



**National Women
Build Week**

Sponsored by Lowe's

NEWS

May 10, 2008

Contact: Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus
Beverly Martin at (614) 580-6272
Beverly.Martin@MartinMarketingLLC.com

Lowe's Companies, Inc.
Maureen Rich at (704) 758-2298
Maureen.A.Rich@lowes.com

LOCAL WOMEN CONSTRUCT HOUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL HABITAT INITIATIVE *Women Volunteers Build Homes and Support Families on Mother's Day Weekend*

Columbus – Today, local women volunteers worked on the construction of a Habitat family's new home as a part of National Women Build Week, May 4-10, sponsored by Lowe's. On this Mother's Day weekend, women volunteers contributed to the progress of home construction at John G. McCoy Circle, a development of nine Habitat-built homes in the North Linden area.

"Habitat appreciates the national and local support from Lowe's and the support of the women volunteers with us today. It is noteworthy that some of our participants swinging hammers today are mothers we will honor tomorrow on Mother's Day. We celebrate the hallmark of women helping others, especially families in need of safe, affordable, decent housing in Franklin County," said E.J. Thomas, CEO, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus.

Developed through partnership between Lowe's and Habitat for Humanity, National Women Build Week celebrates the compassion, dedication, talents and abilities of women from all walks of life. Lowe's underwrites the Habitat for Humanity Women Build program, bringing women from all walks of life together to learn construction skills and then use those skills to be part of the solution to poverty housing. Lowe's is providing Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus a \$5,000 grant in support of this one-day Women Build activity.

"More than 12 million U.S. children live in poverty," said Larry D. Stone, Lowe's president and chairman of the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. "We believe the week leading up to Mother's Day provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of Lowe's and Habitat's women volunteers, as well as invite new volunteers to help those families and transform communities. Supporting Women Build and other Habitat projects gives us all a chance to provide people with the resources they need to improve their homes and lives."

Numerous volunteers, mostly women, worked on the home of Habitat partner family, Kristin Ziehm. Ziehm's home is located in the new John G. McCoy Circle, a nine home development made possible by a generous grant from John G. McCoy, retired CEO and Chairman of Banc One in honor of Chase CEO Jamie Dimon. Nine Habitat partner families, including 29 children, will move into their completed homes later this summer.

Habitat for Humanity International, and the Greater Columbus affiliate, 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 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 and will complete its 200th home at John G. McCoy Circle in 2008.

(more)

Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus (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, HFHGC has a long-term relationship with Habitat homeowners and the communities in which they live.

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.

Lowe's is a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity International, American Red Cross, United Way of America and the Home Safety Council, in addition to numerous nonprofit organizations and programs that help communities across the country. In 2006, the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awarded \$15 million to diverse organizations across the United States. Lowe's also encourages volunteerism through the Lowe's Heroes program, a company-wide employee volunteer initiative. Lowe's is a FORTUNE® 50 company with fiscal year 2006 sales of \$46.9 billion and has more than 1,500 stores in 49 states and three stores in Canada. For more information, visit www.Lowes.com/community.