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DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP BECOMES REALITY FOR DEDICATED COLUMBUS FAMILY

Walmart Funds Construction, Associates Help Habitat Partner Family Build Home

October 30, 2009, Columbus, Ohio – Felichia Head and her three children became proud owners of a new home today as Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus (HFHGC) dedicated its 212th home thanks to a new partnership with Walmart and Felichia’s hard work as a Habitat Partner Family.

The two-story, four-bedroom home on the city’s Southside is now complete due, in part, to a \$100,000 contribution from Walmart and its Foundation, one of five grants for new Habitat homes in Ohio this fall. In addition to the financial support, 430+ Walmart employees contributed 3,186 volunteer hours of labor to construct this home.

Felichia and her 18-year-old daughter have been actively participating in the construction of their home since the first nail was hammered on August 12 as part of their “sweat equity” homeownership requirement. Head, a teacher at Child Development Council Headstart Program, took advantage of her summer break to fulfill the bulk of her required hours. Head was especially pleased to be able to learn home construction skills herself while teaching these skills to her daughter and also serving as an excellent role model for her daughter.

“Felichia Head has been a model Habitat Partner family. She is an excellent role model to her children showing them firsthand the benefits of a home that comes from hard work, dedication, and a commitment to good personal financial practices,” commented E.J. Thomas, CEO of HFHGC. “She and her daughter have worked almost daily on the construction of their family home. I can only imagine the pride she feels watching her daughter learn and grow during this process. We’re proud of her accomplishment and are thrilled to present the keys to her and her family today.”

Walmart associates volunteered five days per week, generally on their days off. The associates are employed in a variety of roles at Columbus area Walmart stores. They helped put construction decking on the poured foundation, frame the house, install insulation, hang drywall, install windows and doors, hang siding, paint walls, landscape, and more. Skilled trades’ contractors are hired to handle the electrical, plumbing, and HVAC requirements to complete the home.

“It’s important to Walmart that our giving efforts in each of the communities we serve support organizations that help provide access to a better life,” said Michael Whitted, Walmart’s Habitat for Humanity project leader in Columbus. “Our experience with Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus serves as a source of pride for the Columbus-area associates who helped build this house. Not only were our associates able to give back to the community and make a difference in the lives of Felichia and her family, but many of us learned new skills along the way.”

Contrary to common perception, Habitat homes are not given for free. Homeowners buy their homes through a zero-interest, no-profit mortgage held by Habitat. Partner Families are also required to attend classes that help them learn about home maintenance, personal financial management, computers, and more.

This Southside home, built on land Habitat Columbus has owned since 2007, is the first of four houses to be built in this neighborhood. The new homes will replace what has been an asphalt parking lot that was used as a dumping ground before being cleaned up and cleared for new homes. The remainder of the homes at this location are slated to be built by early summer 2010.

NOTE: For the safety and privacy of Habitat families and children, we ask that you please refrain from publishing full names along with an exact street address.

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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 220 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, nonprofit 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. For more information, visit www.habitat.org or www.habitat-columbus.org.

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, visit www.habitat-columbus.org/restore.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009, Walmart – and its domestic and international foundations – gave more than \$423 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.