



## For Immediate Release

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## **Cincinnati Habitat and Hamilton County Kick Off First Colerain Township Build with Rehabilitation of Two Homes**

*Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program to fund both homes;  
Commissioner Pepper to speak*

**CINCINNATI** – Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity ([www.cincinnatihabitat.org](http://www.cincinnatihabitat.org)) will begin construction on two homes this Friday in Colerain Township. Hamilton County and Colerain Township provided the funds to rehab the two homes through an allocation of federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The double house construction kick-off ceremony will begin at **1 p.m. on Friday, June 18, at 10334 Pippin Lane**. Speakers will include **Hamilton County Commissioner David Pepper** and representatives from Colerain Township and Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity. The community and members of the news media are welcomed to attend.

"This unique partnership is creating a good home out of a foreclosed property," said Commissioner Pepper. "Not only does the family benefit, but there's a ripple effect that benefits the surrounding community and our entire county."

Colerain Township has been significantly affected by the foreclosure issue, with a foreclosure rate second only to the City of Cincinnati among Hamilton County Communities. Colerain Township intends to utilize the NSP funds to remediate these vacant, foreclosed properties, thereby promoting property values and stability in these affected neighborhoods. Colerain is a sub-recipient of the NSP funds allocated to Hamilton County.

"The Township chose to partner with Cincinnati Habitat because they have a great reputation for providing quality housing for underserved populations for a minimal cost. Partnering with Habitat allows the Township to maximize its use of NSP funds. And, of course, the people at Habitat have been great to work with," said Susan H. Roschke, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Colerain Township. "We are excited to see work begin on these two properties, as a cooperative effort of Colerain Township, Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity, and Hamilton County."

The home at 10334 Pippin Lane will be built in partnership with the Alice Ward family. Alice Ward is a single mother of four. When asked to describe her family, Alice said, "My family and I are like most other families—very close and loving. We know how important it is to put family first. We are blessed in so many ways and try to be and do our very best at anything we do in life. My kids are all honor roll students and all have a love for music, my daughters play the flute and violin, and my son the piano."

About the opportunity to build, or in this case rehab, and then buy her own home, Alice said, "Two of my children have disabilities that require that they have enough space to do physical therapy exercises and store



necessary equipment. Currently, we have a small apartment and have an urgent need for space. It is such a blessing for me and my family to own our own home.”

The second home being rehabbed in Colerain by Cincinnati Habitat is located at 10293 Storm Ave. and will belong to the Cheghali and Fatiha Mahmoudi Family. Cheghali and Fatiha have two young sons. Cheghali is a taxi-cab driver.

“We wish to live in peace and have a wonderful life,” Cheghali said. “We really like people, talking with them and helping others. Buying a home was our number one goal, but it wasn’t possible because we couldn’t afford a mortgage. Through Habitat for Humanity, our dream is becoming a reality. We are glad and very excited to enjoy the experience of working on our build site. We are so tired from moving place to place, and we need an area for our boys to play and more space as they grow up. This is such a great opportunity for our family.”

When each home is complete they will be sold to the Mahmoudi and Ward families with a 0%, 25-year, interest-free mortgage payable to Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity. Each family can expect their monthly mortgage payment to be approximately \$400 (including closing costs, taxes and insurance). To qualify for their Habitat homes, families have to meet a variety of criteria, including housing need, ability to pay a mortgage, and willingness to partner with Cincinnati Habitat. Partner Families will work beside volunteers from Hamilton County and Colerain Township, investing at least 500 hours of sweat equity into the construction of their homes.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was established for the purpose of stabilizing communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. Through the purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned homes and residential properties, the goal of the program is being realized. To learn more about Hamilton County’s use of NSP funds, visit

<http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/commdev/v2/StabilizationProgram.asp>.

For more information about Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity or to volunteer, visit [www.cincinnatihabitat.org](http://www.cincinnatihabitat.org).

#### ***About Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity***

*Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate substandard housing by building and renovating simple, decent, affordable homes to sell to low-income families in need. Cincinnati Habitat works in equal partnership with families, volunteers and donors building a sense of community as well as affordable housing. Our partners include corporations, churches, foundations, organizations and individual donors who donate money, labor and materials to fund and build our homes. Cincinnati Habitat has built over 170 homes in neighborhoods throughout Cincinnati and Hamilton County. For more information, visit [www.cincinnatihabitat.org](http://www.cincinnatihabitat.org).*

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