



## Volunteers to help build Canada's 'greenest' affordable housing development during Habitat Blitz Build

**Winnipeg, MB, July 12, 2010** – Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) with support from community partners and volunteers has begun building the second phase of the 'greenest' *affordable* housing development in Canada, and the 'greenest' housing development in Manitoba.

Starting July 17, the annual HFHW Blitz Build is the showcase event that has over 2200 volunteers taking the earlier volunteers' foundation work to the next stage. In just 11 days, 10 homes will rise from these completed foundations to be fully enclosed. It is a huge attraction for supporters as it is a site to behold while addressing the need for affordable housing in Winnipeg. For the second consecutive year, the Habitat Blitz Build will take place at the former Sir Sam Steele School site across from Dufresne Furniture at 880 Nairn Street. Only through volunteer support, sponsorships and donations, is HFHW able to build these homes for purchase by pre-qualified homeowners.

The 'green' Habitat homes are built to the same Power Smart Gold standard and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification of the 12 previous Habitat homes across the lane on McCalman Avenue. "The energy and water efficiency of all these homes not only makes them environmentally friendly but also more affordable by reducing the daily living costs for our low-income working families," says Sandy Hopkins, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg.

Habitat families are able to pay full market value for their homes due to the Habitat business model that requires no down payment while including interest-free mortgages. Monthly payments are based on family income and not the value of the property, freeing up income for the other necessities of life. The homeowners become a habitat partner family by contributing 350-500 hours of sweat equity, helping build their own home, other homes or working at the Habitat ReStore.

Homeowners' mortgage payments received by HFHW are reinvested to purchase more land to build more homes. The end benefits are numerable as the homes are environmentally responsible, neighbourhood property values increase and families prosper with their children having brighter futures. Habitat Homeowners also help improve our city's infrastructure as they collectively contributed over \$175,000 in property taxes last year. The more Habitat homes built, the more we all win.

**For more information, please contact:**

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