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Habitat for Humanity Celebrates Major Milestone

Habitat for Humanity International Dedicates its 500,000th home and Begins its 500,001st home

October 4, 2011 (Gaithersburg, MD) - Habitat for Humanity marked a major milestone on October 3, 2011 when it dedicated its 500,000th home in Maai Mahiu, Kenya, and begins construction on its 500,001st home in Paterson, NJ. Volunteers and homeowners from Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD (HFH-MC) joined in celebrating these milestones as part of events being held worldwide to mark World Habitat Day.

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Maryland is among the more than 2,300 Habitat affiliates worldwide that have made this milestone possible, having served nearly 100 families since its founding in 1982.

“HFH-MC has experienced a period of exciting growth along with Habitat International, over the last six years HFH-MC has more than quadrupled the number of families served in Montgomery County. We are excited to do more as we approach our 30th anniversary year!” says Jessica Reid, Director of Community Partnerships and Family Services.

The milestone homes represent the steady increase in Habitat for Humanity’s scale and scope to help more families in need of decent, affordable housing. In 2005, Habitat celebrated its 200,000th home. Six years later, Habitat for Humanity has more than doubled that number through new, rehabilitated, repaired and improved homes.

“I am so grateful to all of the volunteers, donors and advocates who share our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live,” said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International.

In Kenya, Habitat for Humanity completed the 500,000th home on October 3rd in partnership with families who were displaced after post-election violence erupted in the country in late 2007. That same day, volunteers raised the walls on Habitat’s 500,001st home in Paterson, NJ. The home will be built in one of the inner-city neighborhoods where Paterson Habitat for Humanity has been continuously building since 1984.

Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide organization that operates in nearly 80 countries, including all 50 states in the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico. Thanks to Habitat for Humanity’s help, a family somewhere in the world improves its housing situation every 7 minutes of every hour of every day of the year. In 2010, Habitat for Humanity served a record 74,960 families in need.

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About Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Since 1982, HFH-MC has partnered with the community and low-income families living in substandard conditions, to build simple, decent, affordable housing. To date, HFH-MC has served 93 local families. 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 Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization that seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Since 1976, Habitat has served more than 500,000 families without regard to religion, race, gender or nationality by constructing, rehabilitating or repairing homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to financing to help families improve their shelter conditions. For more information, to donate or to volunteer, please visit www.habitat.org, or follow us at www.facebook.com/habitat or at www.twitter.com/habitat_org or join Habitat's blog community at www.habitat.org/blog.

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