



NEWS

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Habitat for Humanity Presents House Keys to Nine Families Families Achieve Homeownership Dream at John G. McCoy Circle

Columbus, Ohio – Earlier today, nine families received keys to their new homes located in a one-of-a-kind neighborhood of nine simultaneously built Habitat homes on John G. McCoy Circle in Columbus. With hundreds of volunteers, donors, partners and friends looking on, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus dedicated these nine homes – and the Affiliate’s 200th since home building started in 1987.

The John G. McCoy Circle was developed on two-plus acres of previously vacant property in the North Linden area of Columbus. The neighborhood was made possible by a \$1.1 million gift from John G. McCoy, donated in honor of Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan Chase. Significant support for the project was also provided by Chase Bank, the City of Columbus Department of Development, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. In-kind materials and services were also donated by more than a dozen businesses.

More than 3,000 volunteers donated more than 17,000 hours of time during the six-month construction project. Volunteers included individuals, businesses, churches and other organizations from all areas of Central Ohio.

“Many people from different faiths and walks of life, came together to make John G. McCoy Circle a reality for nine families and 30 children. During this process, we built houses. But most importantly, we built relationships and hope while further strengthening our community,” said E.J. Thomas, CEO, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus.

All of the families are first-time homeowners who earn 30-60% of the median income for Franklin County. Each successfully completed a rigorous application process in order to qualify for a zero-interest, no-profit mortgage loan from Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus.

In addition to the keys to their homes, families each were given a Bible, a quilt handcrafted by women volunteers from Overbrook Presbyterian Church and a certificate recognizing each family’s more than 200-250 hours of “sweat equity” provided toward construction of their own home and fellow families’ homes.

About Habitat for Humanity. 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, and with the completion of John G. McCoy Circle, Habitat has built 200 homes since 1987.

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, 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. 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, call 614-HABITAT or 614-RESTORE, respectively, or visit www.habitat-columbus.org.

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[Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus and Habitat's ReStore, 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224. Habitat Administrative Offices: 614-HABITAT. Habitat's ReStore: 614-RESTORE.](http://www.habitat-columbus.org)

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