

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Ready for HABITAT BLITZ 2005!**

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity's ninth annual multi-house blitz build, HABITAT BLITZ 2005!, begins Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs through the 24<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to dusk.

Eight houses will be built during this year's blitz; seven in the Cathedral District in the area of Atwater and Warren and one on Schauman Street in Bridgeport. Building will be done in three shifts each day, except Sunday: 8 a.m. to noon, 1 to 5 p.m., and 5 to 9 p.m.

A prayer vigil will be held at the site beginning 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 2. This includes the sponsoring groups of churches and businesses and all others interested in being involved. There will also be daily prayer at 7:45 a.m., starting June 3.

Returning house sponsors include Saint Mary's Medical Center, Citizens Bank, SBC Pioneers, General Motors Powertrain with UAW, The Dow Chemical Company and five groups of churches—United Methodists, Catholic Churches of Saginaw County, Lutheran Churches (ELCA and LCMS), African American Christian Unity and Church Workers United. Each house sponsor pledges a minimum of \$25,000 toward the \$68,000 construction cost of its house and recruits and schedules all the volunteers. Radio stations WSGW 790 AM, WTLZ 107.1, 96 WHNN, Wheelz 104.5 & 101, Z93 WKQZ, The Bay 104 FM and 1400 WSAM and 97.3 Joe FM play key roles in recruitment and awareness-building. New partners WNEM TV5 and 1250 AM are also on board to help!

Further support comes from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority in the form of homebuyer down payment assistance, new partner Fifth Third Bank, and generous individuals, foundations, churches, businesses and other local organizations. Pepsi Bottling Group will again provide all beverages and some food for the blitz volunteers.

Saginaw City Council member Amos O'Neal is Honorary Chairperson of the blitz this year, following Mayor Wilmer Jones Ham 2002-2004 and former Mayor Henry Marsh, who retired following the 2001 blitz after two years as chair. Mr. March joined Habit after watching hundreds of volunteers build five homes in his Cathedral District neighborhood in 1999.

SHFH is one of 1,700 U.S. affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit Christian housing ministry dedicated to the elimination of poverty housing around the world. Founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, the Americus, Georgia-based nonprofit organization has built over 190,000 houses in over 94 countries. For more information about Habitat for Humanity or this year's projects, call the Habitat office at 753-5200 or visit our website, [www.saginawhfh.org](http://www.saginawhfh.org).