



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release - Detroit, MI

(June 10, 2010) Habitat for Humanity Detroit is launching its *Building on Faith/First Family Build*, partnering with Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, First Gentleman Daniel G. Mulhern, their family and metro area religious organizations. This is also the official launch of the MI Family Builds Michigan initiative (<http://www.michigan.gov/mifamily>).

In partnership with the community, local faith organizations, the City of Detroit and Michigan's First Family, Habitat Detroit is doing its part to help revitalize this once thriving neighborhood that has been devastated by the recession and the mortgage foreclosure crisis. Over the next three weeks, this partnership will build two new homes, renovate a third home and demolish dangerous, abandoned structures in Morningside.

Working, low-income families will purchase the three homes that will be built or renovated in Detroit. These families are also part of the partnership and must invest 250-350 "sweat equity" hours towards the purchase of their home. "Sweat equity" includes working to build their home, their neighbor's home and/or attending homebuyer and financial literacy classes.

Monday, June 14 marks the public launch of the Habitat for Humanity Detroit - Building on Faith/First Family Build, a partnership with the First Family, religious organizations and churches from the Detroit area. Faith-based sponsors include Grosse Pointe Partners, a coalition of 12 churches of various denominations, Thrivent Builds Homes and various Lutheran churches in the Detroit area and the Detroit Presbytery. Other sponsors include the City of Detroit through its block grant program, Michigan State Housing and Development Authority with Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds on the rehabilitation home and Henry Ford Health System.

The First Gentleman's mother grew up not far from the development site and played a large role in their selection of this project. The First Family raised funds and is volunteering their time to demonstrate that Michigan families can make a difference in their neighborhoods through community service activities. Their involvement with Habitat Detroit's building efforts marks the kick-off to the MI Family Builds Michigan initiative (<http://www.michigan.gov/mifamily>).

The First Family has partnered with Habitat for Humanity Michigan and other Habitat affiliates across the state to elevate the need and importance of community service. The MI Family Builds Michigan initiative will not only help Habitat to build quality, affordable homes, but also demonstrate how community service can help speed Michigan's recovery from the recession and the mortgage foreclosure crisis.

Vincent Tilford, Executive Director, states “We are pleased to have been asked to support this state-wide effort during our Build on Faith. Having the Governor and the First Gentleman’s family kicking off this state-wide effort and making their personal financial commitment to the Detroit event is another step towards creating stable neighborhoods.”

About Habitat Detroit

Habitat for Humanity Detroit is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry providing decent, safe, affordable housing to low-income families in Detroit. Since 1986, the Detroit affiliate has rehabbed and/or built new houses for almost 300 families and revitalized five communities in pursuing its mission to eliminate substandard housing in Detroit. Financial and in-kind contributions and the use of volunteers for labor keep Habitat for Humanity homes affordable for low-income families. For more information please visit www.habitatdetroit.org or call (313)521-6691.

About Habitat Michigan

Located in Lansing, Michigan, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan (HFHM) is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides support to the 77 Michigan affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International through training, consulting, and fundraising.

Their mission is to assist the Michigan affiliates in increasing capacity to build simple decent homes in partnership with people in need in the State of Michigan. In 2009, Michigan affiliates built or rehabbed 235 homes in partnership with people in need. Currently, 3,225 Michigan families live in a Habitat for Humanity home. Starting in 2010, Michigan affiliates are building all homes using green and sustainable building techniques. Every home built will meet or exceed Energy Star energy efficiency ratings. For more information please visit www.habitatmichigan.org or call (517) 485-1006.

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