PRESS RELEASE

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City of Akron, Summit County, Fair Housing Contact Service and Community Leaders Join Habitat for Humanity of Summit County to Sign Pledge to Build a Beloved Community

Akron, OH - April 4, 2018 – On the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination, Habitat for Humanity, the City of Akron, Summit County, Fair Housing Contact Service and community leaders signed a pledge to make Dr. King’s vision of a Beloved Community a reality in Summit County. Through this pledge, leaders will give their voice to support those families and future homeowners to build strength, stability and self-reliance. Access to safe and proper shelter is an essential right and directly affects the quality of life of Summit County citizens.

Through building new homes, exterior home repairs, neighborhood revitalization and deconstruction, Habitat is building a world where everyone has a decent place to live and the opportunity for a better future. Habitat for Humanity of Summit County CEO and President, Rochelle Sibbio states, “It is an honor to be a part of this year-long initiative to spread the word in Summit County that housing for all – no matter if it be supportive housing, market rate housing, low to moderate income housing, or subsidized housing – is needed to create a welcoming and beloved community.”

Through the Beloved Community initiative Habitat, the City of Akron, the County of Summit, and Fair Housing Contact Service along with community leaders recognize and pledge to the ideals that no matter who you are, or where you come from, everyone deserves a decent life.

The pledge reads as follows:

I believe that every single one of us — regardless of who we are or where we come from — deserves a decent life.

Like Dr. King, I believe in a Beloved Community of justice, equal opportunity and love of my fellow human beings.

I want to help build a world that leaves no room for poverty, prejudice or violence.

I pledge to work together with my neighbors, side by side, to create strength, stability and self-reliance for all.

I ask others to join me — it’s up to us to make this a reality.
Mayor Dan Horrigan adds, “I am fully supportive of this simple but profound initiative. The City of Akron works daily to empower our residents and increase their access to goods and services, including how to best connect them to safe and permanent housing. But it’s up to the community, all those that sign the pledge, to help make it a reality.”

“This initiative is a testament to collaborations that have and continue to strengthen our beloved community of Summit County,” said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “We will continue to focus on increasing opportunities for affordable housing, for financial empowerment and jobs, and leading initiatives that focus on the health, safety, and quality of life in our community.”

Habitat for Humanity invites others to join in pledging to help build the Beloved Community at habitat.org/takethepledge. Habitat for Humanity of Summit County has many different ways for community members to help with the current housing crisis through volunteering and funding home builds. Learn about more opportunities at HFHSummitCounty.org.