



National Women Build Week

Sponsored by Lowe's

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND LOWE'S TEAM UP FOR NATIONAL WOMEN BUILD WEEK

Local female volunteers answer call to help eliminate poverty housing

Westbrook, ME, April 26, 2011 – In the days leading up to Mother's Day, hundreds of female volunteers will pound nails and raise walls at Habitat for Humanity construction sites in all 50 states in recognition of National Women Build Week, April 30 – May 8.

Today, in Westbrook, Lowe's Heroes and female volunteers came together to begin construction on three families new homes, all three intended to house families who work hard but will never be able to afford a house in a local town without assistance. One of the homes is being built through Habitat volunteers, but will be sold to a limited-income family by Maine State Housing Authority. The other two are traditional "Habitat homes", meaning the families contribute hundreds of hours of labor to construction, and purchase their homes through Habitat's interest-free mortgage program after completing a series of financial literacy courses. Prices of Habitat homes are made affordable through the contributions of volunteers and local businesses. Every member of the public is invited to apply for Habitat's homeowner program. Habitat selects first time homebuyers who work and often have families. If not for an affordable-housing program, these families would not be able to find a local home in their price range because of a shortage of affordable housing development in our area.

Lowe's has provided Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland a \$5,000 Lowe's store gift card, as well as in-store volunteer training, in support of this one-day build. "Women participating in the event bring a wide range of skills and experience. For some, this will be their first time on a construction site," explains Kate Callahan, Volunteer Manager. "Habitat's "Wednesday Group" is a gathering of women who volunteer every week on our worksites. Many of these women became involved 5 years ago when our affiliate constructed a *Women Build* house in Yarmouth. Today the Wednesday Group is helping lead thirty of their less-experienced peers as they mud and tape walls, sand drywall, and landscape.

Lowe's has committed more than \$1.3 million to National Women Build Week in support of more than

250 participating affiliates. Lowe's, the underwriter of Habitat's Women Build program, recruits, educates and inspires women to build and advocate for simple, decent and affordable houses in their communities.

"Lowe's has been the proud sponsor of Habitat's Women Build program since 2004. This innovative program encourages women from all walks of life to pick up their hammers and build homes alongside Habitat partner families," said Larry D. Stone, Lowe's president and COO and chairman of the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. "Lowe's salutes the thousands of women who've volunteered on Habitat job sites during the past 20 years and for years to come."

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 52 homes in the Greater Portland community.

About Lowe's

Lowe's supports the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. The company's signature education grant program, Lowe's Toolbox for Education, has brought more than \$5 million in grants to K-12 public schools every year since its inception in 2005. Lowe's Heroes employee volunteers support local community projects and our national nonprofit partners such as Habitat for Humanity International and the American Red Cross. In 2010, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together contributed more than \$30 million to support communities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. To learn more, visit Lowe.com/socialresponsibility.

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.