

# 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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## **HABITAT HONORS SOS HARLEY SIEMER**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (Feb. 23, 2008) – On Saturday, March 1, at 11:45 a.m. Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity will honor Harley Siemer, one of the agency's most dedicated, hard-working, long-time volunteers – cherished by all who have worked beside him. The agency and his fellow supervisors on site (SOS) will dedicate the SOS Training House, funded by the Habitat HomeStores, to Siemer.

The SOS Training House is the 235<sup>th</sup> Nashville Area Habitat home Siemer has helped build, and it will serve as a model home for tours from March-November 2008. This home will be sold to a qualified Habitat family in December 2008. SOSs provide hands-on leadership during the construction of the houses, while working with family partners and sponsor volunteers. This year the agency recruited 50 new SOSs, and the entire team is learning new floor plans and home designs for the agency's second all-Habitat model affordable housing community, Timberwood, which begins construction March 1.

Since 1997, when he volunteered to build a Nashville Area Habitat house with his church, Westminster Presbyterian, Siemer has been helping low-income families build and then purchase homes of their own. Not only is he skilled in construction, but he is also a retired registered nurse, and he serves as the volunteer on site in charge of first aid at Nashville Area Habitat builds.

Siemer has been an SOS for the agency since 1998, volunteering every weekend during build seasons and one or more weekdays preparing materials, with the exception of a few days he spends each year with his brother and sisters in his native Minnesota.

Siemer is usually the first to arrive at 5:30 a.m. on the jobsite each weekend and the last to leave. He has an infectious smile and a big heart, and he cares deeply about helping Habitat families. Siemer is always willing to take on a special project around the homes while watching out for (and outworking) the "old guys" 20 years younger. Harley epitomizes the Habitat volunteer spirit and is an integral part of Nashville Area Habitat's mission.

A few more highlights:

- He was honored as a finalist for Direct Service Volunteer of the Year at the 17th annual Mary Catherine Strobel Awards in 2003.
- He was a finalist of the 2002 Tennessee Titans Community Quarterback Award.
- He is being nominated for a 2008 Mary Catherine Strobel Award.
- He will celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 08-08-08.
- As of December 2007, he has worked on 234 Habitat homes for more than 770 family members, and the SOS Training House is his 235<sup>th</sup>.

### **About Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity (NAHFH)**

NAHFH is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization committed to providing families with the life-changing opportunity to purchase and own 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 plans to build 45 homes in Middle Tennessee in 2008. The agency built a record 55 homes in 2007 - 40 locally and 15 abroad. In 2007, more than 1,100 family members, including 750 children, were 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 \$500 per month, including taxes and insurance. NAHFH builds ENERGY STAR Certified energy efficient homes. To request an application or to receive more information about NAHFH, call 615-254-HOME (4663) or visit [www.habitatnashville.org](http://www.habitatnashville.org).



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