

# Blueprint

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## Memphis Habitat Focuses on Future Land Development

### Board President Raises More Than \$83,000 for Habitat Subdivision

Julie Clary

Chamberlain & McCreery President Phil Chamberlain is in the business of building houses. As Memphis Habitat's Board of Director's president, he's also in the business of building hope for deserving families in need of safe, decent and affordable housing. Under Chamberlain's leadership, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis (HFHGM) is continuing the fight to eliminate poverty housing throughout Memphis and surrounding areas by raising awareness and necessary funding for future land development.

Following the success of Home Builders Blitz 2006, a Habitat for Humanity International initiative which led to the building of more than 400 Habitat homes across the United States in one week, Chamberlain began his year as Board president with great enthusiasm, and with one thing on his mind—Memphis Habitat's essential need for the acquisition of land and development.

Memphis Habitat owns a large piece of land in South Memphis, which was donated to the organization on January 16, 2001. The nine-acre parcel on which Memphis Habitat could build nearly 40 single family homes in the coming years is located in Lake Park subdivision near Memphis International Airport at Winchester and Tchulahoma. The estimated cost of land preparation and infrastructure development is in excess of \$600,000.

While the cost is great, Habitat believes the benefits of building contiguously are far greater. For years, HFHGM has focused on building not only houses, but also communities—neighborhoods where individual partner families can thrive as a unified group.

In addition to building homes and communities, Habitat works to build relationships with dozens of sponsor groups and hundreds of volunteers each year. "Contiguous builds are ideal for Habitat, as we're able to most effectively pool and manage our key resources—physical building materials and, more importantly, volunteers and sponsor groups," says Jeff Capps, director of community relations. In order to provide affordable housing to deserving families, Habitat works to



*Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis Executive Director Dwayne Spencer joins Board President Phil Chamberlain and his wife, Trina, inside their Lakeland home at Habitat's October 14 fundraiser.*

*During the second week of June, Chamberlain & McCreery completed this Habitat home at 2566 Hawkins Mill Road as part of Home Builders Blitz 2006. Memphis Habitat owns land in South Memphis on which 40 new Habitat homes could be built once the land is developed.*



provide sponsors and volunteers with a one-of-a-kind experience that allows all people—regardless of race, gender, or religion—to come together for one common goal. "There's always a sense of friendly competition among houses on a Habitat build," says Capps. "Our sponsors and volunteers are inspired and encouraged by the strong spirit of camaraderie that emerges on a contiguous build."

In an effort to raise the necessary funds to build in Lake Park, Chamberlain and his wife, Trina, recently hosted a benefit for Habitat, inviting donors and volunteers to their beautiful Lakeland home for an entertaining and elegant evening.

During a brief presentation, the nearly 200 guests gathered outside the Chamberlain's lakeside home to learn about the Habitat program, share recent successes and future goals and meet new homeowners Callie and Tiana Sanders, whose home was dedicated on October 28. In addition, Chamberlain

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