



## RELEASE

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## **First Walls Are Raised on Two Weinland Park Homes Sponsored by Chase Habitat partner families excited about start of construction**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (August 4, 2011)** – Volunteers simultaneously raised the first walls today on two Habitat homes being constructed in the Weinland Park neighborhood of Columbus. The neighboring homes, both sponsored by Chase, are being built on North 5<sup>th</sup> Street for the Gibbs and Hoffman families.

Chase donated \$200,000 for the construction of the two homes and is the only corporate sponsor of multiple homes during 2011. Throughout the summer and fall, Chase employees will continue to be part of the volunteer construction team, which also includes family members working to complete their 200-250 hours of required "sweat equity."

Though these are the first two Chase-sponsored Habitat homes in Weinland Park, Chase is no stranger to the neighborhood. "We have been investing in Weinland Park for five years, working alongside residents and community partners," said James Malz, president of Chase in Ohio. "These new homes for neighborhood residents represent the hope, progress and promise that is at the heart of our work here. In the coming months, our employees and their families will bring their muscle, skill and enthusiasm to complement our financial investment in Weinland Park's residents and in Columbus."

Both the Gibbs and Hoffman families currently reside in Weinland Park rental units. Both families are pleased about becoming homeowners within the neighborhood they call home.

Mary Gibbs, who will share her new Habitat home with her daughter and granddaughter, said she is very excited about remaining in the same neighborhood where she has lived for 37 years. "It's the community where I raised my children. I am very excited about all the activity that is happening. I have always liked the numerous resources that are available in Weinland Park, and I am excited to see homeownership taking hold here," she said.

Mary's soon-to-be next-door neighbor, Jim Hoffman, recently started to attend the Weinland Park Community Civic Association meetings to learn more about what's happening in the neighborhood. He said, "Plenty of residents in Weinland Park are excited about the changes. For me, I've lived in small apartments for 30 years. So I'm looking forward to having family and friends over for a BBQ and having plenty of room to do it in my new Habitat home!"

Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus is working hand-in-hand with members of the Weinland Park Collaborative to redevelop and revitalize the community, which is bordered by Chittenden Avenue, Fifth Avenue, High Street, and the Conrail railroad tracks. "These two homes are the first of six Habitat homes to be built in Weinland Park, said E.J. Thomas, CEO, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus. "We are grateful to our many partners, like Chase, who are providing the necessary funding and other resources to make decent, affordable homeownership a reality for our hardworking Habitat families in this area."

Other members of the Weinland Park Collaborative include Campus Partners, Cardinal Health, the City of Columbus Dept. of Development, Columbus City Schools, The Columbus Foundation, Community Properties of Ohio Management Services, Godman Guild, Chase, The Ohio State University, United Way

of Central Ohio, Wagenbrenner Development Company, and the Weinland Park Community Civic Association.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Chase** serves nearly four million consumers and 150,000 small businesses in Ohio through 289 bank branches and 870 ATMs, and employs more than 20,000 Ohio residents. Chase is the U.S. consumer and commercial banking business of JPMorgan Chase & Co. (NYSE: JPM). The leading global financial services firm donates than \$150 million annually to charitable organizations globally in support of public education, affordable housing and community revitalization efforts. More information is available at [www.jpmorganchase.com/giving](http://www.jpmorganchase.com/giving).

**Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus** (HFHGC) works throughout Franklin County, Ohio and has built 234 homes 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.

### **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](http://habitat.org).

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**(614) RESTORE or (614) 737-8673 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)*