

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Graceland Fruit® and Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County to Jointly Develop Housing

FRANKFORT, MI (September 21, 2022) – Graceland Fruit, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County signed a memorandum of understanding today for the joint development of affordable and workforce housing in Benzie County.

Graceland Fruit, a leading employer in Benzie County, is impacted daily by the lack of quality, affordable housing in the area, hindering its growth and ability to attract and retain qualified employees. Furthermore, the company recognizes the problem goes well beyond its own workforce and is a major challenge for the entire community. Benzie Habitat has long embraced this challenge and works to create solutions by partnering with others to build affordable homes.

By working together, Graceland Fruit and Benzie Habitat aim to create an affordable, yet pleasing and attractive, new neighborhood of single-family homes in Benzie County. The first phase of the development is expected to consist of approximately 23 homesites, with the ability to expand up to 65 homesites based on demand. The joint venture will be responsible for developing the neighborhood, including the obtaining of required grants/financing, permits, construction, family selection, and homeowner financing.

Jonathan Ball, Chairman of Graceland Fruit, Inc., said, “We at Graceland Fruit have been working on various affordable housing concepts for the past year or so. We are very excited to be entering into this partnership with Habitat for Humanity, an organization that knows better than anyone the need in our community and who has the skillset to address it.” Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County President Glen Tracy added, “Our organization is always looking for community partners, and we’re very pleased to be embarking on this venture with a long-standing, committed local employer like Graceland Fruit.”

Additional details of the proposed development will be forthcoming, but a tentative project timeline calls for construction to begin in the spring of 2023.

About Graceland Fruit, Inc.: We deliver delight®. Graceland Fruit is a leading producer and global distributor of premium quality dried fruit ingredients for the food industry. We make authentic ingredients that add distinctive taste, texture, visual, and nutrition appeal to a wide variety of delicious foods. Some of the largest and most prestigious food companies in the world include our exceptional infused dried fruit and juice concentrate in their products and menu items. Our premium quality dried fruits, service excellence, reliable supply, and collaborative innovation make it easy for our customers to surprise and delight their consumers. Learn more at gracelandfruit.com

About Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County: Established in 2008, Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that builds decent, affordable homes in partnership with families and the community. Learn more at benziehabitat.org