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Publix Super Markets Charities Donates \$100,000 to Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity to Build a Home and Foster Hope in Garden City

SAVANNAH, GA, Dec. 8, 2017 – Publix Super Markets Charities (PSMC) announced today that it will donate \$100,000 to Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity. The donation will go towards the sponsorship of a Habitat for Humanity home, which will be built in Garden City during 2018.

The sponsorship is part of Publix's donation of \$5 million to more than 125 Habitat for Humanity affiliates, including those impacted by Hurricane Irma, and over 30 shelters and other nonprofit organizations across the Southeast. Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity is one of 38 Habitat for Humanity affiliates that received home sponsorships from Publix Supermarket Charities today.

The announcement was made at a joint press conference at The Cooper Center in Garden City, just a few blocks from where the home will be built. Garden City Mayor, Don Bethune was in attendance as well as Council Members Marcia Daniel and Rosetta Cody, and members of the Garden City police department.

Over thirty local Publix employees also attended the press conference along with Jay Wilcox, Publix's District Manager. Wilcox presented Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity's Executive Director, Harold Tessorf, Board President, Leonard Jones and Board Member, John Tatum with the check for \$100,000.

"Thank you to Publix Super Markets Charities for their continued support and confidence in the work of the Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity. Your gift today allows us to engage more with Garden City and to take our partnership with them to a new level," said Jones, "I also want to extend our affiliate's thanks to Mayor Bethune and his team for inviting Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity as an equal partner in their efforts to revitalize the Rossignol Hill neighborhood where we are today. Thank you also for the hard work that you are doing to make the house that we will construct here a reality."

Garden City and Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity first partnered together in 2015 when Habitat worked with the Garden City Housing Team to improve the exterior appearances of 6 houses in the Rossignol Hill neighborhood.

Board Member John Tatum closed the ceremony, stating, "This gift forms part of our 2018 Building Futures Campaign which will raise sufficient cash and in-kind donations to open the doors of affordable homeownership to a total of 5 families in 2018. Publix Super Markets has been one of the Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity's cornerstone corporate partners for well over a decade. With today's gift, Publix Super Markets Charities has provided \$294,000 to this affiliate, helping our affiliate serve over 50 local families."

Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity

Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1983. As one of 1,600 affiliates in the US and part of Habitat for Humanity International, which is active in 70 countries around the world, Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity addresses the need for safe and affordable shelter both locally and around the world. Since its founding, the affiliate has served over 140 local families. Habitat brings together hardworking families, donors and volunteers to build safe, decent and affordable housing. Partner families contribute over 350 hours of “sweat equity” towards the construction of their own and other Habitat homes. They also pay a thirty-year no-interest mortgage to Habitat for Humanity. The mortgages go into a revolving fund, allowing Habitat to continue to build more homes. For more information, visit the organization’s website, www.habitatsavannah.org.

Publix Super Market Charities

PSMC began its support of Habitat for Humanity in 1989 with its first contribution to Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County (Winter Haven, Florida).

George Jenkins, founder of Publix Super Markets and affectionately known as “Mr. George”, believed in giving. From the day he opened his first Publix, he made sure his associates, customers and community were taken care of. In 1966, Mr. George established the Foundation with the vision that it would continue giving long after he was gone. Under the leadership of Carol Jenkins Barnett, Mr. George’s daughter, Publix Super Markets Charities remains committed to serving the communities in which Publix operates.

Publix is privately owned and operated by its more than 190,000 employees, with 2016 sales of \$34 billion. Currently Publix has 1,164 stores in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. The company has been named one of *Fortune’s* 100 Best Companies to Work For in America for 20 consecutive years. In addition, Publix’s dedication to superior quality and customer service is recognized among the top in the grocery business. For more information, visit the company’s website, corporate.publix.com.

