

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Ready for HABITAT BLITZ 2007!

In its 20th anniversary year, Saginaw Habitat for Humanity's (SHFH) 11th annual multi-house blitz build begins Friday, June 8th and runs through the 22nd from 8 a.m. to dusk, with house dedications Saturday June 23.

Three houses are slated for work during this year's blitz; two new houses and one extensive remodel. Each house will have three bedrooms. House #141 is a remodel at 1580 Joy Road, House #142 will be built at 423 N. Harrison, and House #143 will rise at 1320 Cleveland. Volunteers are encouraged to register early.

A "progressive" prayer vigil will be held beginning at the Joy Road site at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, followed by visits to the N. Harrison then Cleveland sites. This is SHFH's third consecutive multi-site build. 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 Catholic Churches of Saginaw County and the Belmar estate, Lutheran Churches (ELCA and LCMS), African American Christian Unity and Church Workers United. Each house sponsor pledges a minimum of \$30,000 toward the construction cost of its house and recruits and schedules all the volunteers. Plans call for long-time Habitat supporters from United Methodist Churches, to build a house with local support in Chesaning this fall. Families and properties for each of the builds have already been selected.

Several families who were on Habitat's waiting list for decent, affordable housing were served by acquiring previously-owned Habitat homes.

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.

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.