

# 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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## **ENSWORTH SCHOOL TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON FOUR HABITAT HOMES TO COMMEMORATE THE SCHOOL'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

### ***"First Nails" to take place Saturday, March 29***

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (March 25, 2008) – On Saturday, March 29, at 7:30 a.m., volunteers from Ensworth School will begin construction on four homes sponsored by the school in celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Groups of Ensworth High School students, faculty, staff, alumni, Trustees and parents will build these Habitat homes in partnership with the families who will purchase them.

The Habitat homes sponsored by Ensworth School will be constructed over the course of four weekends (March 29-30, April 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20).

"A vital part of Ensworth's mission is to inspire our students to give back to their communities now as students and throughout their lives," says Ensworth headmaster Will Moseley.

The four homes will be built on "Tiger Circle," named after The Ensworth School mascot, in Nashville Area Habitat's second all-Habitat community, Timberwood, located near the intersection of Brick Church Pike and Briley Parkway. When the neighborhood is complete in 2010, the community will be home to more than 375 family members.

For 15 years now, pre-first grade students at Ensworth have held an annual penny drive, both as a learning experience and a service project. The money they've collected has funded the creation of driveways for Habitat homes. Pre-first graders are collecting pennies already this year.

Ensworth students from pre-first to 12th grade are taking part in service learning projects in support of the Habitat build. While some plans are still in development, activities include a book drive for schools that Habitat residents will attend, planting seeds for flowers, doing landscaping at the site and helping prepare lunches for volunteers. Older students are signing up to help with construction.

The following families will help build and then purchase the homes sponsored by the Ensworth School:

**Mohamed Farah and Hanaa Hamed** are refugees from the African country of Sudan. There, they attended universities, where Hanaa received a bachelor's degree in accounting and Mohamed his degree in law. They fled Sudan because of the political unrest, leaving everything behind and started their lives over in Nashville. Mohamed and Hanaa have a 4-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son. The conditions of the apartments where they live now are unsafe and pest-ridden. Mohamed works for the United States Postal Service, and Hanaa stays at home to care for their children. They hope for the opportunity to rebuild their lives once they get into their new home.

**Necat and Ayten Koc** are immigrants from Turkey who have lived in the U.S. since 2003 to find a better life for their family. The Kocs have four children, a 15-year-old son and three daughters, ages 13, 7, and 18 months, all living in a small two-bedroom apartment in the Harding Place area. Necat works as a custodian helper with Metro Nashville Public Schools and Ayten stays at home. Necat plans to take English classes after their build so he can apply for U.S. citizenship. Necat and Ayten are looking forward to having a safe home in which to raise their family.

**Curtisia Lewis** gets the inspiration to work hard and take good care of her finances from her mother's example and her constant reminders. Curtisia has worked at White's Creek High School for three years. She and her 4-year-old son will benefit greatly from moving into a safer neighborhood. Curtisia plans to finish her associate's degree at Nashville State Technical College once she gets settled into her new home and pursue a job as a medical coder.

She loves HomeWORKS classes and believes it is an excellent program for single mothers. Curtisia says the classes have taught her many new life skills.

[Tamatha Paige](#) is an active mother of two boys, ages 3 and 16, and a 15-year-old daughter. She loves to spend time with her children, attending their various school, sports and church activities. Tamatha has been a certified nursing assistant at HomeInstead Healthcare since May 2006. She loves her job and hopes to further her career by returning to school and earning a bachelor's degree in nursing. Tamatha was raised by her grandmother, who taught her to set goals for her life and emphasized the importance of living simply. Tamatha continues to live by that philosophy today.

### **About Ensworth School**

Ensworth School is an independent coed school for students in pre-first through 12th grades. Service learning is an integral part of the school's curriculum along with a full range of challenging academics, opportunities in the visual and performing arts, fitness and athletics.

### **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. NAHFH 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 NAHFH. 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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