders, and volunteers. Her work has been instrumental in helping 196 families realize their dream of homeownership and countless others improve their living situation. Lori's servant leadership and dedication to the organization perfectly exemplify Habitat's mission."

Hired in 2004, Lori began her career with Habitat as the first part-time employee of the affiliate. Tasked with bold initiatives that transformed the organization, her early contributions were instrumental in establishing Habitat's core values and operational standards, ultimately strengthening the organization's capacity.

Under Lori's leadership, Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County has

- Increased the number of families served annually from one to thirty,
- Grew the volunteer base from 30 to over 700 annual volunteers,
- Opened the ReStore in 2014, a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center that sells new and gently used items, with proceeds supporting affordable housing,
- Developed the Aging in Place program in 2017, which grew from 5 to over 25 projects annually,
- Increased the Habitat team from one part-time person to 11 full-time and four part-time team members, and,
- Developed Habitat's first affordable housing development in Alexandria, Summer Meadows, which will provide 42 single-family homes, securing partnerships with the City of Alexandria for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and with USDA Rural Development which awarded Habitat a \$1.6M Site Loan.

Lori's experience and knowledge have been sought out by her peers across the country, highlighted by her six years on Habitat's US Council, which functions as the planning and policy recommending body to guide the growth of Habitat's work in the United States. This role allowed Lori to provide a strong voice on behalf of small affiliates and establish connections with Executive Directors across the nation to help the affiliate become even stronger.

Cristen Incitti, President & CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota views Lori as a "thought partner, innovative leader, and a true embodiment of Habitat's mission. I have learned a lot from her leadership," adding, "Her impact on this organization, and the Douglas County community, will continue to be felt and realized for generations."

Habitat's board of directors is committed to a thoughtful and well-planned leadership transition. To guide this important process, the board has engaged with Bonsai Leadership Group, LLC – an executive search and leadership development firm with deep expertise in nonprofit leadership transitions. Over the coming weeks, members of the board search committee will partner with Bonsai Leadership Group to gather input from key stakeholders. This input will help shape the leadership profile of the next Executive Director. The board aims to ensure that the next leader builds upon Lori's extraordinary legacy with a fresh vision that will carry Habitat into its next chapter – rooted in the same mission, values, and commitment to service.

"Once the new executive director is on board, I'll remain engaged in a short-term transitional support role," shared Anderson. "During this time, I'll focus on wrapping up key strategic initiatives and offering continuity and insight where helpful while also giving the new leader the space and autonomy to lead with confidence."

Habitat extends our deepest gratitude to Lori for her 21 years of leadership, dedication, and service. She has been a mentor, a community builder, and a true embodiment of Habitat's values. Lori will always be a cherished part of the Habitat family. A celebration of her incredible legacy will occur this fall, and we invite our entire community to be a part of it. Please stay tuned to Habitat's website and social media channels for details about this special event and ongoing updates on the leadership transition. The official announcement for the Executive Director search will be shared in the coming weeks.

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About Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1997 and has built or renovated 93 houses and completed 106 Aging in Place projects throughout Douglas County, and 117 international families through title giving. Habitat works in partnership with people in need to build or renovate affordable housing. Homebuyers are selected according to established criteria: need for housing, ability to partner with Habitat, and ability to pay. They purchase the homes from Habitat with affordable mortgages. Tax-deductible donations of money, land, and materials are provided by individuals, organizations, churches, foundations, and businesses. Habitat is an equal housing opportunity. For more information on how to support Habitat or get involved contact the affiliate at 320.762.4255, e-mail at info@hfhdouglascounty.org, or the website at hfhdouglascounty.org.



Lori Anderson, Executive Director