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*Building Homes for Today
and Hope for Tomorrow*

PRESS RELEASE

Homeownership made possible just in time for Christmas for Single Mother of Two

Mt. Pleasant, SC: One Awendaw resident has a lot to be thankful for this Christmas. In an attorney's office downtown, Ms. Lucretta Robinson, a single mother of 2, wept with joy as she signed her mortgage agreement to become a first time homebuyer. She was so excited that her son and daughter had a home they could call their own. Ms. Robinson is now a homeowner thanks to a partnership between United Methodist Relief Center and the newly formed Lowcountry Housing Trust.

Ms. Robinson is a recipient of a home through UMRC's *Houses on the Move* project, a project which moves donated houses to families in need or to those who can qualify for low income first time homeownership. All homes are rehabilitated and reconstructed to code onsite by UMRC volunteer teams and construction staff.

Since 1989, UMRC has been making housing miracles happen around the Lowcountry. To date, they have repaired, rehabilitated and replaced homes for over 2200 persons and have created 8 opportunities for first time homeownership primarily in the rural areas of Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties.

This is the first project to be completed and closed using funding from the Lowcountry Housing Trust. The Trust which grew out of the widely recognized Mayor's Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing, was created to foster a regional approach to the need for housing, and to expand the capacity as a community to respond to the housing crisis. The Trust raises, pools, leverages and distributes funds that are awarded to affordable housing providers. By streamlining the application process and building collaborative relationships, the Trust helps area providers successfully create housing to serve our citizens primarily with incomes below 80% of the area median income and up to 120% AMI.

In this instance, LHT funding was used to complete construction on the home and make the home affordable by buying down the mortgage to allow Ms.

Robinson, whose income is around 50% AMI to purchase the home (approx. \$25,000 a year).

During the holiday season, we all like to believe dreams can come true and prayers can be answered. Well, for Ms. Robinson and her family, the American Dream of homeownership came true...just in time.

For more information on UMRC, please visit www.umrc.org and for additional information on Lowcountry Housing Trust, please visit www.lowcountryhousingtrust.org.

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