



Habitat for Humanity building a house in Memorial Park

Winnipeg, MB, June 4, 2012: A news conference today kicked off the first day of building a Habitat for Humanity Manitoba (HFHM) home in Memorial Park, across the street from the Legislature. As Habitat's 25th anniversary year coincided with the 75th anniversary of Memorial Park, the stage was perfect to pay tribute to the site that honours the many that helped make the City and Province a safer and better place to live.

The ceremonial wall raising took place on the base floor of the Habitat home, used as a stage for the guest speakers. Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger, Mayor Sam Katz, Habitat Manitoba Board Chair Charles Golfman, and CEO Sandy Hopkins, along with the eventual homeowners and other volunteers hoisted the wall up into perfect position to cheers from all in attendance.

"Habitat exemplifies the spirit of community service," says Premier Selinger. "For 25 years, Habitat has enhanced community and family life by helping fill the need for affordable housing in Winnipeg and throughout the Province."

The home is being built primarily by volunteers who have donated to the *Habitat Builds* online campaign which concludes on June 15th with donations continuing to be accepted until June 20th. "It's a joy to see so many passionate volunteers working towards the same goal of helping those in need while building stronger communities," says Mayor Sam Katz.

The high profile build follows the 2011 Red River Exhibition Build where a house was built among all the glitter and rides on the Fair grounds. Similar to last year, the Memorial Park home will be transferred through the streets of Winnipeg to its permanent location, this year on McCalman Avenue in the Elmwood area.

The first-time homeowners will assist in the construction of their home, working side by side with other volunteers under the direction of Habitat construction crews to help complete their required 500 'sweat equity' hours. This is part of the affordable homeownership program that includes Habitat's no down payment, interest-free mortgage plan.

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

For more information, please contact:

Ken McIntyre, VP, Marketing & Communications

Habitat for Humanity Manitoba

Phone: 235-2402 / Cell: 250-9235

e-mail: kmcintyre@habitat.mb.ca

www.habitat.mb.ca

