

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANNUAL HOUSES OF HOPE LUNCHEON RAISES \$120,000 TOWARD LAND PURCHASE AND DEVELOPMENT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Jan. 13, 2010) – Guests at the 2009 Houses of Hope fundraiser for Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity responded with tremendous generosity to Davidson County's critical need for quality, affordable homes. More than 450 guests pledged a total of \$120,000 toward Nashville Area Habitat's *Crossing the Threshold* campaign for land purchase and development.

Presenting sponsors Kroger and HCA/TriStar helped underwrite the event, held December 14 at Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel. Four Habitat partner family members shared their poignant personal stories, including 10-year old Merna Barsum, daughter of homeowners Khalil Bassally and Amal Hanna, and Ophelia Foster, who paid off her 30-year Habitat home mortgage in just 11 years. Homeowners Patrick Goedicke and Taronda Sims, who purchased their Nashville Area Habitat homes in 2006 and 2009, respectively, shared their stories as well.

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity (NAHFH) is an ecumenical Christian ministry that provides the life-changing opportunity for people to purchase and own quality, affordable homes. In its 26-year history, Nashville Area Habitat has built more than 600 homes, including 182 overseas. To date, the agency has served more than 1,450 family members, including more than 930 children.

The agency consistently ranks in the top one percent of all Habitat affiliates and has earned honors including:

- The ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year award in 2008 and 2009 from EPA and HUD
- The 2009 HOPE Leadership Award for making a significant difference in minority homeownership
- The Habitat International Clarence Jordan Award for Creativity and Innovation, for strategies that resulted in record low mortgage delinquency rates

In 2010, Nashville Area Habitat will construct homes in three neighborhoods: Timberwood and Park Preserve in Nashville and Maple Valley in Dickson.

Prior to becoming homeowners, Habitat partner families must complete up to 470 hours of "sweat equity" at the build site and in the classroom before purchasing their 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 contact the local HUD office.

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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