



NEWS

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY-GREATER COLUMBUS CELEBRATES 200th COLUMBUS-AREA HOME

Wall Raising at New John G. McCoy Circle Marks 200 Families, 200 Homes

Columbus -- Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus (HFHGC) today celebrated the construction of the 200th Columbus-area Habitat home with a wall-raising at 1226 John G. McCoy Circle in the North Linden area. Hundreds of Habitat families, volunteers, family advocates and project sponsors gathered to mark the achievement of homeownership for 200 families and the construction of 200 Columbus-area homes during the past 20 years of HFHGC's operations.

The 200th Columbus-area home is located at the new John G. McCoy Circle, a nine-home site under construction in the North Linden area. The nine-home cul-de-sac, situated on 1.5 acres of previously undeveloped land, was made possible by an historic \$1.1 million gift from John G. McCoy in 2007. McCoy, retired CEO and Chairman of Banc One made the contribution in honor of Chase CEO Jamie Dimon. This neighborhood will be home to nine families, including 29 children.

"The front door of a Habitat home represents the threshold to a new life for our partner families, and the installation of the door by family members is symbolic of that changed life to come," said E.J. Thomas, CEO of Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus.

Following the raising of a wall at the 1226 address, the other families, their advocates and volunteers worked to install the front door of their new home. Children of family members also assisted with a construction related activity on their own home.

Melissa Ingwersen, Central Ohio President, said, "JPMorgan Chase is honored to be a part of building homes for hardworking, deserving families in Central Ohio. On behalf of the hundreds of my colleagues who have stepped up as volunteers to build this historic Habitat development, we wish these parents and their children many years of happiness in their new homes." The JPMorgan Chase Foundation contributed \$50,000 for the purchase of new tools for this project.

Other project sponsors include the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, the City of Columbus/Department of Development and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

Habitat for Humanity International, and the Greater Columbus affiliate, is a nondenominational 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 225,000 homes worldwide, providing shelter for more than 1 million people in nearly 90 countries. In the Greater Columbus community, Habitat has built 193 homes over the past 20 years.

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, we have a long-term relationship with our homeowners and the communities in which they live.

(more)

Also supporting HFHGC is **Habitat's ReStore**, a re-sale store that accepts and re-sells reusable home improvement materials. 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, formerly known as the Build It Again Center, 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-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations may be delivered to Habitat's ReStore until one hour before store closing time.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus and Habitat's ReStore, see www.habitat-columbus.org.

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