



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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1-800-GOT-JUNK? Offering FREE Pick-Up of Old Computers from Businesses Donating to Habitat's Computer Recycling Drive *Free pick-up available March 30 – April 10*

Columbus, Ohio (March 19, 2009) – Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus is pleased to announce that 1-800-GOT-JUNK? is offering to pick-up bulk donations of old computers from businesses wishing to donate used equipment to AccessAll Columbus, the computer recycling program that benefits Habitat families. For a limited time, free pick-up service is available for pick-ups scheduled on March 30 – April 10, from business locations in central Columbus for bulk donations of multiple computers only (defined as more than can fit in a car). Businesses may request a pick-up appointment by calling 1-800-468-5865.

This collection of used desktop computers, laptops, monitors, hard drives and other computing equipment will further support the previously announced computer recycling drive being held on Saturday, April 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at TechUsed located at 4231-H Leap Road, Hilliard, 43026. The donated computers will be refurbished by TechUsed and distributed to approximately 75 Franklin County Habitat families in need of home computers.

Black desktop monitors and Pentium 4 processors are most needed, but all donations are appreciated. Computer equipment does not have to be in working order to be donated. TechUsed will securely destroy all data files on donated equipment as a part of refurbishing to ensure privacy of any stored information.

Donated computers that may be beyond repair will be disassembled, destroyed and environmentally recycled to divert harmful computer materials such as lead, mercury and PCBs from our local landfill. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of any recycled materials also benefits Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus and helps to purchase additional software programs for the refurbished computers.

"Habitat is pleased to add 1-800-GOT-JUNK? as an additional partner for this important computer recycling program. Their free offer to businesses will help us collect even more computers to meet the needs of our Habitat families," said E.J. Thomas, CEO, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus.

After being refurbished, computer equipment is delivered to Habitat families' homes throughout Franklin County. Habitat staff and volunteers assist families with setting up the computer and provide training to family members on how to use the new equipment. In order to receive a computer, families must attend Computer Basics & Internet Security training provided by Habitat. Computers are equipped with a Microsoft XP operating system and OpenOffice software. (Habitat is now a Community Microsoft

Authorized Refurbisher and is able to purchase software at deep discounts for this program.) Habitat families are responsible for purchasing their own Internet connection, monthly access service and/or any additional equipment they may wish to own.

“When we heard about Habitat’s computer recycling drive, we knew that we wanted to help. Businesses often hold on to old computers because it is a hassle to move them out and they often don’t know where to discard them. We hope that by offering this free service, more businesses will clear their offices of old computers and support Habitat families at the same time,” said Joe Gillotti, owner, 1-800-GOT-JUNK? Columbus.

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.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus and Habitat’s ReStore, call 614-HABITAT or 614-RESTORE, respectively, or visit www.habitat-columbus.org.

About 1-800-GOT-JUNK? 1-800-GOT-JUNK? is pioneering an industry that is helping people remove junk, regain space and live cleaner lives. Whether it's an old sofa or a pile of junk in the garage, household junk or a commercial clean-out, 1-800-GOT-JUNK? removes it for you. 1-800-GOT-JUNK? is passionate about recycling and donating items to charity to reduce what goes into the landfill. You can trust 1-800-GOT-JUNK? to haul your junk in a quick, efficient, professional manner. For more information, visit www.1800gotjunk.com.

**Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224
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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