



## NEWS

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### **Habitat - Greater Columbus CEO Elected to Habitat International's U.S. Council** ***E.J. Thomas to serve as one of 24 affiliate representatives to advise Habitat International***

Columbus, Ohio – E.J. Thomas, CEO of Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus (HFHGC), has been elected to serve as a member of the Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) U.S. Council. The U.S. Council is composed of not more than 24 members, at least 4 of which must be currently serving as the executive director or equivalent of a Habitat affiliate in the U.S. Thomas is the first Ohio Habitat representative to serve on the U.S. Council since its formation in 1999. Thomas was nominated by members of the HFHGC board and was elected by the current members of the U.S. Council. Thomas will serve a maximum term of six years.

Members of the HFHI U.S. Council serve as a voice of U.S. affiliates and other constituent organizations on policy matters; advise HFHI staff and board on the direction and priorities of U.S. programs and empower affiliates throughout the U.S. The Council is responsible for reviewing the budget and annual plan for domestic operations. Members also advise on all aspects of Habitat's work within the U.S., develop programs and initiatives that enhance the Habitat mission, recommend policy, serve as a sounding board for ideas and provide feedback to HFHI. Since its inception in 1999, the Council has developed important policies and operational procedures concerning collaboration in resource development; work in urban and rural areas; the role of support organizations; land acquisition and development; advocacy and the use of government funds.

"E.J. Thomas' election to the U.S. Council is a direct result of his outstanding leadership of the Greater Columbus affiliate. In his four years as CEO, E.J. is directly responsible for turning around the finances of the organization, orchestrating the first-ever simultaneous building of nine homes, more than quadrupling monthly revenues at Habitat's ReStore, increasing public awareness through marketing and public relations and attaining numerous grants and awards," said Kyle Sharp of The Ohio State University Medical Center and current president of the board of HFHGC. "We are very proud of his accomplishments on our Affiliate's behalf."

Thomas also serves on the nine-member HFHI Domestic Advocacy Advisory Team, is chairman of Habitat for Humanity Ohio, is a member of the board of trustees of Capital University and has served on several other boards including the Columbus Zoo, the local American Cancer Society and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra (CSO), where he was the former chairman and co-founder of the CSO's successful "Picnic with the Pops" summer series.

Thomas is the former chairman of the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Review Commission; a former eight-term state representative, 27<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District; a retired colonel of the Ohio Air National Guard and is a resident of New Albany, Ohio.

**About Habitat for Humanity.** [Habitat for Humanity International](#) (HFHI), and [Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus](#) (HFHGC), is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Habitat affiliates work locally in communities around the world to select and support homeowners, organize volunteers and coordinate house building. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 300,000 homes worldwide, providing shelter for more than 1 million people in nearly 90 countries. In the Greater Columbus community, Habitat has built more than 207 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.

**About Habitat's ReStore.** Also supporting HFHGC is [Habitat's ReStore](#), a re-sale store that accepts and re-sells reusable home improvement materials to the general public. Revenue from sales directly offsets 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 re-sale store is open to the public Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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**Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224**  
**(614) HABITAT or [www.habitatcolumbus.org](http://www.habitatcolumbus.org).**  
**Habitat's ReStore, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224**  
**(614) RESTORE or [www.habitatcolumbus.org/restore](http://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](mailto:beverly.martin@martinmarketingllc.com)*