



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus

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Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus is Seeking to Qualify Partner Families for Habitat Homes

Homeowner Application Meetings to be Held in April

COLUMBUS, Ohio. (March 16, 2011) – High housing rental costs can quickly push low-income working families into financial crisis. When the cost of monthly rent is too high as a percentage of a family's monthly income, it is easy to fall behind on rent payments as families struggle to choose between paying rent or paying for other necessities like the rising cost of food and gasoline, or even child care or transportation expenses for getting to and from work. These families are hard-working and are trying to make ends meet, but the high cost of rent can lead to a cycle of frequent moves to try to avoid rental debt and other fees. In fact, a recent study indicates that 18% of renters in Ohio are paying more than 50% of their income for housing. The search for lower-cost housing can also lead to families having no choice but to live in housing that is unsafe, unsanitary, overcrowded, or substandard.

For Habitat Partner Families, many have escaped this vicious cycle and are saving hundreds of dollars each month while enjoying the pride and responsibility of homeownership. Because the monthly mortgage payments for Habitat homes are based on a percentage of total family income rather than a set rental fee, many families realize cost savings just by becoming a Habitat homeowner.

To find out if you might qualify, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus is holding the following Homeowner Application Meetings at the Habitat offices located at 3140 Westerville Rd., Columbus, 43224:

Tuesday, April 5, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On **Saturday, April 16,** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a Homeowner Application Meeting will be held at the Godman Guild, 303 E. 6th Ave., Columbus, 43201.

For a list of documents to bring to the meeting, or for additional information, contact Lisa Jones, Family Services Director, at 614-364-7014 or visit www.habitatcolumbus.org.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

[Habitat for Humanity International](http://www.habitatcolumbus.org) (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