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Transylvania Habitat Tackles Affordable Housing Crisis with Eaton Corporation

Brevard, NC – In a significant step towards addressing the affordable housing crisis in Transylvania County, Transylvania Habitat for Humanity is proud to announce a new partnership with Eaton Corporation. Eaton will serve as the affiliate’s Presenting Sponsor at a landmark fundraising gala in September, marking a pivotal moment as Transylvania Habitat celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2024.

Founded in 1911, Eaton Corporation is a global leader in power management technologies, with a strong commitment to community involvement, sustainable practices, and local economic contributions. Eaton’s decision to support Transylvania Habitat aligns with its dedication to making a positive impact where it operates.

“Eaton is committed to making a positive impact in the communities where we operate, no matter the scale or scope,” stated Melissa Driver, Lead Analyst for Eaton. “We can make a difference in our communities through our direct funding and grant processes, as well as by working side by side with Transylvania Habitat staff and volunteers. It’s great to have that flexibility.”

Addressing Transylvania County’s Affordable Housing Crisis

The partnership comes at a critical time. Transylvania County is facing a severe affordable housing crisis, with alarming statistics underscoring the urgency of the situation:

- **Rapid Influx of New Residents:** From 2017 to 2021, two-thirds of Transylvania’s new residents moved from out-of-state, significantly increasing the demand for housing.
- **Critical Shortage of Housing:** Even with new units added, rental and homeowner vacancy rates remain below 1%.
- **Economic Disparity:** Half of the county’s workforce is employed in industries with average wages below \$40,000 a year.

- Commute Burden: Approximately 1,200 people commute to Brevard from outside Transylvania County daily due to the lack of affordable housing.
- Struggling Renters: Currently, 45 percent of renters in Transylvania County struggle with housing costs.
- Escalating Home Prices: Current rentals and average home prices are affordable only to households with 120% Area Median Income, with the highest price rental units (over \$1,000/month) having more than doubled.
- Seasonal Rental Surge: The number of seasonal use rentals has tripled since 2011, further constraining the housing supply.
- Booming Home Sales: Home sales have doubled in Transylvania County since 2020, driven primarily by second home and investor purchases.

40 Years of Impact: A Call for Community Support

As Transylvania Habitat celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2024, the need for community support has never been greater. Angie Hunter, Executive Director of Transylvania Habitat, expressed immense gratitude and excitement about Eaton's role as the presenting sponsor for the upcoming gala. "We're thrilled to have Eaton as our presenting sponsor. Their commitment significantly magnifies our impact in the community, helping us to celebrate this milestone with the dignity and importance that it deserves."

Hunter emphasized the ongoing need for support: "Our mission to provide affordable housing is more urgent than ever. We invite the community to join us in tackling this crisis. Every donation, volunteer hour, and partnership brings us closer to ensuring that all residents have a decent place to live."

Community members driving past Transylvania Habitat's ReStore at 690 Ecusta Road will notice the new beautification project that Eaton volunteers and Habitat staff recently worked on together. Funded by a generous donation from an anonymous donor, the project includes a new ReStore sign, flagpole, landscaping rock, and a new area to stage donated vehicles and hand-crafted playhouses. This project symbolizes the positive impact that community collaboration can achieve.

"We hope this amazing opportunity to work together in our community continues to flourish," concluded Hunter. "Partnerships are the keystone to our work, whether with our homebuyers, volunteers, donors, community organizations, churches, or major corporations. Our mission relies on the impact that partnerships create."

Join Us in Making a Difference

Transylvania Habitat for Humanity invites the community to participate in the fight to tackle the affordable housing crisis through sponsorships, in-kind donations and attendance in the 40th Anniversary Gala scheduled for September 4, 2024 at the Porter Center at Brevard College. For more information about ways to support, please visit Habitat's website at www.transylvaniahabitat.org or call 828-884-3918.

About Eaton Corporation

Eaton Corporation is an intelligent power management company dedicated to protecting the environment and improving the quality of life for people everywhere. The global corporation was founded in 1911 and has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange for more than a century, serving customers in 160 countries. For more information, please visit www.eaton.com and follow them on LinkedIn.

About Transylvania Habitat for Humanity

Celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2024, Transylvania Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) organization with a vision of ensuring that all residents have a decent place to live. Join us in our mission to build homes, communities, and hope in Transylvania County. Find out more about purchasing a home, donating to the ReStore, or applying for a critical home repair here:

www.transylvaniahabitat.org.