



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adam Blake, Vice President Housing – County Corp
937-531-7048
ablake@countycorp.com

**Open House for the Newly Completed Trotwood Tornado Survivor
Pathway to Homeownership Home**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
4658 Marlin Avenue – Trotwood, Ohio**

Dayton, OH – April 30, 2022 – County Corp, in partnership with Montgomery County, City of Trotwood, Trotwood Community Improvement Corporation, The HomeOwnership Center of Greater Dayton, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Presbytery of the Miami Valley, Mennonite Disaster Service, and numerous other partners is pleased to host an open house for the fully renovated home at 4658 Marlin Avenue on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. This and the neighboring home at 4646 Marlin were the first two Trotwood homes undertaken as part of the Tornado Survivor Pathway to Homeownership Project (Pathways Project). 4658 Marlin is the rehab of an existing structure by Brethren Disaster Ministries, the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, and Southbrook Christian Church. The adjacent 4646 Marlin home's construction was led by Mennonite Disaster Service.

The Pathways Project was developed to provide qualified tornado survivors the opportunity to become first-time homeowners. Interested applicants work with The HomeOwnership Center of Greater Dayton to become mortgage ready while skilled volunteer build teams construct or rehab homes on properties donated by the jurisdictions. This project emerged as the result of collaborative efforts of the Miami Valley Long Term Recovery Operations Group and is led by the non-profit County Corp.

Per Montgomery County Commission President Judy Dodge, “We are thrilled to see these projects come to fruition. It's been almost three years since the tornadoes devastated our community, but with the support of Montgomery County and our partners, we're helping survivors recover and rebuild their lives.”

Mennonite Disaster Service was the lead build organization for the new construction at 4646 Marlin. “Following a natural disaster, Mennonite Disaster Service's aim is to assist the most vulnerable community members, individuals, and families who would not otherwise have the means to recover. MDS volunteers provide the skills and labor needed to respond, rebuild, and restore in the wake of a disaster. The Pathways Project fits this vision perfectly. We are also delighted to meet the future homeowner, Kim, and to help her achieve her goal of owning her own home,” said Lawrence Matthews, Chair, Mennonite Disaster Service Western Ohio.

Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Presbytery of the Miami Valley completed the rehab of the 4658 Marlin structure. “Brethren Disaster Ministries is proud to be part of this program that has developed as an incredible collaboration with so many local and national partners in Montgomery County. It provides a way to build back better from the tornadoes to help renters return to the neighborhoods they call home but also the improving the quality of the community housing overall. We are excited to serve this group of disaster survivors in ways they are not often served in other recoveries,” said Jenn Dorsch-Messler, Director, Brethren Disaster Ministries.

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Per Reverend Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyter, "The objectives of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley include connecting congregations in mission, addressing how systemic poverty and structural racism contribute to housing needs, and alleviating stress on families and communities while helping to build resilience. The Presbytery is thankful that we can support the Pathways program with both financial resources and local volunteers."

According to Steve Naas, President, County Corp, "The Pathways Project leverages the talents of volunteer build teams and the expertise and resources of government and community organizations to transform vacant lots and structures into new homes that will enable qualified tornado survivors to become homeowners. These two homes are the first of several that will be built in Trotwood and we are excited to continue to help the community recover and thrive."

Individuals, businesses, and organizations who are interested in supporting the Pathways Project can contribute financially to The Dayton Foundation's Tornado Survivor Pathway to Homeownership fund (Fund #8561). Businesses, churches and organizations that are interested in sponsoring a home or contributing materials or professional services should contact Laura Mercer at Laura@NautilusSG.com.

Tornado survivors who want to become homeowners and are interested in the Pathways Program can go to HomeownershipDayton.org to learn more and to apply.

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About County Corp

County Corp is a private, not for profit organization that specializes in building stronger communities through programs that provide high-quality, affordable housing to the general public and unique financial resources for small business expansion. You can visit us online at CountyCorp.com.