



Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads
900 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23504
Ph: 757-640-0590 x203 Fax: 757-640-0595 www.shrhabitat.org

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Helen Hayes Sommer
757.630-1631
helensommer@verizon.net

Habitat SHR's Suffolk Home Builders Blitz to be the Largest in the U.S. in 2008

Local Builders join in to build 16 houses in 5 days.

NORFOLK, VA. May 27, 2008 – During the week of June 2 – 7, Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads (Habitat SHR) will partner with the City of Suffolk, local builders, donors and volunteers to build 16 Habitat for Humanity Homes in northern Suffolk in the Huntersville neighborhood. The Blitz will begin at 7 am Monday June 2nd with the starting horn and the houses will completed by Saturday, June 7th.

“Thanks to our local builders, 16 local families will realize the dream of homeownership,” said John K. Morgan, III, Executive Director. “We are so grateful these homebuilders are working to make our community a better place.”

Participating builders include: Sasser Construction, Associated Contracting Services, American Institute of Architects/ Gary Stilwel, Case Handyman/Harris-Judah, Chesapeake Homes, The Dragas Companies, Dunn-Whitney Construction, Golden Heritage Homes, Hohmann Construction/Meeks, H.H. Hunt/Waverton Associates, Lehman Construction, SENCON/W. E. Manning/Sarah A. Steele, SGB Homes, Sweeter Homes, Top of the Line Development/Birdsong Corporation, and VIRTEXCO.

Local builders will also build to EarthCraft standards. Building EarthCraft homes offers an affordable “green” solution to the homebuyer without driving up construction costs. Green homes typically produce monthly utility bills that are 30% lower than homes constructed using traditional building techniques. This savings means that the houses are affordable for many years to come.

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Nationally, Habitat for Humanity International plans to build 263 homes in 110 communities throughout 34 states as part of the 2008 Home Builders Blitz (www.homebuildersblitz.com). The accelerated build will serve to house more than 1,000 people. The local build is the largest by far with the next largest HBB being planned for 10 houses in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Builders Blitz was started in 2002 by Tom Gipson, a professional home builder in Raleigh, N.C., who supported Habitat for Humanity's efforts to eliminate poverty housing in his community. Gipson gathered other local builders for an accelerated build, which was so successful that Habitat for Humanity International decided to promote it as a nationwide event in 2006. Since the concept's inception, the professional homebuilders industry has assisted Habitat's mission by building in excess of 780 homes. Habitat SHR built 10 homes in Home Builders Blitz 2006 in the Brighton neighborhood of Portsmouth.

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 250,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org.

About Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads Habitat SHR is a housing ministry that uses volunteer labor and is financed through partnerships and private donations. Our purpose is to build homes *with* families and *sell* the houses at cost with a no profit and no interest loan to *qualifying families* who could not otherwise afford a home. Since its founding in 1988, Habitat SHR has built more than 140 houses in Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Isle of Wight County. For more information, visit www.shrhabitat.org.