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Contact:

Colleen Russell
Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD
301-990-0014 x10
Colleen.Russell@habitat-mc.org
www.habitat-mc.org



Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County AmeriCorps Members Assist in Iowa Flood Recovery

500 AmeriCorps Members to Erect 20 Homes during Habitat AmeriCorps Build-a-Thon

Gaithersburg, MD (June 8, 2009) – Five AmeriCorps members from Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County (HfH-MC) will join more than 500 Habitat for Humanity **AmeriCorps*State, National AmeriCorps*, AmeriCorps VISTA** members and alumni as they help build 20 Habitat for Humanity houses, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as part of the annual Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps Build-A-Thon. These homes will be built in partnership with families affected by the floods that devastated much of Iowa in 2008.

“This Build-A-Thon is a powerful way to highlight the need for affordable housing for victims of the Iowa flooding while also celebrating the many contributions AmeriCorps members make to Habitat and other organizations in thousands of communities throughout the country every day,” said Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International. “We are so grateful these hard-working AmeriCorps members for their commitment to eliminating poverty housing and we applaud them for their service.”

The AmeriCorps members from HfH-MC will join other members and alumni from across the country to work in partnership with Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity and 20 low-income families. The 2009 Build-A-Thon celebrates 14 years of AmeriCorps members helping Habitat for Humanity affiliates and partner organizations build affordable houses and eliminate substandard housing.

“It’s an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to build a home with hundreds of other AmeriCorps members. I especially like that we don’t just work locally, but we have the opportunity to go to different places and build around the county with local affiliates to eliminate poverty housing in our country” said Martiel Beatty, HfH-MC Resource Development AmeriCorps VISTA

The first day of the Build-A-Thon marks the first anniversary of the day water from the Cedar River crested, leaving nearly ten square miles of Cedar Rapids under water. The need for affordable housing is especially great in the Cedar Rapids area, where nearly 4,000 homes were damaged by fast-rising water during last year’s devastating floods.

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While 90 counties were declared federal disaster areas, Cedar Rapids was the most significantly affected region. Most of these homeowners did not have flood insurance.

For more information about how you can get involved with Habitat for Humanity, please visit www.habitat.org.

About Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County

HfH-MC is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. In November, 2008, the affiliate launched the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). In partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA), Habitat will purchase and rehab vacant foreclosed properties in designated areas of the county. HFH-MC supports the notion that good, stable housing matters for neighborhoods. Better quality of living leads to stronger citizens and families. Habitat for Humanity is about changing lives, one home at a time.

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.

About Habitat for Humanity National Service Programs

Since 1994, Habitat for Humanity **AmeriCorps*State and National**, **AmeriCorps*VISTA** members have performed more than 5 million hours of service, engaged hundreds of thousands of volunteers and helped build more than 8,500 Habitat houses throughout the across the United States. For information about AmeriCorps programs, visit www.americorps.gov

About the Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. Each year, the Corporation engages four million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America programs. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov>.

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