



## NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Hanover Habitat's Next Home to be Built in Ragan Phillip's Memory

**Ashland, VA** – As a member of the Hanover Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, Ragan Phillips left an exceptional mark not only on his fellow board members and the staff, but more importantly on the families Habitat serves. As one of Ragan Phillips' last powerful acts of kindness, he provided a matching gift to support Habitat families.

"The way in which this community has shown kindness is powerful," Ragan said.  
"It is finally dawning on me that most people are kind and that this is what makes our society work."

Surrounded by family, Ragan peacefully passed away March 26, 2020. As his obituary stated, "we grieve his absence but celebrate his life, and thank him for showing us that being exceptional is a choice open to all of us."

"He learned what he had to, and he changed, and so he made himself exceptional." A year ago these words by Wendell Berry were placed on the marquee at the Ashland Theatre to honor one of the Ashland's most beloved residents.

Remembering Ragan and honoring his wife, Phyllis Theroux and daughter Meg Pienkowski and family, Hanover Habitat's next home will be built in Ragan's memory. Construction has not yet begun on the North Center Street home in the Town of Ashland, but Habitat's next homeowner, Tyree, dreams of owning a home of his own.

When we met Tyree, he was sleeping in a sleeping bag, where the floor of a home office was the only space available. When Tyree dreams of his future home, he sees a home full of his personality and flare. He can smell the crab cakes and ribs cooking in his kitchen. But the most beautiful dream is opening his front door and welcoming his granddaughter into his own home.

Tyree says "owning a home will give me something to work hard for and a place to finally call my own." **You have an incredible opportunity to continue Ragan's legacy, double the impact of your gift, and build the safe and secure affordable home so many families like Tyree desperately need.**

Help make his dream of homeownership come true! You may give securely online at [www.hanoverhfh.org/raganmatch](http://www.hanoverhfh.org/raganmatch) or mail a check to Hanover Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 2604, Mechanicsville, VA – please note "Ragan Match" on your check.

Gifts received before May 15 will be doubled by Ragan's generous matching gift. Your kindness will mean so much not only to Tyree, but other families working hard for a better life right here in Hanover County.

### **About Hanover Habitat for Humanity**



Hanover Habitat for Humanity was formed 30 years ago by a committed group of local citizens who wanted to provide safe and affordable housing in Hanover County. Since that time, Hanover Habitat has built homes alongside 71 families who pay an affordable mortgage. Hanover Habitat's repair program began in 2017 and addresses critical repairs around the home. With our help, and the help of the community, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families. Hanover Habitat for Humanity is an Equal Opportunity Housing Agency, and an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer. To learn more about the organization visit [www.hanoverhfh.org](http://www.hanoverhfh.org).

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