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Dear MCHH supporter,

Today, many parents are struggling to provide safe, decent housing for their children, especially those on the lower end of the economic scale. For example, this is what a Habitat for Humanity applicant wrote about the misery of living in sub-standard housing in the letter that accompanied her application:

“My children and I have bad allergies. I know the mold (in the bathroom) is unhealthy for us. The paint on the tub is cracking and chipping off. We can't take a bath, only a shower, because the knobs came off a year ago. There is no window for ventilation in the bathroom. Under the kitchen sink there is a constant leak, which smells.

In my children's room the ceiling tile is falling down so you can actually see the fiberglass. The windows are very old. In the winter it's so cold that I have to staple plastic to the windows and use space heaters. This makes my electric bill extremely high. My front and back doors are not secure at all. I'm afraid someone will kick them in while we are asleep.

Sometimes I get so discouraged; I want so much more for my boys. It's hard being a single mother raising two boys on my own. I was very upset that my oldest son saw me crying. He told me it would be alright. I've wanted to move for a while but I can't afford anything else. I do my best to keep my apartment neat and clean. I'm going to continue to pray because God will answer. I just want a safe, clean place for my children to live in. I do count my blessings every day because I know it could always be worse.”

I wish I could tell you that circumstances like this are rare. Sadly, we often receive these sorts of requests for assistance. Thousands of our neighbors are living this way. Many work long hours, sometimes at 2 and 3 jobs. They are frugal with their money. Still, they never seem to be able to afford decent housing for their families.

Metro Camden Habitat for Humanity exists to provide an affordable housing option for families like these. We presently have 7 families working sweat equity and are breaking ground on a new housing development later this month. Won't you please help us move these families into decent housing in the next 15 months by making a contribution today? Your gift provides much more than shelter—it opens up new worlds of possibility and offers hope to hard-working people who desperately need it. Thank you for your generosity and for keeping the work of Habitat for Humanity in your prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglass R. Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Douglass R. Wagner
Executive Director