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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEMPHIS HABITAT CONTINUES “GREEN” TREND ON SIX NEW HOMES

Memphis, Tenn. – Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis today begins construction of six homes in the Binghamton neighborhood.

The organization is partnering with a team of architects in an effort to make the homes more sustainable and strive towards LEED® certification. Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, LEED® provides standards for successful green building design and construction. The homes will also be certified through the MLGW EcoBUILD program.

“The need to be more environmentally friendly as well as our desire to make our homes more sustainable for our partner families has been the driving force behind our efforts,” said Greg Webb, director of construction for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis. “We want to set a standard of sustainability with the hope that others will follow our lead.”

The Habitat Design team, the volunteers who designed the homes, is sponsored by Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects and the American Institute of Architects.

“Habitat Design is a coalition of architects and designers with a passion for sustainability and affordable housing design,” said Jon Dimayuga, design director for the Habitat Design team and project coordinator for Askew Nixon Ferguson. “We saw the need for sustainable design in affordable housing to lower the energy consumption and improve living conditions of the families who will inhabit them.”

The Habitat Design team has been working with Habitat’s construction staff since November 2008 and has more than 200 hours invested in the project, Dimayuga said.

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Memphis Habitat has been actively involved in “green building” since 2006 when the organization partnered with MGLW’s EcoBUILD program. Over the past three years, Habitat has built 30 EcoBUILD homes with funding provided by MLGW and Trunkline Gas/Panhandle Energy.

This spring, the organization is again benefiting from its participation in The Home Depot Foundation’s “Partnership in Sustainable Building” program, which provides dollars to help support “green building” upgrades.

Construction on the six new homes starts at 7:30 a.m. this Friday and Saturday. The homes are located on Pershing Avenue.

Among the homes will be the first home built by Baptist Memorial Health Care and the first home fully funded by local youth.

Sponsors include American Institute of Architects, Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects, Baptist Memorial Health Care, Balmoral Presbyterian Church, B’nai B’rith Youth Organization, Bolton High School, Bike and Build, Cargill, Church of the Holy Spirit, Cummins, Inc., Engineers Without Borders, Faith Christian Church, Germantown High School, Germantown Presbyterian Church, Germantown United Methodist Church, Glory Tabernacle Christian Church, Hilton Hotels Corporation, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Home Depot Foundation, Houston High School, Idlewild Presbyterian Church, International Paper, Johnson Bryce, Living Hope Church, Medtronic, Memphis Federation of Temple Youth, Memphis Health Careers Academy, MLGW EcoBUILD, Mt. Pisgah Girl Scout Troop, New Foundation Baptist Church, New-Tech Packaging, Northwest Airlines, Pfizer, Regions Bank, Renasant Bank, Running Pony Productions, Square D, State Farm Insurance, St. Agnes Academy, St. George’s Independent School – Germantown, Tennessee Housing Development Agency, The Church of the Holy Apostles, Thomas & Betts, University of Memphis, Wright Medical Technology, Whirlpool and Yale Lock.

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For more information about the March home build, Habitat's "green building" efforts, or other Habitat for Humanity initiatives, please contact Jeff Capps, director of community relations, at 901-497-7022 or at jcapps@memphishabitat.com.

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Memphis Habitat has built 318 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, please visit www.memphishabitat.com.

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