

For Immediate Release

Diane Wagner, Bank of America
312.992.2370
Diane.wagner@bankofamerica.com
Janie Taylor, Texas State Affordable Housing Corp.
512-762-9411
jtaylor@tsahc.org

Media & Photo Opportunity: The donated home is located at **2617 N 42nd Street, Waco, Texas.** The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 27th at the home. The homeowner will be available for interviews.

Donated Home is Giving Widow of First Responder Killed in West Explosion a New Beginning

Waco, Texas –Donna Beseda, formerly of West, Texas, is now a proud owner of a home in Waco donated to her by a multi-partner nationwide initiative to donate foreclosed properties to injured first responders and Veterans or their families. Ms. Beseda lost her husband of 13 years, Doug Snokhous, on April 17 when as, a volunteer fire fighter in West, Texas, he responded to the West Fertilizer Co. fire and was killed when the plant exploded. Ms. Beseda and her late husband's place of residence sustained severe damage in the explosion which left Ms. Beseda searching for a new place to live.

"The last several months have been very sad and challenging for me," said Ms. Beseda. "Losing my loving husband has been very difficult. Two days after his death I experienced an injury that has prevented me from being able to work. Receiving this home is a blessing and an opportunity for a fresh start."

Bank of America generously donated the home, in partnership with the National Community Stabilization Trust (NCST), a national organization that works with financial institutions and local nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate foreclosed properties and stabilize neighborhoods affected by the housing crisis.

The home was transferred to the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC), a statewide nonprofit, that works with organizations across the state to repair foreclosed homes and find eligible low-to-moderate income homebuyers. TSAHC worked with NeighborWorks Waco and Brooke Community Development to perform necessary repairs on the foreclosed home donated to Ms. Beseda and connect Ms. Beseda to the program.

"Bank of America is honored to provide support to West, TX as they look to rebuild after the devastating event that affected so many lives of our first responders and their families," said Kim Ruth, Texas president, Bank of America. "Through our collaborative effort and connecting with key agency partners, we are able to not only provide resources to rebuild lives but to help revitalize the community."

"This initiative not only stabilizes neighborhoods that are dealing with the impact of a foreclosed home, it is changing lives," said Bill Dietz, Board Vice-Chair, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation. "The combined efforts of all of our partners and the vision of Bank of America are providing a fresh start and a home to someone who has had to overcome the most difficult of challenges in a short period of time."

“We were pleased and felt honored to assist Bank of America and the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation find an appropriate and deserving recipient of this beautiful home in Waco,” said Roy Nash, Executive Director of NeighborWorks Waco. “In conducting our search of surviving spouses of fallen West first responders, we knew this home would provide Donna Beseda a long term solution to her housing needs and a wonderful home for her to gather with family and friends.”

Ms. Beseda will not have a mortgage payment on the home, which is valued at \$121,000, but is responsible for the annual property taxes, insurance and maintenance on the home.

Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation

The Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC) is a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by the Texas Legislature to serve as a self-sustaining, statewide affordable housing provider. To fulfill our mission, TSAHC provides innovative housing programs that help developers build affordable housing, help low and moderate-income households purchase a home, and help households facing financial hardship stay in their homes.

NeighborWorks Waco

NeighborWorks® Waco is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to build stronger neighborhoods through homeownership and other quality housing opportunities. Since 1993, we have built or rehabbed over 260 homes and assisted well over 2,000 families in purchasing their first home.

National Community Stabilization Trust

The National Community Stabilization Trust is a nonprofit organization created to revitalize neighborhoods affected by the foreclosure crisis. Formed in 2008 through the unprecedented collaboration of six leading national community development non-profits, NCST facilitates the transfer of foreclosed and abandoned properties from financial institutions to local housing organizations nationwide to create stability in communities. In hard hit neighborhoods nationwide, NCST works local governments and community-based housing organizations in 47 states to acquire, rehabilitate, and reuse foreclosed property to expand affordable homeownership and rental housing available to working families. Visit www.stabilizationtrust.com to learn more.

Bank of America

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