

## For Immediate Release

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**Media & Photo Opportunity:** The donated home is located at **502 Amber Drive, Weslaco, Texas 78596**. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 4th at the home. The homeowner will be available for interviews.

## Disabled Veteran Receives Donated Home in Weslaco

**Weslaco, TX** – On Wednesday, June 4th, Patricia Romero Horner, a disabled U.S Military Veteran, received a mortgage-free home in Weslaco, Texas. Horner is the latest veteran to benefit from a nationwide, multi-partner initiative whose purpose is to rehabilitate vacant homes to provide affordable homeownership opportunities for disabled veterans.

Retired Staff Sergeant Horner is a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army, where she served honorably from 1978 to 1987. She received numerous awards during her military service including the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Horner was honorably discharged in 1987 after suffering a service connected disability. Following her discharge from the Army, Horner was deemed 100% disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Her disabilities left her unable to work and unable to pursue her goal of becoming a police officer. Becoming a homeowner is a dream she never thought would come true.

“I can’t believe I will finally have a home to call my own,” said Patricia Romero Horner. “I always dreamed of being a homeowner but didn’t think it would be possible. I want to thank everyone who helped turn my dream into a reality.”

Bank of America generously donated the home, in partnership with the National Community Stabilization Trust (NCST), a non-profit organization that works with financial institutions and local housing providers to reclaim neighborhoods hard hit by foreclosure and abandonment.

“It is our honor to help create financial opportunity for veterans in their civilian lives, while also revitalizing our communities here in Texas and across the country,” said Rick Robinson, Community Revitalization and Property Donation executive for Bank of America.

The home was transferred to the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC), a statewide nonprofit that works with organizations across the state to rehabilitate vacant homes and find eligible low and moderate income homebuyers. TSAHC partnered with Motivation, Education and Training, Inc. (MET), a national nonprofit with offices in the Rio Grande Valley, to perform the necessary repairs on the home and connect Ms. Horner to the program.

“It is our privilege to welcome courageous veterans back into our communities with safe, affordable and accessible homes,” said Craig Nickerson, President of the National Community Stabilization Trust. “We are so pleased to work with community partners like TSAHC and MET to create these housing opportunities for our nation’s heroes and their families.”

Ms. Horner will not have a mortgage on the home, but will be responsible for any annual property taxes, insurance and maintenance.

“We are honored to be part of this successful partnership that helps deserving veterans like Patricia achieve their dreams of becoming homeowners,” said David Long, President, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation. “Bank of America’s leadership and the combined efforts of our partners NCST and MET have enabled us to stabilize communities affected by foreclosure while providing homes to deserving veterans.”

“MET is thrilled to see Patricia’s joy as she moves into a home of her own,” said Beatriz Farias, Housing Services Coordinator, MET. “We have enjoyed partnering with TSAHC, Bank of America and former farmworkers to successfully complete construction on her home. We are pleased to have had a small part in helping improve the lives of veterans who have so bravely served our country.”

Horner was welcomed to her new home with a celebration hosted by employees of Bank of America, TSAHC and MET and public officials from Weslaco.

#### **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. [www.tsahc.org](http://www.tsahc.org)

#### **About Motivation Education & Training, Inc. (MET)**

Motivation Education & Training, Inc. (MET) is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization funded by a variety of public and private grants and contracts. The organization was founded for the purpose of providing academic and vocational training to migrant and seasonal farm workers, with the objective of furthering economic self-sufficiency for MET participants. While serving farm workers is still the cornerstone of the agency's mission, MET has broadened its scope to include initiatives that target low-income and disadvantaged populations throughout the agency's service area. The agency was incorporated in 1967 and operates on a statewide basis in Texas, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wyoming. [www.metinc.org](http://www.metinc.org)

#### **National Community Stabilization Trust**

The National Community Stabilization Trust is a nonprofit organization that is committed to stabilizing our nation’s neighborhoods. Formed in 2008 through the unprecedented collaboration of six leading national community development non-profits, NCST serves as the bridge between large financial institutions and local housing providers and actively helps develop community-based housing strategies to ensure that low- and moderate-income families have access to affordable, safe homeownership and rental opportunities. [www.stabilizationtrust.com](http://www.stabilizationtrust.com)

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