



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Think You Can't Afford to Own a Home?

Learn if you qualify for a Habitat home by attending a homeowner orientation session on Feb. 11 at Habitat's new ReStore location on the west side

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Feb. 1, 2012) – Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus will host a homeowner orientation session on the west side of Columbus for renters interested in learning more about Habitat homeownership qualifications and the application process. This special orientation session will be held on Sat. Feb. 11 beginning at 10 a.m. at Habitat's new ReStore at 240 N. Wilson Road on Columbus' west side. No reservation is needed.

Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus provides a hand up, not a handout to low-income families in Franklin County. Habitat homes are not given for free; they are purchased by the owner. Families who partner with Habitat must be able to repay a no-interest mortgage, be willing to work 200-250 hours of sweat equity, be living in substandard housing, and be a first-time homebuyer, among other qualifications.

Regular homeownership orientation sessions are held the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. and the third Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Habitat for Humanity offices located at 3140 Westerville Rd., Columbus 43224.

Those interested in a Habitat home must attend an orientation session in order to apply.

For additional information, visit www.HabitatColumbus.org or call Lisa Jones, Family Services Director, at (614) 364-7014.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

[Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus](http://www.HabitatColumbus.org) (HFHGC) works throughout Franklin County, Ohio and has built 245 homes, *and counting*, since 1987. The Greater Columbus Affiliate, through tithing to HFHI, has also helped to build more than 250 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. *New location opening Feb. 1 at 240 N. Wilson Road in the Great Western Shopping Center on the West Side of Columbus.*

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International 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 more than 500,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 2.5 million people. For more information, or to donate or volunteer, visit habitat.org.

**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 bmartin@habitatcolumbus.org.