

**PHA's Home Repair Partnership with Habitat for Humanity Highly Successful
(Philadelphia, PA – December 4, 2017)**



The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) and Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia have completed a three-year home repair program in the Sharswood Blumberg neighborhood that ensures that the homes of 49 long-term, lower-income residents are safe, stable, healthy, and will remain affordable.

“We committed to existing homeowners in Sharswood from the beginning of our Choice Neighborhood planning process,” said PHA President and CEO Kelvin A. Jeremiah. “This partnership has proven fruitful. We believe that it can become more so as we add working class homes for sale to the mix, as well as helping long-time homeowners remain in their homes and enjoy the benefits of our neighborhood transformation plans. I’d like to thank Habitat for Humanity for this important successful partnership.”

Corinne O’Connell, Chief Executive Officer of Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia, acknowledged PHA for supporting the preservation and stabilization of existing homes in Sharswood – and more importantly, the long-term residents in their homes.

“We deeply appreciate the leadership and partnership of PHA,” she said. “With the successful completion of this program, these 49 families are poised to benefit from the other community development work PHA and its partners are undertaking to revitalize the community.”

Since the program’s inception, PHA has invested a total of \$598,000 in the homes of existing residents in the Sharswood neighborhood. Habitat has leveraged \$430,000 in additional services and materials for this project to provide maximum impact for the homeowners PHA has supported.

Habitat has also delivered other services to further leverage the substantial investments PHA is making in the neighborhood. Habitat has provided exterior lighting and safety packages for an additional 30 homes. At the Athletic Recreation Center in the neighborhood, Habitat has completed interior work, replaced bleachers, and built garden beds and deck in an exterior program space for the Center.

“We are supporting the Brewerytown Sharswood Neighborhood Advisory Council’s LandCare program,” O’Connell said. “Habitat is funding winter salaries for resident employees to keep streets clean and lots cleared throughout the winter months when their regular contract goes dormant. We’re also providing the LandCare program with the bulk of needed equipment for ongoing operations.”

She added that Habitat’s commitment to the community was initiated by PHA’s support and investment in the neighborhood’s existing residents.

The next phase of the partnership calls for the construction of 20 new Habitat developed, PHA subsidized homes for sale in the neighborhood. Homes will be sold to accepted applicants, making 30-60% of the Area Median Income, who fulfill 350 hours of “sweat equity” that include educational workshops, hours on the construction sites, as well as, working at Habitat’s ReStore (a discount home improvement store in South Philadelphia).