



## **Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg builds record 21 homes in Winnipeg**

*Unique program enables qualifying families to purchase homes at market value*

**Winnipeg, MB, September 2, 2011** – Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) finishes the year in style by breaking its record of Habitat homes built in Winnipeg that has stood for 18 years. By building 21 homes in 2011, Habitat surpasses the previous record of 18 homes built in a single year when the Jimmy Carter Work Project came to Habitat Winnipeg in 1993. HFHW actually built 23 homes in 2011 with two built in Virden, Manitoba as part of Habitat’s regional expansion program.

“Fifteen Winnipeg families have moved into their new Habitat homes in time to fully enjoy the holiday season while the remaining families will occupy their homes early in 2012,” says Sandy Hopkins, Habitat Winnipeg CEO. Affordable home ownership is enabled through the unique Habitat program as qualifying families receive no down payment, interest-free mortgages with monthly payments set to 25% of the families’ income.

Through their partnership with HFHW, all families complete 350-500 hours of ‘Sweat Equity’ (volunteer hours to Habitat by helping building their home, others’ homes and assisting in the ReStore or Habitat office) before receiving the keys to their new home.

The 2011 Habitat homes are scattered over various areas of the city, St. Boniface, Transcona and West Kildonan, with the greatest number located in the Elmwood area where eight of those homes reside at the Sir Sam Steele School site on Nairn Avenue.

Habitat Winnipeg celebrates 25 years in 2012 with plans to build 25 homes.

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

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