

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRODUCERS, CAST AND CREW OF 'LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE: THE MUSICAL' TO MAKE TIMBERWOOD A LITTLE GREENER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (October 29, 2009) – Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity has partnered with “Little House on the Prairie, the Musical” to draw attention to the need for affordable housing.

The Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC)'s Andrew Jackson Hall will host the musical production in Nashville October 27 – November 1. At the culmination of the tour, Nashville Area Habitat will receive a minimum donation of \$1,500 from the musical. For ticket information please visit www.tpac.org/littlehouse or call 615-782-4040, 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily.

Today at 10 a.m., volunteers from the production, including cast and crew, will help plant trees in Timberwood, Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity's second all-Habitat neighborhood.

The trees are donated by Nashville Electric Service (NES), which has helped build seven Nashville Area Habitat homes for hardworking families. NES serves more than 355,000 customers in Middle Tennessee and is one of the 12 largest public electric utilities in the nation. Tennessee Environmental Council executive director John McFadden will lead volunteers for this project.

Actress Melissa Gilbert, who played the lead role of “Laura” in the hit television series, continues her legacy and is now playing the role of Ma Ingalls. Ms. Gilbert announced the national partnership with Habitat for Humanity on August 3 in New York City when the show spent a day building with the NYC affiliate.

“Habitat for Humanity is truly one of the most important, most wonderful organizations in this country and around the world,” said Ms. Gilbert. “An enduring message of Little House on the Prairie– the importance above all of a home and a strong family -- is exactly the mission of Habitat. There couldn't be a more perfect match between a show and an organization. As we travel across the country during the next year, we are looking forward to getting involved in a variety of ways in each city to do our part to aid in Habitat's mission to bring affordable housing to those in need.”

“We are excited to work with ‘Little House on the Prairie, the Musical,’” said Chris McCarthy, Nashville Area Habitat president and CEO. “We appreciate the cast and crew for helping us raise awareness of the need for more affordable housing and their generous commitment to helping to eliminate poverty housing.”

“Little House on the Prairie” has remained a beloved celebration of early Americana for more than 70 years. The musical premiered at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis in a developmental production in August 2008.

About Little House on the Prairie, the Musical

Little House on the Prairie, a new musical based on the beloved Laura Ingalls Wilder series of classic American books is the uplifting story of an American family forging a new life amidst the mighty challenges, heartbreaks, joys and triumphs that face them in the newly-settled heartland. Melissa Gilbert, who rose to fame as a child playing ‘Laura’ in the hugely successful NBC television series “Little House on the Prairie” during the 1970's, now continues her legacy ‘on the prairie’ by taking on the role of Ma. This celebration of the pioneering spirit and the core values on which this country was founded will travel throughout the U.S. on a 26 city tour which culminates in spring 2010. For national tour dates, visit www.littlehousethemusical.com.

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About Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity (NAHFH)

NAHFH is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization committed to providing people with the life-changing opportunity to purchase and own quality, affordable homes. The agency consistently ranks in the top one percent of all Habitat affiliates. Nashville Area Habitat built 60 homes in 2008 -- 42 locally and 18 abroad. The agency rebuilt seven homes in 2008 in addition to the new construction. 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 and 2009 from EPA and HUD. In 2009 the agency won national recognition with the 2009 HOPE Leadership Award. To date, the agency has served more than 1,400 family members, including 900 children. Prior to becoming homeowners, Habitat partner families must complete up to 470 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 NAFH, 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.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 300,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.5 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org.

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