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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **NEWS RELEASE**

FULTON COUPLE RECEIVES REBUILT HOME ON THE EVE OF THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 17, 2018 [FULTON, TX] – Prior to Hurricane Harvey, Benny and Nympha Arispe lived in Rockport-Fulton and owned a local business, Captain Benny's. When the devastating storm wreaked havoc through the Coastal Bend, the Arispe's found themselves not only without a home, but also without a place of business and primary source of income. In the past year, the Arispe's have been living in Cotulla, Texas where they also opened a new Captain Benny's.

When case manager, Ernest Valdez, first made the call reaching out to the couple about receiving a new home, Arispe thought it was a joke. She said "At first, I hung up on the gentleman!"

Coincidentally, the Arispe's received the keys to their new home one day before their 54th wedding anniversary, but for Arispe, the emotions of receiving a new home are bittersweet. "I drive up and see there's still so many homes that need to be repaired," said Arispe. "I want to say, 'I'm so happy' but I look around and feel sad because a lot of people don't have what we have now."

The Arispe's new home was funded by the Samaritan's Purse, the Rockport-Fulton Chamber Foundation and the generous Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group (CBDRG) donors. Furniture inside the home was given to the couple by a generous neighbor after selling their own home across the street. Perishable and non-perishable food items were also donated courtesy of the Coastal Bend Food Bank.

"We cannot do any of this alone, we are better together," said Rev. Beth Tatum, CBDRG Board President. "There's that old saying 'it takes a village to raise a child', well it takes the whole community to recovery from a disaster."

Ken Slack, from North Ridge Presbyterian Church in Dallas, has been all over the country working on reconstructing homes with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, a CBDRG partner. "The quality of houses being built here [in the Coastal Bend] are far beyond what I have seen," said Slack. "These homes are well-built and will sustain for the future."

Arispe also added that she will be volunteering on future projects with CBDRG to help others get back on their feet. CBDRG is always seeking volunteers, from skilled-laborers to general help. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please visit their website www.coastalbenddrg.org/volunteer.

ABOUT COASTAL BEND DISASTER RECOVERY GROUP

The Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group (CBDRG) is a volunteer-based coalition created to address the unmet needs of Coastal Bend area residents affected by disaster. CBDRG is a State/FEMA recognized long-term recovery organization and is registered with the State of Texas as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation as authorized by the IRS. Established in 2015, CBDRG was formed to continuously coordinate long-term disaster recovery within the eleven-county region of the Texas Coastal Bend (Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, San Patricio, and Refugio) for current and future disasters.

Volunteer Groups and individuals can sign up to join our efforts at our website www.coastalbenddr.org/volunteer or email volunteers4cbdr.org@gmail.com.

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