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Habitat for Humanity Breaks Ground On Trinity Park Neighborhood *Neighborhood is first Memphis Habitat subdivision*

Memphis, Tenn., May 4, 2009 – Homeownership is about to become a reality for 38 more families in the Memphis area. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis will soon break ground on the organization’s largest endeavor in 25 years – the building of Trinity Park subdivision.

To mark this exciting milestone, a groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 14 at 10 a.m. at Medal of Honor Park. Speakers at the ceremony will include Robert Lipscomb, director of Housing and Community Development for the city of Memphis, Memphis Habitat executive director Dwayne Spencer and Scott McCormick from the Plough Foundation.

Located in the Oakhaven community near Memphis International Airport, Trinity Park will include 38 single family residences – all of which will be built to green standards, as certified through the local MLGW EcoBUILD program. Nationally acclaimed architect group Looney Ricks Kiss has designed house plans that blend with and enhance the surrounding community, as well as include sustainable enhancements, such as two bathrooms and fully visitable points of entry. The use of green building techniques and materials will ensure the conservation of energy and natural resources, as well as significantly lower utility bills for Habitat’s low-income families, according to Spencer.

“Trinity Park will symbolize the true meaning of a community,” Spencer said. “We are confident Trinity Park will make a positive impact not only on the lives of the homeowners, but also on the entire Memphis community.”

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Memphis Habitat breaks ground on Trinity Park

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Throughout much of its 25-year history, Memphis Habitat has concentrated on urban in-fill building, relying primarily on donated lots. The construction of Trinity Park comes at a time when the affiliate's growth and efforts to serve more and more families necessitate a move to a larger, more comprehensive approach to building. Trinity Park will be truly "park-like" in its layout, featuring landscaped green space, tree-lined pedestrian walkways and a centrally located resource center/clubhouse.

The project, which will require nearly \$3 million to fund, will take place in six phases. Three of the phases involve infrastructure work, and three involve building blitzes. With a previously awarded \$450,000 infrastructure grant from the city of Memphis and a \$263,060 donation from the Plough Foundation, Memphis Habitat now finds itself nearly three-quarters of the way to its initial funding goal.

Habitat families are pre-qualified based on their need for housing, ability to pay back a zero-interest loan and willingness to engage in a unique partnership with Habitat for Humanity. While providing simple, decent and affordable housing helps to address a major need for families, Memphis Habitat believes the construction of Trinity Park will help meet another need for new partner families: living in a safe, supportive and sustainable community. The presence of Trinity Park's resource center and clubhouse is one way that Habitat hopes to meet that need. The concept for the center includes the implementation of community-wide after-school and summer activities for young people.

Trinity Park also will benefit the area's economic growth by providing additional real estate tax revenue and support to existing retail and service-oriented businesses. The project is slated for completion in 2011.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Memphis Habitat has built 310 homes since its founding in 1983. Habitat houses are built with volunteer labor and sold to partner families, at no profit and with no interest charged. Partner families make a down payment and invest hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" into the construction of their homes and other Habitat homes. For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis, visit www.memphishabitat.com.

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