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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2022

USDA Rural Housing Administrator Joaquin Altoro will visit St. Croix Valley Habitat Home to discuss affordable housing

Former WHEDA CEO visit is set for Wednesday, May 25 in New Richmond, WI

WHAT: USDA Rural Housing Administrator Joaquin Altoro visits New Richmond, Wisconsin home as part of regional affordable housing tour May 25

WHY: Affordable housing is especially challenged in rural communities across the country. The average sales price for a home in the 16-county Twin Cities Metro (including St. Croix County) is up 11% since April 2021. USDA Rural Development Administrator Joaquin Altoro, former Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority Executive Director will visit the Flores/Figueroa family in New Richmond, Wisconsin to hear how the organization is helping people afford homes in rural communities. St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity partnered with USDA Rural Housing to help fund the project and has worked with the organization on funding for 10 homes since 2015 in River Falls, Hammond, Baldwin, Hudson, Spring Valley and New Richmond.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 25 at 9:00am

WHERE: 710 Park Avenue, New Richmond, Wisconsin 54017

WHO: New homeowners Hector and Alma Flores, St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Kristie Smith, USDA Rural Development Administrator Joaquin Altoro, New Richmond Community Development Director Beth Thompson, local officials.

For photos, contact Kristie Smith, 715-350-8575 ext. 1

About St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity helps families with safe, affordable housing. In 1996, community members in River Falls, WI and surrounding communities recognized the critical need to bring people together to build housing, communities and hope and founded the local, nonprofit Habitat affiliate. In its tenure, SCV Habitat for Humanity has partnered with more than 71 families in Pierce and St. Croix Counties to help achieve the goal of affordable home ownership. Visit scvhabitat.org for homeowner and volunteer information and to support the mission to help families create successful futures.

Contact: Kristie Smith, Executive Director
715-350-8575 – Executivedirector@scvhabitat.org

St Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity | 749 Ryan Dr, Hudson, WI 54016 tel (715) 350-8575 info@scvhabitat.org scvhabitat.org

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