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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. CROIX VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OPENS HOMEOWNERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Preliminary applications online at <https://scvhabitat.org/homebuyer-information>

Thursday, August 1, 2024- (Hudson, WI) St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity has opened its homebuyer interest applications for a future home build in Ellsworth, Wisconsin. The homeowner program is an opportunity for individuals and families who meet income guidelines, have housing needs and are willing to partner on the project to purchase an affordable home and begin the process of building generational wealth.

Preliminary applications will be accepted through August 30, 2024. Income guidelines are set according to USDA-Rural Development annually and reflect Area Median Income (AMI). In Pierce & St. Croix Counties, where the organization serves, the current AMI is \$123,700. SCVHFH board of directors sets income guidelines at 40-80% of AMI and is adjusted according to household size.

“The U.S. Home Index Price has jumped 44% since 2020,” said Executive Director Kristie Smith, who cited the 2024 Harvard “State of the Nation’s Housing” report. Insurance and property taxes are rising while cost-burdened Americans are facing deep declines in residual income, meaning the divide between housing security and affordability continues to widen. The people we call on every day to teach our children, keep our streets safe and provide healthcare need an affordable place to come home to that is also near their places of work.”

The home will be located on Panther Drive in Ellsworth, where land was purchased in 2023 with the help of grant funding from the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation. More information about home ownership and the preliminary, eligibility application can be found online at <https://scvhabitat.org/homebuyer-information>.

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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 88 families in Pierce and St. Croix Counties. Visit scvhabitat.org for homeowner and volunteer information and to support the mission to help families on the path to generational wealth.

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