

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NASHVILLE AREA HABITAT CELEBRATES SURPASSING ITS *CROSSING THE THRESHOLD* CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. [June 14, 2010] – On Friday, June 18, at 1:00 p.m., Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity friends, donors, board members and volunteers will hold an event to celebrate exceeding the agency’s goal for its *Crossing the Threshold* capital campaign.

Immediately following the campaign celebration, there will be dedication and ribbon cutting ceremonies for the four new Habitat homes sponsored by HCA, the Sarah Cannon Research Institute, Ingram Industries Inc., Deloitte, Nissan and Dollar General. These homes have been purchased by hardworking Nashvillians Cheryl Webster, Stephanie Summers, Stacey Jones, and Niyonzima Eliezer and Mpabonyumukiza Fiderite.

Over the past two and a half years, a dedicated steering committee led the *Crossing the Threshold* campaign, which was the agency’s first capital campaign since its founding in 1985.

Campaign funds were used to:

- Underwrite the purchase and development of land for Nashville Area Habitat communities Providence Park, Timberwood and Park Preserve
- Increase the size and scope of educational classes offered through HomeWORKS
- Establish an agency land bank that will serve families through 2020

Land, its development, and successfully prepared homeowners are critical to the success of the Habitat mission. The *Crossing the Threshold* funds enable the agency to continue to grow in service to hardworking low-income families in need of a hand-up through homeownership.

Nashville Area Habitat aims to break the cycle of poverty by giving people access to wealth through homeownership. Required HomeWORKS classes build a foundation for long-term success by teaching life skills, financial management, and home maintenance. The purchase of a Habitat home is just the beginning of a new life that is no longer restricted by living in high-cost, substandard housing.

“We can say this with confidence because we have seen it happen time after time, family after family,” said Nashville Area Habitat president and CEO Chris McCarthy. “The generous donations that purchase and develop land and fund our education programs provide a solid place and prepared people. Without this funding, we would not be able to offer the opportunity for families to break their own cycle of poverty.”

Nashville Area Habitat homes are not free. The typical Habitat partner family signs a mortgage at zero percent interest, with monthly payments averaging \$450 - \$550, including taxes and insurance. To qualify for the homeownership program, applicants must have a housing need, reasonably good credit, the ability to pay a mortgage and \$2,500 for closing costs, and earn up to 470 hours of “sweat equity” in HomeWORKS classes and on the build site.

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/ftheo or contact the local HUD office.



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