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**Flower City Habitat and Seneca Park Zoo Society Celebrate  
Completion of Tyshaun Cauldwell Memorial Garden**

*Community Leaders Gather to Recognize the Memorial & New Learning Space for Local Students*

**ROCHESTER, N.Y., September 14, 2021** – [Flower City Habitat for Humanity](#) (FCHH), the [Seneca Park Zoo Society](#), and local leaders gathered today to honor the memory of the late 10-year-old Tyshaun Cauldwell with the unveiling of the completed Tyshaun Cauldwell Memorial Garden. The completion of the garden, created in partnership between FCHH and the Zoo Society, symbolizes a significant milestone in the organizations’ commitment to revitalizing the JOSANA neighborhood and creating safe, educational spaces for youths and families within the City of Rochester and Monroe County.

In 2001, Tyshaun Cauldwell was outside his home when a stray bullet led to his untimely death. His impact on the community was a major factor in the City of Rochester creating a [JOSANA Master Plan in 2011](#) that was intended to “guide the continued revitalization of the JOSANA Neighborhood,” including a commitment from FCHH to build 100 houses within a half of a mile of the Enrico Fermi School #17. In July, the organization met this commitment with a monumental groundbreaking on its 100<sup>th</sup> FCHH house within JOSANA.

“We are truly gratified to have The Seneca Park Zoo Society partner with us in this beautiful, as well as educational, memorial garden as the impact on our JOSANA homeowners and their families will be a lasting one,” said Matt Flanigan, CEO of Flower City Habitat for Humanity. “We look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our Mission of building homeownership, communities and hope.”

The Seneca Park Zoo Society played a significant role in the Tyshaun Cauldwell Memorial Garden Project, utilizing its special expertise to plan, plant, and maintain the floral species that now cover the grounds of the memorial. The organization is committed to maintaining the garden to ensure that the spot where Tyshaun Cauldwell lost his life remains a beautiful space of remembrance and education in his honor.

“The Seneca Park Zoo Society is proud to partner with Flower City Habitat for Humanity in bringing this living memorial to Tyshaun Cauldwell to the residents of the JOSANA neighborhood,” said Pamela Reed Sanchez, President & CEO of the Seneca Park Zoo Society. “Our intent in creating and installing this beautiful native habitat, is to bring the healing power of nature to all those who use this space, and in doing so, foster community appreciation for environmental stewardship.”

The garden includes the original monument and tree that marks the site of his passing, new plants and flowers as well as signage. The signage identifies the site as a memorial for Tyshaun, the different plant species present, and the partnership of the organizations that made the garden possible.

The purpose of the garden is to create a safe space for youth and community education, particularly for the students from Enrico Fermi School No. 17, where Tyshaun was a student at the time of his passing.

This memorial symbolizes a significant step towards the revitalization of the JOSANA neighborhood.

### **About Tyshaun Cauldwell**

Tyshaun Cauldwell was 10 years old when he was shot and killed by a stray bullet in a drug dispute in front of his mom, sister, and family home back in 2001. He was well known at School 17 and the surrounding JOSANA neighborhood for his cheerfulness, kindness, and willingness to learn. In remembrance of his life, the Celebration of Life Community Inc. founded the Tyshaun Lamar Cauldwell Memorial Scholarship, which honors School #17 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are known for being a good school citizen and for excellence in academics, sportsmanship, and art; all qualities that Tyshaun himself embodied. The Celebration of Life aims to preserve Tyshaun's memory while continuously highlighting the importance of change and safety within our communities.

### **About Seneca Park Zoo Society**

Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.

### **About Flower City Habitat for Humanity**

#### **Overview:**

Flower City Habitat for Humanity (FCHH) is a non-denominational Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in Rochester, N.Y. FCHH's mission is to build decent, affordable, single-family homes for families in need. Since 1984, FCHH has built 250 homes across the City of Rochester, with 100 of those homes located within the Greater JOSANA Neighborhood.

Our organization's unique approach leverages the efforts of city government and other Rochester agencies to revitalize entire neighborhoods. By building multiple new homes in a concentrated area, these housing investments anchor and support each other in achieving permanent neighborhood improvement.

#### **Our Commitment to Affordable Housing and Homebuyers:**

The majority of our home buyer families are single, low-income, female head-of-households. We also support many single male and married/partner couples. At Flower City Habitat for Humanity, we believe in "a hand up, not a hand out" – creating partnerships with our clients to make home ownership possible.

To be considered for our Homebuyer Program, families must:

- demonstrate a need for adequate shelter;
- have the ability to pay a mortgage or loan;
- exhibit the willingness to partner with Habitat.

**Partner families enrolled in our Homebuyer Program contribute 300+ hours of "sweat equity" through the attendance of financial literacy classes, home maintenance seminars and time spent building houses for others in the program, as well as their own. Once having completed the program, our homeowners assume an affordable, no-profit 30-year mortgage.**

FCHH helps our partner families attain the stability they need to better manage their finances, their jobs, their health and their children's educational needs.

More Details About FCHH's Homebuyer Program:

Qualification requirements: Families and/or individuals are eligible based on their ability to pay, demonstration of need and willingness to partner. Every partner family:

- Purchases a home through FCHH by qualifying for an affordable, no-profit, 30-year mortgage
- Spends less than 30% of gross monthly income on housing (\$500 - \$600 / month includes taxes & insurance)
- Contributes over 300+ hours of sweat equity in the program:
- ✓ Helps to build homes in their community as well as their own home
- ✓ Volunteers at other community organizations
- ✓ Participates in a thorough six-week Financial Literacy Program in partnership with ESL
- ✓ Takes classes in home safety/maintenance, insurance shopping & real estate closings

Our Commitment to Neighborhood Revitalization:

A community's residents know their hopes and dreams for their neighborhood — safe streets with decent and affordable homes, a place to buy food, a park for the kids to play, a school where students thrive. Neighborhood Revitalization combats poverty by investing in struggling neighborhoods that are in the greatest need of development.

- Building FCHH homes in close proximity to one another has a macro impact on the outlook of the entire neighborhood
- In addition, property and school taxes are more affordable in the City of Rochester, making homeownership achievable and sustainable for the families we serve.
- Habitat for Humanity's neighborhood revitalization work, is a partnership with residents, community leaders and organizations to best address real concerns and improve the lives of the people who live in the neighborhood.
- FCHH has been a major contributor in the JOSANA Neighborhood revitalization project by partnering with The City of Rochester to build 100 homes to-date, all within 1.5 miles of School 17, as part of the JOSANA Neighborhood Master Plan that includes the development of neighborhood associations, business investments and public space beautification projects.
- FCHH is in the process of planning additional neighborhood revitalization projects that will help strengthen critical need communities like Beechwood and Emma.

For more information visit, [www.rochesterhabitat.org](http://www.rochesterhabitat.org).

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