



## **E.J. THOMAS**

**CEO**

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – GREATER COLUMBUS**

**E.J. Thomas has served in the role of the affiliate’s chief executive for nearly five years and is responsible for the oversight and operation of Ohio’s second-largest Habitat organization in terms of the number of homes constructed, which have averaged 15 per year for the last three. In addition to managing the efforts requisite to funding and building homes throughout central Ohio and Franklin County, ReStore production has increased significantly during his tenure, from an average of \$18k per month in late 2004 to \$100k during this last six-month reporting period.**

**Concurrently, he chairs the State Support Organization of Habitat for Humanity Ohio, an organization that assists the 70 affiliates in the state by way of Statehouse advocacy efforts, and individualized training of affiliate staff in best practices, grants writing, and infrastructure acquisition. In addition, he was recently appointed to one of 20 national seats on Habitat for Humanity International’s “U.S. Council,” the policy making arm of the organization providing advice and counsel regarding operations and policy directly to the Board of Directors, and serves as Chairman of its Advocacy Committee.**

**E.J. Thomas concluded his tenure as State Representative for the 27<sup>th</sup> District in north Columbus, having been elected a total of eight terms. He specialized in state fiscal policy, serving as Chairman of both the Ways & Means and Finance & Appropriations Committees. In the latter role, he was directly responsible for legislative approval of five budgets totaling \$44 billion. It is with this experience that he has been working with the D.C. Advocacy Office of HFHI.**

**Col. Thomas recently retired from the USAF and the Ohio Air National Guard after 32 years in the military, during which time he was an instructor pilot and Director of Operations for the state’s 5,000+ member force.**

**E.J. is immediate past Chairman of the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Review Commission, during which time he had responsibility for some 30 attorneys who remain the Commission’s Hearing Officers along with an administrative support staff of 27 professionals. Each year the Commission considers 25,000+ cases brought by both employers and employees. The Commission is the independent appeals forum for cases related to disputed unemployment claims.**

**He has been active in the central Ohio community, serving on various boards such as the Columbus Zoo, the local Cancer Society, and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra (CSO). E.J. was co-founder of the CSO’s successful “Picnic with the Pops” summer series.**

**E.J. is the father of two adult children, Eddie and Alicia, and Rose who is now eight years of age.**