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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRIDE BUILD TO FOCUS ON UNIQUE LGBTQ+ HOUSING CHALLENGES

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity and Hudson Pride Co. will bring volunteers to New Richmond, WI build June 2-3 as part of Pride Month.

Tuesday, May 23, 2023- (Hudson, WI) St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity (SCVHFH) is celebrating its inaugural Pride Build event June 2-3 at its New Richmond, WI build site. The two-day project focuses on raising awareness of the unique challenges the LGBTQ+ community face in the search for safe, affordable housing.

A recent study from UCLA Williams Institute reports 50% of LGBT adults own their homes compared to 70% of non-LGBT adults in the United States. The Fair Housing Act and the Housing and Urban Development's Equal Access Rule prohibit housing and housing-related discrimination against persons because of sexual orientation or gender identity, including denied access to housing and higher mortgage lending rates. In Wisconsin, housing discrimination is banned based on sexual orientation, but the state's ruling does not currently include gender identity protection.

"Decades of systemic discrimination have barred LGBTQ families and individuals from homeownership," SCVHFH Executive Director Kristie Smith said. "We know a safe, affordable home has the power to transform all lives. As we partner with Hudson Pride on this project, we continue to strengthen our commitment to inclusivity. Habitat's Beloved Community centers on transformation and tangible action. When we build houses, we also build bridges between people of diverse backgrounds, and paths to more connected communities."

"Hudson Pride Co. is excited to partner up with St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity," Hudson Pride Co. Founder and President Matt Darnold. "Through this partnership we can raise awareness and resources for the LGBTQIA+ community in the surrounding area. We are eager to learn from SCVHFH about the housing needs and challenges of this community and grateful for this important work."

Hudson Pride Co.'s mission is to create and promote inclusiveness, visibility, and acceptance throughout the greater Hudson, WI community.

More information about Pride Build can be found at <https://scvhabitat.org/pride-build>.

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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 home ownership. Visit scvhabitat.org for homeowner and volunteer information and to support the mission to help families on the path to generational wealth.

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