

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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DICKSON DIVISION PURCHASES FIVE LOTS IN MAPLE VALLEY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (April 30, 2008) – The Dickson Division of Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity has purchased five lots in the Maple Valley subdivision on which volunteers will build decent, affordable homes for hard-working, low-income families.

There are a total of 32 lots in Maple Valley, with 19 homes already constructed at a minimum of 1,100 square feet. Some are single story; some are two stories. Some have a garage, and some don't.

"This is an exciting development," said Nashville Area Habitat COO Gary Bigelow, "not only because we can provide homes for five more families but also because the concept of mixed-income housing for our partner families is becoming a reality in Dickson. The lots are close to town, have water and sewer services, and allow the Dickson Division to build homes in a community setting."

The land purchase comes on the heels of "Houses of Hope," a very successful fundraising luncheon sponsored by TriStar Bank and held Thursday, April 10, at Greystone Golf Club in Dickson. More than 100 guests attended, and the event raised more than \$20,000 for the agency to build more homes for purchase by hard-working, low-income families.

There are 3,000 families in Dickson with annual incomes between \$15,000 and \$25,000 who are not able to afford the fair market rent of \$506 monthly. Today, more than 10 percent of the Dickson population and 13 percent of Dickson children live in poverty. Government funding for housing at all levels is on the decline. Only 65 percent of the need for subsidized housing is being met in Dickson, and more than 350 families are on the waiting list for Section 8 homes.

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity gives families access to wealth through homeownership. To break the cycle of poverty, each investment the agency makes should be transformational. It is not enough to eliminate poverty temporarily. What works in the long run is investing in people and property to provide homes and enhance the opportunities for reinvestment in communities. A safe, healthy place to live is critical to the physical, social and educational development and welfare of children. Homeowners build wealth as they build home equity. They can use this equity to fund a child's education, start a new business or go back to school themselves. Compared to the children of renters (of the same age, income, race, etc.), the children of homeowners are 25 percent more likely to graduate from high school and 116 percent more likely to graduate from college. They are also more likely to vote and to become involved with their communities.

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. 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.



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