



Volunteers helping build milestone homes during Habitat Blitz Build

Final phase of 32 home development at Nairn Avenue build site to be completed.

Winnipeg, MB, July 4, 2011 – The final phase of a three year project is coming to a conclusion at this year’s Blitz Build. Included in the remaining eight homes to be completed is Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg’s (HFHW) 200th home and the 2000th home for all of Canada. HFHW was bestowed the national honour to build it here for its excellence and innovative methods of home building and progression of the Habitat mission.

“We are proud of the recognition and together, with our own local milestone, this truly is the highlight of the year by building both these milestone homes,” says Sandy Hopkins, Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg CEO. “The support from our community partners and volunteers has been outstanding at each Blitz Build helping us to create the greenest affordable housing development in Canada, and the greenest housing development in Manitoba”.

Starting today, the annual HFHW Blitz Build is the showcase event that sees hundreds of passionate volunteers and work crews offering their hands and hearts. In just 12 days, nine homes will rise from the already completed foundations to be fully enclosed. It is a huge attraction for supporters as it is a site to behold while addressing the need for affordable housing in Winnipeg. For the third consecutive year, the Habitat Blitz Build will take place at the former Sir Sam Steele School site across from Dufresne Furniture at 880 Nairn Street. One additional home being built a few blocks west on Nairn Avenue is also part of Blitz Build.

The build site’s homes all meet the same Power Smart Gold standard and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification of the 24 previous built homes from the past two years. “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 Winnipeg.

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 and not the value of the property, freeing up income for the other necessities of life. 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 ReStore.

For more information, please contact:

Ken McIntyre, Director, Communications
Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg
Phone: 235-2402 • Cell: 250-9235
e-mail: kmcintyre@habitat.mb.ca