



NEWS

Contact:

Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus

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Habitat for Humanity ranks No. 6 among largest homebuilders in the U.S. Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus Affiliate Builds 228 Homes to Date

COLUMBUS, Ohio (May 11, 2011) – Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus' work to provide affordable housing in Franklin County has helped Habitat for Humanity International rank as the sixth largest homebuilder on Builder magazine's top 100 list. With 6,032 closings in 2010, this is the second time Habitat for Humanity has placed in the top 10. Locally, the Greater Columbus Affiliate has built 228 homes since 1987 for families in Franklin County, with a number under construction currently.

"Our placement on the Builder 100 list is a testament to what can be accomplished when people work together," said Larry Gluth, senior vice president of U.S. and Canada for Habitat for Humanity International. "So many families in the United States and around the world face an incredible need for affordable housing, and this need only increases during challenging economic times. Habitat works every day to help these families, and we are grateful for the generosity of our donors, volunteers and advocates who have joined our efforts to help families obtain safe, decent and affordable homes and to strengthen communities."

"We are thrilled that our work to provide affordable housing has contributed to Habitat's ranking as the sixth largest builder in the United States," said E.J. Thomas, CEO at Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus. "We are proud to help families obtain affordable housing, and we thank all of our supporters for their commitment to helping families in need."

The Builder 100 list is an annual compilation of the largest homebuilders in the country. In 2009, Habitat for Humanity ranked eighth on the list with 5,294 closings, marking the first time the organization made it to the top 10.

GENERAL INFORMATION

[Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus](#) (HFHGC) works throughout Franklin County, Ohio and has built more than 228 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.

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 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.

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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