



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus
Beverly Martin at (614) 580-6272
Beverly.Martin@MartinMarketingLLC.com



Volunteers Needed to Help Build Habitat Homes During the Winter Months

New “Winter Warriors” volunteer program seeking individuals to brave the cold, wintery months to assist with home construction

COLUMBUS, OH (Dec. 10, 2010) – Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus is looking for volunteers who are willing to brave the cold, snowy months to help build homes for deserving, low-income families in Franklin County. Although the warm-weather months are traditional home construction periods,



current funding cycles require that home construction projects continue through the winter season. To help recruit volunteers, Habitat has created a new “Winter Warriors” program to identify volunteers and recognize those individuals who step forward to assist during this critical home-construction period.

As a part of the new Winter Warriors program, individuals who volunteer during the months of January – March will each receive a free Winter Warriors long-sleeve t-shirt recognizing them as members of this special cold-weather construction team. Volunteers who donate 20 or more hours during these same months will also receive a free Winter Warriors knit hat.

Volunteers are needed for on-site construction shifts from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Volunteers are asked to commit to work a full shift; and weekday volunteers are especially needed. A special “Evening Crew” also needs volunteers for 5:30 – 8 p.m. shifts on Wednesdays and Thursdays. To sign up to volunteer, visit www.columbus.volunteerhub.com or call the Volunteer Department at Habitat at 614-364-7020 for more information.

A volunteer orientation will be held on Saturday, January 15 from 10 -11 a.m. The orientation session will be held at the Habitat offices located at 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, 43224. Individuals are encouraged to attend a volunteer orientation; but attendance is not required since construction leaders provide needed construction and worksite safety training at the beginning of each work shift.

“During this holiday season, we are asking individuals and organizations to step up to help us keep home construction moving during the winter months. If you can take a day off from work to help, if you work a night shift and can help during the day, if you happen to be laid off at this time, if you are a student on winter break, or whatever your current situation might be, we hope that you will find a way to donate at least one day to help us build homes,” said E.J. Thomas, CEO. “Houses are currently in various stages of construction, and we need the find new volunteers to work with our current group of helpers in order to meet our home completion schedule and move families in to their new homes as soon as possible.”

Individuals, businesses, and organizations are asked to volunteer. Homes are currently being constructed in the Whitehall, Linden and Southside areas of Columbus. Construction activities include exterior and interior work. Depending on the stage of construction, homes may or may not have indoor heating. Volunteers are asked to bundle up for the weather conditions. Sturdy, hard-soled, closed-toe shoes or work boots must be worn on site. Tools and worksite safety equipment is provided by Habitat.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old; or at least 16 if working alongside an accompanying adult and with a signed waiver for minors on file.

Additional information about how to get involved can be found at www.habitatcolumbus.org.

--30--

GENERAL INFORMATION

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved 400,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 2 million people. For more information, or to donate or volunteer, visit Habitat.org.

Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus (HFHGC) works throughout Franklin County, Ohio and has built more than 225 homes since 1987. The Greater Columbus Affiliate, through tithing to HFHI, has also helped to build more than 230 homes in developing countries throughout the world.

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.

Also supporting HFHGC is **Habitat's ReStore**, a resale store that accepts and sells reusable home improvement materials to the general public. Revenue from sales directly offsets 100% of 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 store is open to the public Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 12 – 5 p.m.

Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224
(614) HABITAT or (614) 422-4828 or www.habitatcolumbus.org.
Habitat's ReStore, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224
(614) RESTORE or (614) 737-8673 or www.habitatcolumbus.org/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