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Date: May 28, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONVICTED OF EMBEZZLING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

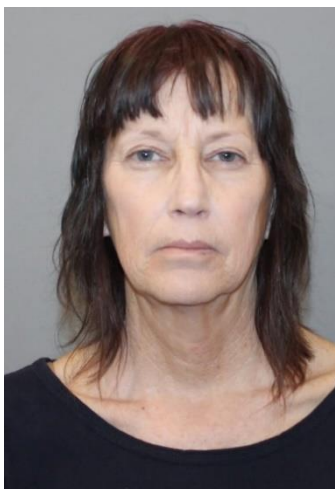
Yavapai County Attorney Dennis McGrane announced that on May 22, 2026, a Yavapai County jury found Karen Marie Northcutt, 62, of Dewey, Arizona, guilty of Fraudulent Schemes and Artifices, Theft, Aggravated Taking Identification of Another, Tampering with Physical Evidence, Trafficking in Stolen Property, and Money Laundering in the First Degree. County Attorney McGrane thanked Deputy Yavapai County Attorney George Rodriguez for an excellent job presenting the case to the jury and commended the jurors for their careful consideration of the case. County Attorney McGrane also thanked the Prescott Police Department for their thorough investigation.

The Prescott Police Departments investigation began in February of 2024 when Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity received an anonymous letter advising they should look into Executive Director Karen Northcutt. An internal review revealed hundreds of thousands of dollars were missing from the organization's accounts. The investigation determined that Northcutt used the organization's bank accounts and credit card accounts to pay her mortgage and utilities, along with purchasing vehicles and numerous other items. Northcutt also made cash withdrawals exceeding \$100,000.00 and opened an unauthorized credit card account to which she charged approximately \$187,000.00. A forensic accountant ultimately determined the loss to Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity was approximately \$826,000.00.

Yavapai County Attorney Dennis McGrane stated, "Ms. Northcutt's conviction sends a clear message that no one is above the law. Ms. Northcutt's selfish choice to steal from a charity hurt many needy local families and tarnished the trust that the public has in our charitable institutions. Her actions are despicable, and I hope the lengthy sentence that Ms. Northcutt will receive will send a strong message that fraud and thefts will always be vigorously prosecuted by my Office."

Sentencing is scheduled for July 6, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. before the Honorable Krista Carman of the Yavapai County Superior Court. Northcutt is facing a minimum of 10.5 years in the Arizona State Prison.

Photo attached: Karen Marie Northcutt



Criminal Division
(928)771-3344

Civil Division
(928)771-3338

Bad Check Program
(928)771-3490

Victim Services
(928)771-3485