



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Neighbourhood Prepares for Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Blitz Build

Over 500 Volunteers Will Construct St. James' First Habitat Homes

Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 19, 2007 – Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) and its Official Home Sponsors are gearing up to make a huge difference in the lives of three low-income working families. This year's largest Habitat Blitz Build will run from July 23 - 28, 2007 and see over 500 enthusiastic volunteers construct three new homes on Ferry Road in St. James. Each of the new homes will be the realization of HFHW's mission of providing safe, decent, and affordable housing for low-income working Winnipeg families. HFHW will construct a total of eight new homes across Winnipeg this summer.

Many of the 500 volunteers who will participate in the Ferry Road Blitz are employees of the Official Home Sponsors: The Home Depot, Great-West Life Assurance Company and LOGIX Insulated Concrete Forms. Also sponsoring one of the Ferry Road Habitat Homes are members of the Manitoba Aerospace Association which includes Boeing Canada Technology, Magellan (Bristol) Aerospace Corporation, Winnipeg Airports Authority, Corner Aerospace, the Standard Aero Charitable Donations Program, and Aero Recip (Canada) Ltd.

The Manitoba Aerospace group was eager to sponsor one of St. James' first three Habitat Homes, and many of the Association's members are located just down the street from where their Habitat Home will be constructed. "Many of the more than 5000 people that are employed in the Manitoba aerospace sector work within a mile of the Ferry Road Habitat Homes, so we are eager to welcome these new families into our neighborhood. We admire the work that Habitat for Humanity does, and the 27 companies in the Manitoba Aerospace Association welcome this opportunity to demonstrate one of the many ways that the aerospace sector contributes to Winnipeg," says Vic Gerden, Executive Director of the Manitoba Aerospace Association.

Sandy Hopkins, CEO of HFHW says, "Our Home Sponsors and volunteers make these homes happen. Without their support and commitment to Winnipeg as a community, we would not be able to construct these homes and offer families a hand up, not a handout."

With the cost of a Winnipeg home continuing to climb, many families are finding that the dream of owning their own home is, sadly, unattainable. Through an application process, HFHW selects low-income working families who are in need of affordable housing and have the ability to repay an interest free mortgage. Habitat Homeowners must complete 500 hours of sweat equity before taking possession of their new home.

HFHW is the local affiliate of an international non-profit organization and since 1987 has partnered with local businesses, faith groups, and thousands of dedicated volunteers to build nearly 150 homes.

Media are invited to visit the Ferry Road build site anytime between 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, July 23 -28, 2007. To RSVP or for more information, please contact:

Contact: Michelle Nyhof
Manger, Communications & Marketing
Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg
(204) 295-0267 or mnyhof@habitat.mb.ca