



## Veterans Day, Veterans Build 11.11.11

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **First for Country, Now with Community**

*Over 50 Veterans and Servicemembers to Spend Veterans Day Serving with Habitat for Humanity*

**Freeport, ME, November 11, 2011** – On a day meant to recognize those who have bravely served our country, over 50 Maine veterans and servicemembers will spend “their day”, Veterans Day, volunteering on three Habitat for Humanity homes in Freeport, Maine.

Women and men from all five branches of the armed forces have proven that their service does not end when they remove their uniforms. Volunteers from the Coast Guard, Air Force, Marines, Army and Navy, veterans and those serving on active duty, Reserves and in the Guard, will be participating in a one-day building event on Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland's Freeport construction site on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. “My wife and I volunteered to serve in the USAF because of a sense of duty to our country and our fellow citizens; that sense of duty did not disappear upon our retirement! We volunteered to help Habitat for Humanity to honor all the brave men and women who served our country, both past and present, by giving of ourselves for the betterment of our community,” explains Fran Morin, retired Air Force member and Veterans Day participant.

Partners of this event include the Maine Women Veterans' Commission, who have recruited all of the volunteers for this event and The Home Depot Foundation who donated a \$5,000 store gift card to purchase building materials.

In addition to the support from The Home Depot Foundation, many Veterans Day volunteers will be participating in the national *B&B's for Vets* program which invites veterans to stay at participating bed & breakfasts for free on the night before Veterans Day. Four Freeport Inn's are participating in the program and will be hosting “veteran volunteers” the night before the Habitat for Humanity build event. The White Cedar Inn is one of the B&B's participating in this initiative. When asked why, they shared that one of the co-owners of the Inn “is a disabled vet and understands the sacrifice of time, continuing education, and being away from family and friends that being in the military involves. This is a simple way for us to say, 'Thank you,' to those folks who chose to do the right thing and serve our country.”

### **About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland**

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland, an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, is a nonprofit Christian organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Habitat for Humanity brings together people with resources and people in need to build simple, decent, affordable houses. The houses are sold to those in need through affordable, no-interest mortgages. HFHGP was founded in 1985 and has built 53 homes in the Greater Portland community.

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**About the Maine Women Veterans' Commission**

The Maine Women Veterans' Commission travels throughout Maine meeting with women who served or are serving in the military, providing health, benefits and other services information and linking women veterans with federal, state and community organizations. Commissioners advocate at the federal and state levels. For more information, visit:

[http://www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs/women\\_veterans\\_commission.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs/women_veterans_commission.htm)

**About The Home Depot Foundation**

In 2011, The Home Depot Foundation committed \$30 million over three years to nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving the homes of economically disadvantaged veterans. Through Team Depot, the company's associate-led volunteer program, thousands of Home Depot associates volunteer their time and talents to positively transform neighborhoods and perform basic repairs and modifications to homes and to the facilities serving veterans with critical housing needs.

Since its formation in 2002, The Home Depot Foundation has granted more than \$270 million to nonprofit organizations improving homes and lives in local communities. To learn more and see our associates in action, visit

[www.homedepotfoundation.org](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org), follow us on Twitter @homedepotfdn, and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/homedepotfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/homedepotfoundation).

**About Habitat for Humanity International**

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 400,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than two million people.

For more information, or to donate or volunteer, visit [Habitat.org](http://Habitat.org).

**About Better Way to Stay's B&B's for Vets Program**

Innkeepers want to say thank you to those who've served their country by inviting veterans to wake up on 11-11-11 in a B&B. Inns and B&Bs throughout North America will open their doors to active and retired military and vets and one guest by offering a free room to those who've served in the military on Thursday, November 10, 2011. For more information, visit <http://www.betterwaytostay.com/current-promotions/bbs-for-vets/>.