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Transylvania Habitat for Humanity Welcomes Their 72nd Homeowner

(Brevard, NC) Nancy Shuman closed on her two-bedroom Habitat home in Rosman last week. Shuman is the mother of 4 adult children, the youngest of which is a freshman at Appalachian State University. She works in the floral department at a local grocery store utilizing her education in horticulture.

Shuman is originally from the coastal town of Savannah, Georgia, having moved to Brevard with her husband and children in 2001. She became a widow in 2013 and transitioned from a stay at home mom to head of household and bread winner for the family.

“After my husband passed away, I had to sell the house and we began renting. Living paycheck to paycheck most months since my husband’s death, I never thought I would have the opportunity to own a home again,” said Shuman.

We are profoundly grateful for the support of the local community for helping to make Nancy’s homeownership dream come true,” said Angie Hunter, Executive Director of Transylvania Habitat for Humanity.

Through the use of volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat homes are sold to the homeowners at no-profit with an interest-free mortgage and monthly payments set at no more than 30% of the homeowner’s income. Habitat homeowners must qualify financially for the program; save toward their closing costs; attend a series of educational classes focusing on homeownership, budgeting and home maintenance; and complete 200 hours of “sweat equity” by volunteering at Habitat.

At the time of applying for a Habitat home, Shuman was living in a mobile home that was in disrepair with one of her children. In the winter, Shuman's electric bills could be as high as \$400 per month. In contrast, Habitat builds energy efficient homes which will have a dramatic impact on Nancy's heating and cooling costs. Habitat partners with Advanced Energy to receive training and technical support in designing, constructing and certifying energy-efficient homes.

As an empty nester, Shuman will be able to live independently for the first time in a long time in a home she owns and can afford.

"I am looking forward to growing old in a home of my own, that I can entertain my grandkids in, and that I can landscape to my heart's desire," said Shuman. "The future feels very bright!"

For more information about Transylvania Habitat for Humanity, call at 828-884-3464 or visit www.transylvaniahabitat.org