



## **Habitat for Humanity annual Blitz Build returns to Riverbend suburb**

**Winnipeg, MB, July 8, 2013** – Hundreds of volunteers have once again descended upon the suburb of Riverbend for the Habitat for Humanity Manitoba (HFHM) annual Blitz Build. The six day event is a continuation from last year where 10 homes were built at the Fernbank and Main location over a 12 day span. Eight homes will be worked on this year as HFHM crews work and guide the many returning passionate volunteers as well as numerous first-timers.

“I use my holiday time to come to these Blitz Builds to experience the great sense of community spirit and be part of something that contributes to the well-being of families and the community,” says returning volunteer, Joanne Machado. “It’s a real kick to work alongside and get to know the future homeowners, and as an added bonus, I’ve learned a few things about construction too!”

This year, with only six days to build the eight homes (four side by side units), volunteers and crew will be kept very busy, hoping to get as much done as possible before Habitat construction crews and trades people take over to complete the homes.

Similar to the 10 homes built from last year, they will exceed the Power Smart Gold standard and incorporate many other sustainable features. “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 Manitoba.

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 set at 25 percent of a family’s income further adding to the affordability. 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 office or ReStore.

The site when completed will be home to 10 side by side units (20 homes), creating a pleasant entrance to the suburb that replaces the former unsightly and unkempt strip of land.

**For more information, please contact:**

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