

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland
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MEDIA ALERT

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Habitat completes an exciting day of building
three steel homes in one day in Westbrook!

“Houses of Steel – Homes of Hope”

On Wednesday, April 7, 2010 an enthusiastic group gathered in the pre-dawn light just off Lincoln Street in Westbrook. The occasion was the kick off of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland’s “Houses of Steel – Homes of Hope” project.

The day began at 6:30 am with a few brief words and a ribbon cutting by both the current Westbrook Mayor Colleen Hilton and Westbrook’s past Mayor Bruce Chuluda who was instrumental in securing the land for Habitat to be able to build on. Promptly at 7:00 am, the cranes started up, and soon the steel panels that had been constructed by Porter Panel and Truss in their Portland factory were being erected on the three foundations. The Porter Panel & Truss employees worked diligently through the morning and by 10:00 the first roof trusses were placed on the first house. The second house was completed by 12:15, and after a short lunch break, the third house was done by 2:00 pm.

For Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland this represented a day of many firsts! This was Habitat’s first subdivision in Westbrook. It was also the first time that Habitat has used steel framing in their houses. And it was certainly the first time that three houses were framed all in the same day. The project also represents an unprecedented collaboration between Habitat, Porter Panel and Truss and three of Maine’s biggest and busiest builders. Joining Habitat and Porter are Allied-Cook Construction, Wright Ryan Construction and Ledgewood Construction. The firms will be coordinating the completion of many of the home’s details that are done by contractors rather than volunteers, including electrical, plumbing and heating work.

Also supporting the effort during the day were several local Westbrook organizations. Dunkin Donuts in Westbrook provided coffee and donuts for the day, and Pizza Time in Westbrook provided well deserved pizza and beverages for the hard working construction workers. The Habitat story always relies on an

entire community to work together in building homes for Maine's families. This incredible day of building was a perfect example of the entire Westbrook community coming together to achieve this worthy goal.

About the Project Partners:

Habitat succeeds because of the numerous partnerships that are formed on each home. However, the *Houses of Steel – Homes of Hope* represents an extraordinary collaboration of resources. Led by the Project Sponsor, Porter Panel and Truss, three of Maine's largest construction companies have also signed on to work on the project. Allied Cook Construction, Wright –Ryan Construction and Ledgewood Construction will each serve as Construction Leaders for one of the houses. Working with their group of subcontractors and suppliers, along with a large supply of Habitat volunteers, it is hoped that we will be able to complete the houses in a shorter timeframe than usual so that they can be occupied sooner. Construction of the road has been achieved over the past several weeks by Grondin & Sons, another large construction company in Maine.

The Houses of Steel-Homes of Hope project is an exciting initiative for Westbrook, Habitat, and indeed the Greater Portland area because affordable housing continues to be a concern, and this project will help address that need.

For more information, please contact George Ellis, Development Director, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland, 207-772-2151, or george@habitatme.org.

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland

Organized in October 1985, the Greater Portland affiliate has completed 50, simple, decent and affordable housing units, with projects currently under way in Freeport, and Westbrook. By utilizing volunteer labor, along with donated land and materials whenever possible, HFHGP can generally build a three-bedroom home for around \$135,000. On a typical house there will about 800 volunteers sharing in the building of the house with the family. Each house is then sold to a qualifying family at cost by means of a no-interest 30-year mortgage.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International, based in Americus, Ga., is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since 1976, Habitat has built more than 300,000 houses in nearly 100 countries, providing simple, decent and affordable housing for more than one million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org.

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