

May 13, 2025

**For immediate release**

**Contact:**

Christine Barnhart  
VP, strategic communications, GCAAR  
301.590.8764, [cbarnhart@gcaar.com](mailto:cbarnhart@gcaar.com)

## **GCAAR renews partnership with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland to support affordable homeownership opportunities, education**

ROCKVILLE, Md. – The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS® (GCAAR), the local REALTOR® association serving Montgomery County, Md. and the District of Columbia, and Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, Inc. (HFHMM), have renewed a strategic partnership focused on supporting affordable homeownership opportunities and homeowner education in the region through the end of 2027. The organizations' initial, three-year partnership began in 2022 and expired at the end of 2024.

Habitat for Humanity's mission of building strength, stability, self-reliance and affordable housing dovetails with GCAAR's focus of fostering homeownership opportunities for everyone, especially in traditionally underserved communities. Habitat works to increase access to homeownership through the rehab of vacant, distressed properties, new construction, home repair programs and advocacy for additional housing units.

Since the collaboration began between the two organizations three years ago, GCAAR has provided an annual financial contribution to support the education of housing recipients through the program. And more than 135 GCAAR volunteers have contributed almost 1,000 volunteer hours through Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland's Build Days and ReStore, Habitat's secondhand retail outlet. GCAAR members comprise REALTORS® and real-estate affiliated companies in Montgomery County and the District.

In addition to financing homeowner education and participating in Build Days and ReStore as part of the new, three-year partnership, GCAAR will also provide volunteers for HFHMM's Neighborhood Engagement initiative, which focuses on grounds beautification, mulching, planting farm-to-cafeteria foods, creating bio-retention ponds, building planters and more.

"Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland is proud to serve more lower-income families than ever before, helping them experience the lasting benefits of affordable homeownership," said Jeffrey Dee, the organization's president & CEO. "GCAAR's generous support and sponsorship of our Homebuyer Education Program play a vital role in preparing our homeowners for long-term success—for years and generations to come."

-more-

---

"GCAAR members place tremendous value on serving our community, particularly when it comes to supporting affordable housing initiatives," said 2025 GCAAR President Samantha Damato. "As we continue our partnership with Habitat, we look forward to providing additional opportunities to help our neighbors secure stable housing."

"Renewing our partnership with Habitat for Humanity was a natural next step, as GCAAR strongly supports its mission to build strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable housing," said Ed Krauze, GCAAR CEO. "We've seen the difference they've made in our community, and we're proud to have a part in that."

The renewed partnership runs from 2025-2027.

**About Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, Inc.**

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, Inc. (HFHMM) is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International that serves Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland. Since 1982, HFHMM has partnered with income qualified families to build strength, stability, self-reliance, and affordable housing. To date, HFHMM has provided nearly 717 affordable housing solutions, served over 1400 individuals, financed over \$15 Million in zero interest mortgages, and invested \$23 Million in the local economy. HFHMM supports the notion that good, stable housing matters for neighborhoods. Better quality of living leads to stronger citizens and families. Habitat for Humanity is about changing lives, one home at a time. Visit our website at [www.HabitatMM.org](http://www.HabitatMM.org).

**About GCAAR**

The Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS®, one of the largest local REALTOR® associations in the U.S., is the voice for REALTORS® in Washington, D.C. and Montgomery County, Maryland. Representing more than 12,000 real estate professionals in the greater capital area, GCAAR provides services vital to its members' daily business needs and works with lawmakers to ensure public policy that encourages homeownership and supports the real estate industry. For more information, visit [GCAAR.com](http://GCAAR.com).

###