



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Veterans Honor 9/11 Victims by Building Habitat Homes on Friday and Saturday

Chase employee veterans to work on two Weinland Park homes funded by Chase

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (September 8, 2011)** – On September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Chuck Pursh, a military veteran and credit risk executive for Chase Home Lending in Columbus, will join 35 other veterans who are employees of Chase in a community service project marking the 10th anniversary of September 11. The veterans will volunteer in honor of the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and members of the armed services who have since lost their lives in the line of duty. Members of VETS--the Chase employee networking group for veterans--will help construct two Habitat homes in the Weinland Park neighborhood. The two homes, located side-by-side on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, are being sponsored by Chase.

Pursh, a retired Army National Guard officer, was working for Bank One (now Chase) at its Polaris office in 2001 when the terrorist attacks occurred. "When I returned home from work, I started calling the leadership of my unit to see whether we had received any alerts," he said. "Within 60 days, we were mobilized and left for Germany in early January 2002. We ran force protection missions for our bases in Germany so the active army could train for Iraq and Afghanistan. I'm looking forward to working with my Chase colleagues to honor the memory of those who died and those who served."

Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus is hosting "10 Days of Service" in collaboration with [HandsOn Central Ohio](#). For 10 days beginning Sept. 9, Habitat volunteers will honor victims and their families by sharing a personal story about a 9/11 victim at the start of each workday on construction sites and at Habitat's ReStore. The stories have been selected from the [The New York Times](#) and a photo of each victim will be displayed at the worksites.

"This is one small way for us to join in the national movement to honor the memories of the victims of 9/11. Though we didn't know them, their tragedy united a nation and sparked a call to action like none before," said E.J. Thomas, CEO of Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus. "As a former military member, I can embrace the sense of needing to do something to make a statement to show the strength and resolve of Americans. Putting a hammer to work for a local family in need is a fitting demonstration of perseverance over adversity."

**EVENT DATE:** Friday, Sept. 9, and Saturday, Sept. 10

**LOCATION:** 1253 AND 1259 5<sup>TH</sup> Street, Weinland Park, 43201

**TIME:** Construction workday 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

#### INTERVIEWS

**AVAILABLE:** Representing Chase Veterans Networking Group  
Chuck Pursh  
Tony Borer  
Mark Gamble (Saturday only)  
Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus  
E.J. Thomas, CEO (on-site Friday 10:30 – 11:30)

**Media Contact:**

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**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](http://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](http://www.habitatcolumbus.org).**  
**Habitat's ReStore, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224**  
**(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 [bmartin@habitatcolumbus.org](mailto:bmartin@habitatcolumbus.org).*