



## PRESS RELEASE – February 15, 2017

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### The Rhode Island Association of Realtors Supports South County Habitat for Humanity Handicap Home Remodel

**Charlestown, R.I.** – The Rhode Island Association of Realtors has made a very generous contribution of \$5,000 to South County Habitat for Humanity, to be used for the remodeling of an area home to make it handicap-accessible for a future homeowner.

South County Habitat is remodeling a one-level, single-family area home for a courageous single mother and her seven-year old son, Christian. As a baby, Christian suffered an accident and was left with severe developmental and physical disabilities. In their current living situation, Christian's mother, Catherine, carries him up three flights of stairs as they live in a cramped third-floor walk-up apartment. Christian's doctors give him 4-5 years to live because of the current living situation and the pressure on his spine from endless hours spent in a wheelchair.

For the Habitat home that will soon be theirs, South County Habitat has made modifications to allow Christian a better quality of life. Improvements to the home thus far include: installation of a handicapped ramp, enlarging interior door openings to accommodate a wheelchair, a custom handicapped bathroom, as well as converting a bedroom into a therapy room.

However, the greatest improvement will come from the installation of a ceiling track system that will run throughout the entire house permitting him mobility, exercise and stretches that will allow for his spine and muscles to grow as well as letting him easily interact with his mother, nurses, therapists and family, greatly enhancing his quality of life. His doctors have told Catherine that these changes in Christian's living environment will extend his life expectancy indefinitely. The overall handicapped redesign of the home will cost \$30,000, which includes \$22,000 just for the track system.

“The Rhode Island Association of Realtors is focused on providing homes for Rhode Island families. It's particularly rewarding when we can work with an exemplary organization like Habitat for Humanity to see a family's wishes fulfilled. Christian's story touched our hearts so we were honored to support Habitat in their efforts to retrofit a home to suit his needs,” said Philip Tedesco, CEO of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors.

In addition to the support from the Rhode Island Association of Realtors, several area Realtors have also joined in the fundraising efforts to help support the remodeling efforts. “We are extremely fortunate to have generous community partners like the Rhode Island Association of Realtors and other local Realtors who are supporting our efforts with area affordable housing,” commented Lou Raymond, Executive Director of South County Habitat. “Together, our shared vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Every single one of us deserves the opportunity for a better life.”

For those interested in supporting the fundraising efforts of this handicapped home remodel, please visit:  
<http://www.firstgiving.com/southcountyhabitat/chabohome>

**About South County Habitat for Humanity**

South County Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. For more information, call 401-213-6711 or go to our website at [www.southcountyhabitat.org](http://www.southcountyhabitat.org).

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**RI Realtors Association Check Presentation**

(L-R)

Lou Raymond, Executive Director, South County Habitat for  
Humanity

Philip Tedesco, CEO of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors

Photo by South County Habitat for Humanity