

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity

1006 Eighth Avenue South ♦ Nashville, TN 37203

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Webster, 969-2373 cell, 599-2575

LOCAL FAMILY RECEIVES RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE THROUGH NEW CRITICAL HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

NASHVILLE, Tenn. [June 23, 2010] – Ronnie and Caryn Hill had owned their home in Hermitage for 20 years, raising four children and enjoying life in Nashville. Ronnie is a police officer, and Caryn is a stay-at-home mom. They never imagined that a Saturday rainstorm could interfere so drastically with their cozy, loving environment.

Thanks to a new Critical Home Repair program at Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity and a grant from the national REALTORS Relief Foundation via the Tennessee Association of REALTORS, the Hills' home will be back to normal soon. The flood damaged woodwork, cabinets and walls in their home.

The Critical Home Repair program is part of the agency's ReConstruct program, which revitalizes neighborhoods by restoring and repairing existing homes. ReConstruct started in March with the restoration of a home on Meridian Street in East Nashville.

Critical Home Repair offers flood victims who are homeowners the opportunity to apply for financial aid and zero-percent interest loans to fund deconstruction of damaged material and reconstruction to restore the property. Flood victims who are not homeowners may apply for the purchase of a new home in one of Nashville Area Habitat's communities. Construction continues in Timberwood, and home building in Nashville Area Habitat's newest community, Park Preserve, will begin this fall.

"We are just so happy that we could reach out and help families like the Hills," said Steve Harding, executive vice president of the Tennessee Association of REALTORS. "The members of our association are in the business of helping families find a quality home in a community that best suits their needs. It's heartbreaking to see the devastation that the floods brought to so many families in Nashville, and we want to be part of the solution."

Work on the Hills' home begins 6/28/2010 and is expected to be complete by mid-August.

"We've had a 25-year history of building new homes," said Nashville Area Habitat president Chris McCarthy, "and just in the last couple of years we've started to branch out into revitalizing existing homes and neighborhoods. When the flood hit and Tennessee Association of REALTORS reached out with funding, we started up a Critical Home Repair program to do work that is necessary for flooded homes to be habitable again."

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. As of April 2010, Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity has built 438 homes in Nashville for more than 1,500 family members, including more than 950 children. 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.



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