



Don't forget to vote for Habitat – Greater Columbus in the American Home Shield Challenge for Change. Habitat Columbus can earn up to \$25,000 just for being the highest vote-getter in this online contest which ends January 31, 2011. **Vote daily!**

VOTE NOW at www.ahschallenge.com
Your vote is important and will further fund neighborhood revitalization in Franklin County.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Habitat for Humanity reaches milestone: 400,000 homes built or repaired since 1976

More than 2 million people around the world served through better housing

COLUMBUS, OH (Dec. 13, 2010) – Habitat for Humanity surpassed its 400,000 house milestone during its most recent fiscal year. Since the nonprofit organization was founded in 1976, its self-help, hand-up model has resulted in rehabbed, repaired or new housing for more than 2 million people worldwide.

Locally, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus is part of this global effort. Since 1987, the Greater Columbus Affiliate has built or rehabbed 225 houses.

Habitat-Greater Columbus is on schedule to complete a number of homes in 2010; and expects to build 23 additional homes in 2011. Several of these homes are already under construction and “Winter Warrior” volunteers are greatly needed at this time, especially volunteers who might be able to take time off of work to donate a weekday volunteer shift. Volunteers are needed throughout the winter months to perform inside and outside construction activities. Volunteer training sessions are scheduled for Saturday, January 15 and Feb. 5. Call (614) HABILITAT for more information. Winter Warrior volunteers will receive a long-sleeve t-shirt and those who volunteer 20+ hours in Jan. – March will receive a Winter Warriors hat.

“Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus is continuing its efforts to help families in need of decent, affordable housing. We are happy to have helped Habitat for Humanity reach this important milestone in bettering communities across the country,” said E.J. Thomas, CEO. “With continued support of our sponsors and volunteers, we’ll continue to address affordable housing needs in Franklin County.”

In fiscal year 2010, Habitat for Humanity served a record 74,960 families worldwide through a combination of new construction, rehabilitation and repairs. Habitat also helped an additional 6,355 families establish legal rights to a house or land, and provided more than 46,964 individuals with technical assistance ranging from legal help to construction advice or training.

“We are pleased that even in this difficult economy, Habitat for Humanity has been able to help a record number of families around the world have a better place to live,” said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International. “Our affiliates are the backbone of Habitat’s efforts. Their hard work and dedication have made this milestone possible. We are grateful for the work of Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus.”

Habitat for Humanity celebrated its 300,000th home in 2008, its 200,000th home in 2005 and the 100,000th home in 2000.

By 2013, Habitat for Humanity hopes to assist 100,000 families worldwide annually with new or improved housing.

A copy of Habitat for Humanity International's fiscal year 2010 annual report, "What We Build," is now available online at <http://www.habitat.org/support/report/default.aspx>. The report gives a snapshot of Habitat's work around the world.

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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