

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Cameron Brady, 791-3124**

### **Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Ready for HABITAT BLITZ 2006!**

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity's 10th annual multi-house blitz build, HABITAT BLITZ 2006!, begins Friday, June 9th and runs through the 24th from 8 a.m. to dusk.

Five houses will be built during this year's blitz; two in the Cathedral District in the area of Atwater and Warren one on South 15th, one on Barnard near Houghton, and one on Webster near Waller. 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 "progressive" prayer vigil will be held beginning at the Barnard site at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, followed by visits to the Webster, South 15th, and S. Warren/Atwater sites. A FREE pancake dinner will be served at the corner of S. Warren and Atwater at conclusion of the prayer vigil. The event 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 9.

Returning house sponsors include St. Mary's of Michigan, General Motors Powertrain with UAW, 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 \$30,000 toward the \$74,000 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. 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, and generous individuals, foundations, churches, businesses and other local organizations. Pepsi Bottling Group will again provide all beverages for the blitz volunteers.

WNEM personalities Katie O'Mara and Erica Donerson are Honorary Chairpersons of the blitz this year, following Councilman Amos O'Neal in 2005, 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 200,000 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).