

CONTACT: Amanda Fein
Manager of Individual & Corporate Gifts
301.990.0014 x20
Amanda.Fein@habitat-mc.org
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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TO LAUNCH “PRIDE BUILD 2011”

LGBT community and friends invited to create an affordable homeownership opportunity in Montgomery, County

GAITHERSBURG, MD (December 20, 2010) – Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. (HFH-MC) will, at the suggestion of Bob A. Bernstein, a former national vice president of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), launch its first ever “Pride Build” in January 2011. Bernstein is also an author and father famous for the telling the story of his daughter’s coming out in the 1995 bestseller *“Straight Parents, Gay Children.”*

“Pride Build 2011” will be a “specialty home build” in which members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community will be invited to help rehabilitate a distressed home in Montgomery County, MD on behalf of a deserving, low-income family. Participants in “Pride Build 2011” will work alongside other Habitat volunteers and partner families during the construction and rehabilitation of the home. The result of the project will be a simple, decent and energy efficient home ready for occupancy. “Pride Build 2011” participants can also help to raise funds for the home’s rehabilitation costs. HFH-MC will be the third Habitat for Humanity affiliate nationwide to begin a “Pride Build” Program.

Upon completion, HFH-MC will sell the home to a qualified, low-income family with a 30 year, 0% interest mortgage. HFH-MC partner families make between 30% and 50% of the area’s median income in Montgomery County and live in substandard conditions before moving into their Habitat homes. Families are active throughout the construction process and contribute hundreds of ‘sweat equity’ hours toward the construction of their home.

“While I was in Portland this earlier this year I found out about the “Pride Build” program and thought it would be a great idea for the Metro DC area,” said Bernstein who is also a freelance writer, former attorney and law professor.

“We are excited about working with the LGBT community in and around Montgomery County,” said HFH-MC Executive Director, John Paukstis. “With ‘Pride Build 2011’ we’ll add to our ever growing list of diverse “specialty builds” where we learn from one another and share the common goal of helping a family move out of substandard conditions and into an affordable home. Through the help of Bob Bernstein we have already been able to meet with a number of interested LGBT community leaders from Montgomery County and Washington, D.C.”

HFH-MC accepts applications for homes on a rolling basis for home projects and invites applicants from every race, color, cultural heritage, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, physical condition, political affiliation, source of income, and veteran status. For more information regarding HFH-MC’s homeownership selection process and to see if you qualify please visit www.habitat-mc.org/homeownership. For more information on “Pride Build 2011” or to donate to this specialty project online, please visit www.firstgiving.com/PrideBuildMoCo.

About Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County

HFH-MC is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Since 1982, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County has been partnering with the community and low-income families living in substandard conditions, to build simple, decent, affordable housing. To date, HFH-MC has built or rehabilitated more than 57 homes for local families and has more homes in progress. 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. Visit our website at www.habitat-mc.org