



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 25, 2014

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**Smith County Habitat for Humanity  
Receives Two Awards at Habitat Texas Conference**

**TYLER, TEXAS** – Habitat for Humanity of Smith County recently received double honors at the annual Habitat Texas statewide conference.

Smith County Habitat's CEO, Jack Wilson, received the "Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh Leadership Award." The award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated leadership, commitment and vision within their organization and the community. Since coming to Tyler in 2008, Wilson has increased the quality of new home construction. Today, all new homes built by Smith County Habitat are tested and receive 5 Star Plus HERS energy efficient ratings, the highest rating possible. In 2009, Wilson created Smith County Habitat's critical repair program, ReHabitat. This program focuses on the critical housing needs of low-income seniors, veterans and the disabled.

The Leadership Award was also based on Wilson's leadership within Tyler and Smith County. Wilson works with city officials on affordable housing issues, serves as President of the United Way Smith County Agency Directors and has served on the board of the United Way Smith County since 2011.

In addition to winning the "Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh Leadership Award," Wilson's work at Smith County Habitat for Humanity resulted in the organization receiving the "Affiliate of the Year Award for Rehabilitation." Smith County Habitat completed 94 critical repair projects for low-income homeowners in 2013 and has completed 43 projects thus far in 2014. Since starting its critical repair program in 2009, the organization has completed over 285 critical repair projects, making it possible for more than 400 people to remain safely in their homes. Smith County Habitat recently received a \$200,000 grant from the Texas Veterans Commission that will enable them to make repairs and modifications on the homes of an estimated 22 veterans, 45 dependents of veterans and 2 surviving spouses.