



NEWS

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Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus (HFHGC) Earns Better Business Bureau (BBB) Accreditation by Meeting All 20 Charity Accountability Standards HFHGC Now Displays BBB Accredited Charity Seal

Columbus, Ohio – Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus has earned accreditation from the Better Business Bureau of Central Ohio, Inc. (BBB) and participates in the BBB Accredited Charity Seal program. The Accredited Charity Seal is available to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations that comply with the strong and comprehensive accountability standards established by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance (BBB WGA). The seal signifies to potential donors that the organization has provided documentation that they meet basic standards in governance of the organization, in the ways money is spent, in the truthfulness of representations and in the organization's willingness to disclose basic information to the public.

The overarching principle of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability is full disclosure to donors and potential donors at the time of solicitation and thereafter. In earning the seal, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus met all 20 Standards for Charity Accountability as established by the BBB WGA.

"As one of the largest urban Habitat affiliates in Ohio, we are pleased to have met the rigorous standards to qualify for the BBB's Accredited Charity Seal," said E.J. Thomas, CEO, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus. "The BBB is the most recognized authority on good business practices, and we are proud to be recognized along with other reputable nonprofit organizations throughout the country."

Only about one in ten nonprofits in Central Ohio qualify for the BBB Accredited Charity Seal. "The Standards for Charitable Accountability were developed to assist donors in making sound giving decisions and to foster public confidence in charitable organizations. We are pleased to add Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus to the list of BBB accredited nonprofit organizations," said Joan Coughlin, spokesperson, Better Business Bureau of Central Ohio, Inc.

About Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity International, and the Greater Columbus Affiliate, is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Habitat affiliates work locally in communities around the world to select and support homeowners, organize volunteers and coordinate house building. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built 225,000 homes worldwide, providing shelter for more than 1 million people in nearly 90 countries. In the Greater Columbus community, and with the completion of John G. McCoy Circle, Habitat has built 200 homes since 1987.

Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus (HFHGC) is one of the only housing agencies in Franklin County targeting families who earn 30-60% of median income. HFHGC partner families are chosen after a careful review process during which Habitat assesses their need for housing; their ability to repay a zero-interest, no-profit mortgage and their willingness to partner with Habitat through sweat equity. All partner families are first-time homebuyers who earn 30-60% of the median income for Franklin County and currently live in substandard housing. Every partner family must perform a minimum of 200-250 hours of sweat equity,

which includes working on their own house and those of other Habitat families, attending homeownership classes and providing Habitat program support. Every family also assumes a no-interest, no-profit mortgage with payments based on family income. Because HFHGC holds and services these mortgages, Habitat has a long-term relationship with the homeowners and the communities in which they live.

About Habitat's ReStore. Also supporting HFHGC is Habitat's ReStore, a re-sale store that accepts and re-sells reusable home improvement materials to the general public. Revenue from sales directly offsets Habitat's administrative costs and assists in both eliminating substandard housing and creating homeownership in Greater Columbus. Habitat's ReStore is located at 3140 Westerville Road, 3 miles southwest of Easton; 2 miles south of Morse Road. The re-sale store is open to the public Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Donations may be delivered to Habitat's ReStore until one hour before store closing time.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus and Habitat's ReStore, call 614-HABITAT or 614-RESTORE, respectively, or visit www.habitat-columbus.org.

About the Better Business Bureau and the Wise Giving Alliance. BBB is an unbiased organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. Businesses that earn BBB accredited business status contractually agree and adhere to the organization's high standards of ethical business behavior. BBB provides objective advice, free business Reliability Reports and charity Wise Giving Reports and educational information on topics affecting marketplace trust. To further promote trust, BBB also offers complaint and dispute resolution support for consumers and businesses when there is difference in viewpoints. The first BBB was founded in 1912. Today, 128 BBBs serve communities across the U.S. and Canada, evaluating and monitoring more than 3 million local and national businesses and charities. **The BBB Wise Giving Alliance** (BBB WGA) helps donors make informed giving decisions and advances high standards of conduct among organizations that solicit contributions from the public. The Alliance was formed in 2001 through the merger of the National Charities Information Bureau with the Council of Better Business Bureaus' Foundation (which housed the Philanthropic Advisory Service.) The merger partners offer over a century of combined experience in charity evaluation. The Alliance produces in-depth evaluative reports on national charities based on comprehensive Standards for Charity Accountability and publishes a quarterly magazine, the Wise Giving Guide. Charities that meet the standards can apply to participate in the Charity Seal program. For more information, visit www.bbb.org.

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[Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus and Habitat's ReStore, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224. Habitat Administrative Offices: 614-HABITAT. Habitat's ReStore: 614-RESTORE.](#)

We hope that you enjoy receiving news about Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus and Habitat's ReStore. Should you wish to be removed from the Habitat mailing list, please send an email to beverly.martin@martinmarketingllc.com