



Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Celebrates 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day

Winnipeg, MB, March 8, 2011 –Today marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day that globally celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women, past, present and future. Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg recognizes this landmark day, through its Habitat Women Build program that will improve the life of a woman and her family this year through affordable home ownership.

Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg launched its first Women Build in 2005 and since then has built seven homes. Women Build is a volunteer committee that fundraises **to build a home each year for a low-income single mother to purchase** - helping to break the cycle of poverty. It also encourages more women to volunteer and help build Habitat homes by offering a safe and encouraging way to learn construction skills. In addition, training is provided for women to become construction crew leaders and house team leaders.

Households with single women are among the poorest in Winnipeg as they earn less income, on average, than men with the same education and experience. "Habitat helps the working-poor families living in unsuitable housing, often paying in excess of 50% on rent," says Yvonne Thompson, Women Build Chair. "Many of these families live with rodent infestations, plumbing that doesn't work, leaky roofs, mold or mildew, or extreme overcrowding. Fortunately, Habitat's affordable home ownership program allows families to help themselves into suitable housing and a brighter future."

A Women Build home can provide single mothers with a greater opportunity to improve their education and training which can lead to better employment and income. Up to 25% of Habitat homeowners have enough stability to resume their education and thus improve job and income prospects.

Women Build depends on sponsorship, donors and fundraisers to purchase the materials and trades labour needed to build a home. Consider supporting the Garden Party Fashion Show on May 15th, or the Holes for Homes golf event on June 3rd and 4th. For more information on these events, please visit the website <http://habitat.mb.ca/womenbuild.html>.

Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg is a local affiliate of an international non-profit registered charity committed to eliminating poverty housing and dedicated to making safe, decent and affordable housing for purchase by low-income working families.

For further information, contact:
Ken McIntyre, Director, Communications
Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg
Phone: 235-2402 /e-mail: kmcintyre@habitat.mb.ca

