

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## National writing contest launches for students in Grades 4, 5 and 6

*Students in Wellington and Dufferin Counties and the City of Guelph can help Habitat for Humanity WDG build homes by entering*

Guelph, ON — Students across the Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph (Habitat WDG) catchment area now have an opportunity to help local families, individuals and people with disabilities become a Habitat homeowner. Accepting entries until February 18, 2019, the Meaning of Home national writing contest — in support of Habitat for Humanity Canada and its local affiliates — asks students in Grades 4 through 6 to share what “home” means to them.

Over the last 12 years, more than 50,000 students have participated. Thanks to their inspiring words — and Genworth Canada’s generous support — the Meaning of Home contest has raised over \$1 million to build homes across Canada for families in need of decent and affordable housing.

“When you ask this age group to put pen to paper and tell you what home means to them, the answers are simple and heartwarming. They reflect the fundamentals of ‘home’ that perhaps affluent individuals can take for granted,” says Habitat WDG CEO, Steve Howard. “The submissions we receive are a perfect reminder to all of us that home means feeling safe and secure — and shouldn’t everyone be able to feel that way?”

Three grand prize winners, one for each grade, will have the opportunity to direct a grant of \$25,000 to their local Habitat for Humanity. Nine runners up will also receive a grant of \$5,000 to the Habitat build of their choice. And, for every contest entry, a donation of \$10 will be made to that student’s local Habitat, ensuring every student can help build Habitat homes in their community.

“Last year, 524 students within our catchment area entered the contest and we were thrilled to see such a high level of participation,” adds Howard. “That number of entries translated to over \$5,200 raised for Habitat WDG and our builds. Hopefully, this year we can top that!”

The Meaning of Home contest is open to all Grade 4, 5 and 6 students across Canada. Submissions will be accepted online until February 18, 2019 with winners announced in April. More information on how to enter, as well as details on prizing, can be found at [www.meaningofhome.ca](http://www.meaningofhome.ca).

“As a founding sponsor of the Meaning of Home contest, we have seen its positive impact grow year after year” says Stuart Levings, President and CEO of Genworth Canada. “By encouraging students to become more engaged, we are teaching them to become more compassionate community members, all while educating them on the need for more affordable housing in Canada. We are proud supporters of Habitat for Humanity and this contest, which is helping to raise awareness about affordable housing concerns amongst our future leaders.”



We build strength, stability and self-reliance.

## About Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph

Since inception, Habitat WDG has built more than 25 homes in our catchment community of Wellington Dufferin Guelph. But, there is a critical need for affordable housing in our community that can't be met one home at a time. We need to build more to support the growing need for affordable housing.

Habitat for Humanity is an advocate of creating more sustainable, safe, affordable housing options that will benefit Canadians and our local communities. To do this, we take a holistic and collaborative approach to affordable housing solutions.

In Guelph, we've embarked on our most ambitious build yet – Cityview Village. Cityview Village is more than just a housing development. It's a community for change. No matter who we are or where we come from, we all deserve to feel the strength, stability and self-reliance that owning a home provides.

In Dufferin, our local Habitat for Humanity has embarked on a multi-residential affordable housing development with an emphasis on the housing needs of families, seniors, victims of family violence and people with disabilities. We are also exploring the renovation of 3 residential properties in Dufferin. Of which, we would convert into 4-6 units of affordable housing.

Habitat empowers families in building stability, strength and self-reliance by providing a hand-up through home ownership and partnership.

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