



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers Urgently Needed to Help Construct Habitat Homes Individuals and groups encouraged to volunteer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (September 6, 2011) – First-time Habitat volunteer, Ted Dziemianowicz has been spending his recent Fridays helping to construct homes for hard-working, low-income families in Franklin County. Dziemianowicz, a self-employed consultant who recently moved to Columbus, is making good use of his flexible schedule to help others while learning new skills. He has painted rooms in his own house in the past, but he had no experience hanging siding, laying floors and framing walls. "If you're willing to start with a bit of humility, it's great to learn new skills from the experienced Habitat folks who lead the construction efforts," said Dziemianowicz about his volunteer experience. "Last Friday, I began helping at a new home site, and in one day we completely framed all the interior walls on the first floor. It was unbelievably satisfying to see such tangible progress in just one day."

Dziemianowicz is one of hundreds of volunteers helping to build new homes and rebuild existing homes for hard-working, low-income Habitat families in Franklin County. But, with twenty-two homes being built, additional volunteers are urgently needed to help complete homes before the end of the year. Volunteers are especially needed for weekday shifts.

A volunteer workday begins at 8:30 a.m. with safety instructions, work assignments and training on specific tasks provided by an experienced house lead. Teams of eight to ten volunteers work Tuesday through Saturday throughout the day on various tasks depending on the stage of construction and finish up around 4 p.m. Safety equipment and tools are provided. Construction experience is not necessary. The minimum age to volunteer is 16, when accompanied by a parent or other adult. Though it is not mandatory, volunteers are encouraged to attend a new volunteer orientation session before volunteering.

Volunteers represent retired persons, individuals between jobs, shift workers, self-employed professionals with flexible schedules, stay-at-home parents of schoolchildren, families, teams of business employees, religious groups, high school and college students and service organizations. Volunteers are needed Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.; some volunteer slots are also available on Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Individuals interested in volunteering may sign up and view available dates and locations at Habitat's online volunteer registration system: <http://columbus.volunteerhub.com>. Groups may register by calling Deb Light, volunteer director, at (614) 364-7020 or by email at dlight@habitatcolumbus.org.

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Media Contact:

Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus
Beverly Martin
Cell (614) 580-6272

bmartin@habitatcolumbus.org

Ted Dziemianowicz is available for media interviews

GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

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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.