

# Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity

1006 Eighth Avenue South ♦ Nashville, TN 37203

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Ashley Webster, 615-969-2373

## **ANONYMOUS DONOR ISSUES CHALLENGE TO “BRING IT HOME” FOR HABITAT IN 2010 WITH \$780,000 MATCHING GRANT**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (April 12, 2010)** – An anonymous donor has issued a \$780,000 matching challenge to the Nashville community to fund the 26 additional Nashville Area Habitat homes necessary to complete the Timberwood all-Habitat neighborhood by the end of 2010, a year ahead of schedule. In order to meet the challenge, matching funds must be raised from the community.

Today, Nashville Area Habitat launched a fundraising campaign titled “**Bring it Home for Habitat**” to match the \$780,000 anonymous challenge gift. Those who wish to donate may visit the agency’s website at [habitatnashville.org](http://habitatnashville.org) or call 615-254-4663 ext. 229.

“The generosity of this gift is just astounding, and the impact is tremendous,” said Nashville Area Habitat president and CEO Chris McCarthy. “Our anonymous donor sees the overwhelming need for affordable homes in Nashville and is offering us the opportunity to provide homeownership to 100 family members. Completing Timberwood a year earlier than the agency had planned will be a true blessing to our community. If this campaign is successful, families who currently live in sub-standard housing will get to purchase and move into their homes in time for the holiday season.”

Timberwood is a flourishing neighborhood of ENERGY STAR certified Habitat homes, with families who have known each other from HomeWORKS classes even before they moved into their homes. Timberwood Park features 3.5 acres of handicap accessible recreational space, walking trails, benches, two covered pavilions and a playground. More than 150 children reside in Timberwood, with a diversity of families from countries including the United States, Africa, Turkey, Guatemala, and Haiti.

All homeowners in Timberwood pay monthly mortgages. The delinquency rate on Nashville Area Habitat mortgages averaged 1 percent or below in 2009, thanks to preparation in HomeWORKS classes and the agency’s delinquency management practices. Habitat families purchase homes for 0% interest mortgages and have incomes averaging \$22,000 per year.

**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 1,470 family members, including more than 950 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 and the ENERGY STAR® Award for Sustained Excellence in 2010 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

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](http://www.habitatnashville.org). For information on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity go to [www.hud.gov/offices/fheo](http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo) or contact the local HUD office.

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