



For Immediate Release

June 29, 2010

Contact

Dan O'Keeffe
O'Keeffe PR
(513) 235-8638
dan@okeeffepr.com

Cincinnati Habitat Kicks off First Green Build in College Hill

Winning AIA COTE designed home and rehab projects sponsored by Holzberger Family Humanitarian Foundation, Crossroads Church, Xavier University and Anonymous Donor

CINCINNATI – Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity (www.cincinnatihabitat.org) is set to begin construction on two homes in College Hill. The Holzberger Family Humanitarian Foundation, Crossroads Church, an anonymous donor, and Xavier University are providing funds and volunteers to help build and rehab the homes. The double house construction kick-off ceremony will be at **8 a.m. on Saturday, July 10 at 1141 Homeside Ave.** Speakers will include members of Crossroads Church and the American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment (AIA COTE). The community and members of the news media are welcomed to attend.

The home at 1141 Homeside Ave. will be a new green home designed by AIA COTE. The design is the winner of an architecture competition held last year with Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity, AIA COTE, and other Ohio Habitat affiliates. Entries were judged on cost, ability to build, and neighborhood context, in addition to integration of environmental strategies including impact on the site, water efficiency, energy use, material use and indoor environmental quality. The first place winners of each category are being built throughout the 2010 build season in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Newark, Ohio, and the designs will be made available to all 70 Habitat affiliates in Ohio. An anonymous donor will sponsor this Cincinnati Habitat build.

Crossroads Church members will volunteer on the AIA COTE home as well as the rehab located at 1189 Homeside Ave., just a few doors down. Over the past three years, Crossroads volunteers have invested more than 15,000 hours into the rehabilitation of homes with Cincinnati Habitat, and they expect hundreds of volunteers to participate over the course of this four-month build. Xavier University is once again providing their generous support through funding and volunteers for their sixth home being built with Cincinnati Habitat.

The home at 1189 Homeside Ave. will belong to Margaret Johnson and her two sons James, 9 and William, 3. Johnson and her husband came to the United States from Sierra Leone. Last year, tragedy struck when her husband died suddenly after a stroke leaving her to care for their two sons.

“I want Cincinnati Habitat to know that providing a home for my children is a dream come true, and I wish their father was here to share this dream with us,” said Johnson. “Ten years ago, we lived in tents in a refugee camp with little to no food or water. Buying this home is the opportunity of a life time for my family and will be the key to my sons’ futures.”

The home at 1141 Homeside Ave. will belong to Felita Jordan and her two daughters, Christine Calloway, 16 and Micah Calloway, 12.



“My children and I are a loving family and we have been waiting all of our lives for an opportunity like this to build and buy our own home,” said Jordan. “Our current apartment is very crowded and we need more space. My family is so excited to have our own home. It is something we have always wanted.”

“Thanks to the effort and support of some great groups and a very generous donor, two deserving families will be one step closer to home ownership this weekend,” said Marissa Woodly, Development Director, Cincinnati Habitat. “We are also honored to receive one of the first affordable and environmentally sustainable house models from the AIA COTE design contest. We look forward to building more ‘green’ Habitat houses in the Cincinnati community in the future.”

To qualify for their Habitat homes, the Jordan and Johnson families had 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 Crossroads Church and Xavier University, investing at least 500 hours of sweat equity into the construction of their homes. Cincinnati Habitat will sell the home to the families with a 0%, 20-year, interest-free mortgage held by Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity.

For more information on Cincinnati Habitat or to volunteer, visit www.cincinnatihabitat.org, follow us on twitter <http://twitter.com/CincyHabitat>, our like us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/CincinnatiHabitat>.

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 that include Avondale, Clifton, Columbia Tusculum, Evanston, Harrison, Hyde Park, Lincoln Heights, Lockland, Madisonville, Mt. Auburn, Mt. Washington, North Fairmount, Northside, Oakley, Over-the-Rhine, Price Hill, South Cumminsville, South Fairmount, Walnut Hills, Westwood and Winton Place, among others. For more information, visit www.cincinnatihabitat.org.

###

Delet

