

# 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 VOLUNTEERS WILL BUILD A HABITAT HOME FOR A NEIGHBOR IN NEED** *CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8*

**DICKSON, Tenn.** [Nov. 2008] – Volunteers for the Dickson division of Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity will gather on **Saturday, November 8, at 7:00 a.m.** to begin construction on a Habitat home for Dorothy Hodges at 136 Silver Leaf Circle, in Maple Valley Subdivision. This is the second home the Dickson division has built this year. Construction will continue Sunday, November 9, as well as Saturdays and Sundays, November 15 - 16 and 22 - 23. The dedication ceremony will be at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 23.

The Dickson Division of Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity would like to thank the following sponsors for making this home possible:

- The Nashville Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, a returning sponsor for the Dickson Division. The Presbytery, which covers all of Middle Tennessee and part of Kentucky, first supported Habitat for Humanity in Dickson in 1998.
- Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, Dickson chapter, is working to make the community of Dickson a better place. GNAR Dickson president Peggy Thompson is a member of Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity's Dickson Division development committee and the sub-committee for planning special events. The Dickson Chapter of GNAR hosted a golf tournament to raise funds for sponsorship of Dorothy Hodges' home.
- Dickson Apothecary, part of Community Pharmacy Inc., a locally owned and operated chain of pharmacies with three locations in Dickson County and one in Hickman County
- State Rep. David Shepard and Martha Shepard, who are committed to supporting the local Dickson community, where they have lived and raised their children. Martha serves on the NAHFH board as the Dickson representative. The Shepards own Community Pharmacy Inc.
- Lowe's Home Improvement, a wonderful international sponsor of Habitat. The local store manager in Dickson is also a very avid supporter of Habitat.
- Cross Point Community Church, Dickson Campus, new to the Dickson Area. The congregation has only been meeting in this community for about a year, but they have already grown into a strong church with many in attendance each week at Dickson County Senior High School.
- Chappell's Cee Bee, a local grocer in business in Dickson for many years. There are three stores in Dickson County and one in Humphreys County, all locally owned and operated by Phil Chappell, who took over the business after his father founded it many years before. Chappell's is one of the few remaining locally owned and operated grocery stores in Dickson County.
- High Noon Rotary Club meets weekly on Wednesdays at noon at GreyStone Golf Club. This group of dedicated professionals has been a part of Habitat for Humanity since the inception of the affiliate in 1994. This is one of the three Rotary Clubs in Dickson. All three clubs are very supportive of Habitat.
- TriStar Bank, a locally owned and operated bank that has many branches throughout Dickson County. TriStar has supported Habitat on all of the builds in Dickson since the merger with Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity, and the bank was presenting sponsor of the Dickson Divisions' first annual "Houses of Hope" luncheon in April.

Dorothy Hodges is so thankful for this opportunity to help build and then purchase a home through Habitat. Prior to applying for her home, she had been resigned to renting the rest of her life. "The Habitat people are so nice," said Hodges. "They treat me like an equal, not like I'm asking for a hand-out. I tell everyone how great Habitat for Humanity is."

Hodges retired from NHC Healthcare after 20 years of taking care of people who couldn't take care of themselves. Her family has lived in Dickson County for three generations.

She lost her husband in the 1970s and more recently, a daughter. Her other three children, spouses, and nine grandchildren are excited about helping build her home, helping her move just in time for their traditional holiday gatherings in Hodges' new home.

Currently, Hodges rents a small mobile home that is cramped and located on a busy Highway across the street from a pawnshop. Strangers frequently knock on her door asking for help. If she can help, she does. Hodges owned a convenience store years ago, and she often gave food to people who couldn't pay for it.

As generous as she has been to others, she is overwhelmed with the blessing of a new home and the volunteers who will help build it. "I want my sponsors and volunteers to know that I can never repay them," said Hodges. "They're so good to do this for someone they don't even know. What they are doing makes me want to help other people more than ever."

### **About the need in Dickson County**

Today, more than 10 percent of the Dickson population lives in poverty, and 13 percent of Dickson children are living in poverty. 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. The Tennessee fair housing wage is \$11.04 per hour or \$22,963/year, and this is what it takes to afford a two-bedroom rental unit at fair market rate. Those who pay too much for housing have little disposable income left for education, healthcare, childcare and food. 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.

To contact the Dickson Division of Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity call 615-441-9967, or visit them at the agency's office, located at 204 North Main Street Suite #14 in the Ragan Arcade.

### **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. By December, Nashville Area Habitat will have built 59 homes in 2008 -- 42 locally and 17 abroad. The agency's ReBuild program has worked on five homes and will do several more by year-end. Since 2007, all Nashville Area Habitat homes have been ENERGY STAR compliant for energy efficiency, earning the agency the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year award in 2008. By 2010, the agency will be building to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. To date, the agency has served more than 1,270 family members, including 800 children. 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. 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). For information on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity go to [www.hud.gov/offices/ftheo](http://www.hud.gov/offices/ftheo) or call the local HUD office at (615) 736-5600.



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