

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Lisa Junkerman, 407-252-3983, ljunkerman@habitat-sa.org

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SEMINOLE-APOPKA BECOMES OFFICIAL HUD COUNSELING PROVIDER Expands Free, Private, HUD-Certified, Financial Counseling to the Central Florida Community

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. (March 24, 2025) – Habitat for Humanity Seminole-Apopka, an affordable housing developer dedicated to empowering communities through housing, financial education and partnerships, is proud to announce its recent certification by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The accreditation underscores the nonprofit's commitment to providing high-quality financial counseling services and marks a significant milestone in its mission to foster financial wellness and stability within the community.

"We know from experience, that when families are equipped with essential financial literacy skills, their entire lives are transformed and the American Dream of homeownership becomes more attainable," said Kelly Pisciotta Chief Operating Officer of Habitat for Humanity Seminole-Apopka. "We are honored to receive the esteemed, HUD certification, which further validates our dedication to empowering people to make informed decisions and take proactive steps towards financial independence."

The private, one-on-one HUD counseling sessions are offered to the general public and can assist individuals with budgeting and financial planning, mortgage and expense management, credit review and improvement, financial management, foreclosure prevention, as well as homebuying readiness.

In addition to its HUD-certified financial counseling, Habitat for Humanity Seminole-Apopka also offers a free, six-week Financial Academy course which is open to the public. Each week covers key financial topics like budgeting, savings, credit, debt management, homebuying basics, and identity/cyber security.

"Our longstanding support for Habitat for Humanity Seminole-Apopka highlights our shared commitment to empowering individuals and families through financial wellness and homebuyer readiness," said Elisha González, Vice President of Community Relations & Government Affairs for FAIRWINDS Credit Union and Executive Director of the FAIRWINDS Foundation. "By partnering with Habitat, we are helping to create pathways in our shared mission of assisting families reach financial freedom. The expanded HUD-certified counseling services equip more people with the knowledge and tools they need to enhance their financial health, secure a stable future, and build generational wealth. We're proud to celebrate Habitat's incredible impact in our community and continue supporting their efforts to make homeownership a reality for more families."

Habitat for Humanity Seminole-Apopka invites Central Florida community members to take advantage of its free HUD counseling services and join the journey towards financial wellness. For more information or to schedule a counseling session, please email counseling@habitat-sa.org.

## **About Habitat for Humanity Seminole-Apopka**

Habitat for Humanity Seminole-Apopka has been building brighter futures and better communities in Central Florida for over 33 years. Through financial support, business partnerships, and volunteer resources, Habitat builds and develops affordable homes that are sold to low-to-moderate income families at no profit and are financed with a modest mortgage. Homebuyers qualify through financial education, volunteerism and by helping to build their home as well as those of other, future homebuyers. Visit https://www.habitatseminoleapopka.org/ to learn more.