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For Immediate Release

## **Building a Future Thanks to Habitat for Humanity**

**DUBUQUE (June 22, 2016)** – Opening Doors is pleased to announce that for the first time in the organization’s 15-year history one of our residents has qualified for a Habitat for Humanity house. Working hand in hand with her Opening Doors’ Case Manager, Laura Morris completed the application and received the news on June 6 that she was selected to receive a new home for herself and her two children.

The Habitat for Humanity team completed the construction in just over a week, and Laura and her family will take possession of their new home on July 1. She states, "My kids and I are so excited to finally have our own home. I never thought this would be a possibility for me!" Habitat home recipients must complete at least 125 hours of sweat equity towards the building of Habitat homes, and Laura has been working hard to assist in the construction. Opening Doors will continue to be a part of Laura’s life as she will receive follow up services through her Case Manager.

This dream would not have been possible without the behind-the-scenes work of Laura’s Case Manager. This position works closely with our women in teaching them life skills training and goal setting skills to help them realize their dream of moving into permanent housing. These wrap around services are critical to the success of the Opening Doors’ programs.

Laura’s life changing news comes in the wake of a \$43,000 federal funding cut from HUD (United States Department of Housing and Urban Development) which has funded the Case Manager position for the past 15 years. “This HUD grant had been our only guaranteed source of grant income since Opening Doors started in 2000,” said Executive Director Michelle Brown. She added, “Only half of the 2,000 HUD renewals got funded nationwide as HUD’s new focus is on permanent housing. Opening Doors is working on developing a plan to increase revenue while maintaining the same level of quality service and adhering to our mission.”

A special Wish List has been established to support Laura and her family with household items.

Email Opening Doors at [info@openingdoorsdbq.org](mailto:info@openingdoorsdbq.org) for a current list.

Opening Doors is the nonprofit organization that operates Maria House and Teresa Shelter.

Homeless women, alone or with children, come to us to help rebuild their lives. We provide goal setting and life skills training that will enable them to take care of themselves and achieve their full potential.

Women are dependent when they come in...independent when they leave. Since 2000, Maria House has provided transitional housing, where residents can stay for as long as two years. In 2006, we opened Teresa Shelter. It offers extended stay housing, as well as short-term emergency shelter services.

For more information, please contact Michelle Brown at 563-582-7480.