

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity

1006 Eighth Avenue South □ Nashville, TN 37203
Building lives, one home, one family, one community at a time

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NASHVILLE AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LAUNCHES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO PURCHASE LAND AT TODAY'S PRICES TO BUILD FUTURE HOMES

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (June 26, 2008) – Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity has launched the community phase of an \$8.3 million *Crossing the Threshold* capital campaign to purchase and develop land at today's prices in order to build future affordable homes for hardworking, low-income families in Middle Tennessee.

In addition, a portion of the funds raised will be used to expand Habitat HomeWORKS, the agency's education curriculum, which has proven to be an essential component of its successful homeownership program.

Planning for the campaign began in 2005, when agency leadership realized the necessity of securing land for future communities **before** inflation rates cut into house production capacity. As an example, for Providence Park, Nashville Area Habitat's 450-family-member, all-Habitat community, which was completed in 2007, the board of directors began raising funds for land acquisition in 2003.

The expenses associated with land development in Nashville area communities have increased 41 percent since 2002. Land development costs include laying sewer lines, roads, drainage, power lines, etc. Land and development prices have historically risen by at least \$4,000 per lot per year and are expected to increase at least that much for the next several years.

Leading the campaign is a talented, dedicated steering committee, listed below.

Philip M. Pfeffer, Chairman

Jack O. Bovender, Jr.

Ann S. Bumstead

John H. Gillespie

Ann Harmer

David B. Ingram

Journey Johnson

Scott McWilliams

Lynn Melkus

Dianne Neal

Stuart W. Smith

Tom Snyder

DeWitt C. Thompson, IV

M. Terry Turner

Janey Warmbrod

Ted Welch

Ridley Wills

Nancy O. Zoretic

Nashville Area Habitat already raised more than \$5 million toward a total goal of \$8.3 million. This is the agency's first capital campaign since its founding in 1985.

Campaign funds will be used to:

- Create a \$1,850,000 Land Acquisition Fund to enable the agency to purchase land on which to build after 2011.
- Underwrite the purchase and development of land for Nashville Area Habitat communities, which will support the construction of up to 180 homes from 2008 to 2011 at a cost of \$5,910,000.
- Increase the size and scope of educational classes offered through HomeWORKS at the cost of \$567,000.

Although Habitat has made a significant and sustainable impact as a model community developer, the need for affordable housing in Middle Tennessee is greater than ever. Developed land and successfully prepared and educated homeowner families are critical to the success of the Habitat mission. The *Crossing the Threshold* campaign will enable the agency to continue to grow in service to hardworking, low-income families in need of a hand-up through homeownership.

Nashville Area Habitat gives potential homeowners access to wealth through homeownership and provides opportunities for life skills, financial management and homeownership training that develop a solid foundation for the family's long-term success. Nashville Area Habitat partner families are making their lives better in many areas,



and the purchase of their Habitat home is just the beginning of a new life and growth that is no longer restricted by living in high-cost, substandard housing.

“We can say this with confidence because we have seen it happen time after time, family after family,” said Nashville Area Habitat president and CEO Chris McCarthy.

Nashville Area Habitat homes are not free. The typical Habitat partner family signs an \$85,000 - \$98,000 mortgage at zero percent interest. Their monthly mortgage payments range from \$350 - \$500 per month and include property tax and insurance. They must earn the right to purchase a home, have good credit and earn up to 475 hours of “sweat equity” in HomeWORKS classes and on the build site.

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. To date, more than 1,200 family members, including 800 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. For information on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity go to www.hud.gov/offices/fheo or call the local HUD office at (615) 736-5600.

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