

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity

1006 Eighth Avenue South ♦ Nashville, TN 37203

Building Homes in Partnership with God's People in Need

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAHFH DICKSON DIVISION RALLIES DONORS, VOLUNTEERS TO BUILD FIRST HABITAT HOUSE IN DICKSON SINCE MERGER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (October 18, 2007) – Just four months after the merger between Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity and Dickson Habitat for Humanity, donors and volunteers are coming together to build a home in Dickson for Lisa Brand and her two children. This is the first Habitat home to be built since the merger and the 13th in the history of Habitat for Humanity in Dickson.

Local residents are encouraged to join in the effort, which kicks off with a "first nail" ceremony at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 1, at 517 Poplar Bend Rd. in Dickson's growing Hickory Pointe subdivision. Construction will continue through Friday, November 9, at 3:00 p.m., when Lisa will cut the ribbon to the threshold of her new home and receive house keys. Those interested in volunteering should call Mike Allen at 615-254-HOME (-4663), ext. 224 or Marsha Hudgens, Dickson division family services director, at 615-441-9967.

"I want all the volunteers and sponsors to know what a blessing they are to me and my children," said Brand. "Thank you for helping make my dream of owning a home come true." Among the first donors to the effort were TriStar Bank, the Dickson chapter of the Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, First Farmers and Merchants Bank, and Good Morning Rotary.

Lisa has been working hard since summertime to complete the required Habitat HomeWORKS classes and sweat equity. She has saved for a modest down payment, and she will purchase her home with a zero-percent interest mortgage.

The Brand family currently lives in Charlotte, Tenn., just outside Dickson, in a mobile home that is in disrepair. Owning a home has been her dream since she first moved out on her own years ago.

Lisa was born in Nashville and graduated from Whites Creek High School. She grew up in a family of four brothers and one sister, with a loving mother who worked very hard to provide for her children. Now Lisa has two children of her own: a 17-year-old daughter and a 9-year-old son. The family loves to play cards (*Uno* is a favorite), watch movies and go bowling together. Lisa's son is a typical boy who loves to play video games and sports, especially basketball. Her daughter is very active at their church and enjoys being member of the church's Unity Steppers.

Owning a home in Hickory Pointe will put Lisa closer to her work at Wal-Mart in Dickson, where she is a sales coordinator in the jewelry department. She has worked there for more than 17 years. Once her life is more settled, Lisa hopes to further her education.

"I want to congratulate Lisa for all of her hard work to accomplish the dream of homeownership and for taking this huge step in providing a better life for her family. Her home marks the beginning of a new chapter of growth and development for Habitat for Humanity in Dickson and for Nashville Area Habitat," said NAFHFH president and CEO Chris McCarthy. "By expanding our outreach to the more rural areas of Middle Tennessee, we open up many new possibilities for hard-working, low-income families here. There are opportunities for grants that are not available to urban areas, new partnerships with businesses and faith groups, availability of land, and, most importantly, the ability to provide decent, affordable shelter for more families."

The Dickson division of NAFHFH has set an initial goal of doubling house production each year for the next five years.

About Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity

NAHFH is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization committed to providing families with the life changing opportunity to purchase decent, affordable homes. The agency consistently ranks in the top one percent of all Habitat affiliates and has grown by seven times in size since 2002. NAFH will build a record 55 homes in 2007 - 40 locally and 15 abroad. As of July 2007, 1106 family members, including 729 children have been served by NAFH. Prior to becoming homeowners, Habitat partner families must complete up to 475 hours of "sweat equity" at the build site and in the classroom to earn their homes. Mortgage payments at zero percent interest range between \$350 and \$450 per month, including taxes and insurance. NAFH builds ENERGY STAR Certified energy efficient homes. To request an application or to receive more information about NAFH, call 615-254-HOME (4663) or visit www.habitatnashville.org.



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