



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity Holds First Annual Affordable Housing Benefit Breakfast

Event featuring Montgomery County Executive Leggett focused on broadening awareness of Habitat's efforts in building affordable homes and revitalizing entire neighborhoods affected by the foreclosure crisis

BETHESDA, MD – November 7, 2008 – Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Maryland, (HfH-MC) will host its First Annual Affordable Housing Benefit Breakfast this Friday, November 7, at the Marriott Hotel on Pooks Hill Road. HfH-MC will be joined by Montgomery County Executive, Isiah Leggett, in announcing a new partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs that addresses the foreclosure crisis in Montgomery County whereby the county government will purchase homes that have been foreclosed upon by financial institutions, revitalize the houses using environmentally progressive techniques and appliances, and then place qualified Habitat homeowners in those homes. The partnership's goal is to rehabilitate ten foreclosed Montgomery County homes during the first half of 2009, and to complete a total of 30 by year's end. Construction site plans will focus on homes in the Glenmont and Silver Spring areas of Montgomery County where there are a large number of foreclosed properties.

"Montgomery County is proud to partner with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate foreclosed homes..." said Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, who has made affordable housing a priority. "Even as we work aggressively to help prevent home foreclosures in the first place, there are opportunities here to increase the amount of affordable housing by using such innovative models as this."

"This unique partnership and innovative model for revitalizing foreclosed homes has never been done before by any Habitat affiliate in the U.S.," said John Paukstis, executive director of Habitat for Humanity for Montgomery County. "While this is a very challenging time in Montgomery

County, and nationwide, for those losing their homes and those in need of one, I'm very encouraged by the support from local officials, my staff, and a cast of thousands that help families in need make a home. What we hope is that more and more people will see the possibilities we are creating for families, and get involved in our work."

The breakfast will also feature the Ruiz Family, who reflect on how they became Habitat homeowners, and will share their personal story at the breakfast.

There is no cost for the breakfast. Guests commit to making a financial donation or pledge on the day of the event to help offset the cost of building materials and labor for home construction. The event is full and we are not taking reservations at this time; however, it is open to the media. For more information or directions, please call 301-990-0014 ext. 20.

Details of the event are as follows:

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County
First Annual Affordable Housing Benefit Breakfast
Friday, November 7, 2008
7:45 – 8:45 a.m.
Marriott Hotel
5151 Pooks Hill Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

About Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County

HfH-MC is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International and is directed by an all volunteer Board of Directors. HfH-MC's goal is to reduce substandard housing by providing a **hand up** rather than a **hand out** to help low-income families realize the dream of homeownership.

Construction on the second set of 12 Linganore Woods town homes in Burtonsville, Maryland began in November 2007 and will continue through the end of November 2008. A home dedication ceremony was held on Sunday, October 26th. Once complete, the Linganore Woods community will consist of 24, 3 level, 3 bedroom town homes. The homes have been built almost entirely by volunteers and the average cost of construction for a Linganore Woods home is \$140,000. Habitat homes are sold to qualified owners and financed with 30 year, zero percent interest mortgages.

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County is constantly striving to find new, innovative approaches to solving the affordable housing crisis that is faced by Montgomery County residents.

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