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**For Immediate Release**

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## **STATE FARM AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT FOR HABITAT YOUTH PROGRAM**

**Memphis, Tennessee** – State Farm pledged its support for area youths Monday by awarding the Youth United program of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis with a \$10,000 matching grant.

State Farm spokesperson Lisa Maples presented the check to Habitat Executive Director Dwayne Spencer in front of State Farm and Habitat staff at Habitat's office on 169 Scott Street.

“State Farm is thrilled to support so many future community leaders in this important endeavor,” Maples said during the event. “We are so proud of the work they’re doing to eliminate substandard housing and build stronger, safer communities in the Memphis area.”

The grant supports the efforts of Youth United members from nine area schools and churches, who raised an additional \$20,000 and gathered 320 volunteers for the Spring Build, which officially begins on March 14. Youth United will partner with other area groups to build two new Habitat homes on Tully Street.

The Youth United program, launched in Memphis last year, encourages young people, ages 5 to 25, to raise \$60,000 and gather volunteers to fund and build an entire Habitat house.

“Memphis Habitat became involved in Youth United because local young people have always shown such a strong interest in our work,” Spencer said. “I know we’ll continue to see great things from them as the program grows.”

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For more information about Youth United or the 2008 Habitat for Humanity Spring Build, please contact Jeff Capps at 901-761-4771, ext. 215 or at [jcapps@memphishabitat.com](mailto: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 304 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.

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