



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Women Build Week 2010

Habitat kicks off its 3rd Annual Women Build Week and the Ground Breaking of its 1st Women Build Home

GAITHERSBURG, MD (April 21, 2010) - In the days leading up to Mother's Day, construction crews of women volunteers will be pounding nails and raising walls at Habitat for Humanity construction sites across the country in recognition of National Women Build Week, May 1 – 9. Lowe's and Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD, Inc. (HFH-MC) are looking for local women volunteers to work on HFH-MC's construction site during the nine-day event. Construction or home improvement experience is not necessary.

Developed through the partnership between Lowe's and Habitat for Humanity International, National Women Build Week challenges women to devote at least one day to the effort to eliminate poverty housing. The event is an initiative which recruits, educates and nurtures women to build and advocate for simple, decent and affordable houses in their communities.

The Mother's Day timeframe was selected for its significance to many volunteers, as families with children make up a staggering number of those in need of adequate housing: more than 12 million children – one in six - live in poverty housing in the United States alone. To date, women volunteers have built nearly 1,700 Habitat houses nationwide.

"We are very proud to be announcing our first official Women Build home. It is exciting that our 3rd Annual Women Build Week will be in support of our first Women Build home" said Jessica Reid, HFH-MC Director of Volunteer and Family Services.

Lowe's is committing more than \$1 million to National Women Build Week, providing underwriting of the Women Build program, as well as providing construction know-how at in-store clinics and build sites, and funding for a variety of Habitat projects across the country.

HFH-MC Women Build Week Events include build days on May 1st, 5th, 6th, and 7th, as well as a Lowe's clinic on May 4th. A networking event is scheduled for May 27th at BlackFinn restaurant in Bethesda, MD. Women Build participants are encouraged to attend the networking event and share their Women Build Week experiences.

Thanks to the support of HFH-MC's Women Build committee HFH-MC is able to begin the fundraising for its 1st Women Build home. Fundraising efforts will continue throughout 2010, with additional networking events and build days.

To volunteer or donate to this project, please call (301) 990-0014 x18 or email molly.martin@habitat-mc.org or visit http://habitat-mc.org/events/women_build.html

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About Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

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 is purchasing and rehabilitating 12 vacant foreclosed properties in designated areas of Montgomery County, MD. 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.

About Lowe's

Lowe's is a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity International, American Red Cross, SkillsUSA/SkillsCanada, and The Nature Conservancy, in addition to numerous non-profit organizations and programs that help communities in North America. In 2009, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together contributed more than \$30 million to support community and education projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Lowe's also encourages volunteerism through the Lowe's Heroes program, a company-wide employee volunteer initiative. Lowe's is a FORTUNE® 50 company with fiscal year 2009 sales of \$47.2 billion and has more than 1,700 stores in the United States, Canada and Mexico. For more information, visit www.Lowes.com/community.

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 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org

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