

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spring breakers unite to build homes with Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County

Norristown, PA (February 20, 2009) – More than 50 students from across the country will travel to Montgomery County, PA for their spring break to build Habitat for Humanity houses. The students are participants of Collegiate Challenge, a Habitat for Humanity program that provides year-round opportunities for youth to use their vacations to help build homes.

During March, students from Assumption College, Montgomery County Community College and University of Maine at Augusta will help build a home with Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County. This Habitat for Humanity affiliate has completed 42 homes in Montgomery County, housing 54 adults and 110 children.

“We truly appreciate the work and enthusiasm of these youth volunteers,” said Linley Kirkwood, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County Community Outreach Coordinator. “They are making a difference in our community by helping families in need obtain safe, decent and affordable homes.”

This spring break marks the 20th anniversary of the Collegiate Challenge program, and more than 12,000 students will travel to 200 locations to build houses through the program. Throughout its 20-year history, more than 166,000 students have participated in Collegiate Challenge, raising more than \$15.5 million. This year alone, Collegiate Challenge participants will contribute \$1.8 million.

“Youth who choose to volunteer and build houses with Habitat for Humanity during their spring break are making a powerful statement about the role they want to play in helping families move into affordable housing,” said Desiree Adaway, Habitat’s senior director of Volunteer Mobilization. “We are grateful that for the past 20 years, youth have united to eliminate poverty housing across the United States through the Collegiate Challenge program.”

Collegiate Challenge is one of the many Habitat for Humanity youth programs designed to capture the energy and hope of young people worldwide to involve them as leaders in the work of Habitat for Humanity.

State Farm® is the national corporate sponsor of Habitat’s youth programs and is the sponsor of a 20th anniversary celebration event to recognize the students and affiliates who have made Collegiate Challenge a success over the past two decades.

About Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County

Established in 1989, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. In addition to the 42 completed houses in Norristown and Pottstown, this affiliate has helped build 67 homes abroad and have tithed \$181,000 to overseas affiliates. Volunteers, as well as donations of materials, services or funds are needed. Anyone interested in volunteering should attend a “Love in Action” informational tour, held the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM at 848 Cherry Street, Norristown, PA 19401. For further information, contact Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County at 610-278-7710.

Through volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat for Humanity builds and renovates houses with the help of the future homeowners – their partner families. Each homeowner family is required to invest 200 hours of their own labor – sweat equity – into the construction of their home and the homes of others. Habitat for Humanity houses are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no-interest mortgages. The homeowners' mortgage payments go into a revolving construction fund used to help build future houses.

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 more than 300,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.5 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org.

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