

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cameron Brady, 753-5200

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Awarded \$176,000 for Affordable Housing

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity (SHFH) was awarded \$176,000 in a competitive funding round by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis (FHLBI). In this year's second round of awards 17 projects were funded by the FHLBI from among x applications. The application was sponsored by FHLBI-member Citizens Bank.

Jim VanTiflin, regional president for northern Michigan for Citizens Bank said, "Citizens Bank is pleased to assist Saginaw Habitat for Humanity in the development of grant applications for Affordable Housing Program Awards from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, including this most recent award in the amount of \$176,000. The grant will assist families in gaining new affordable housing, which helps to stabilize and revitalize our neighborhoods, making Saginaw an even better place to live, work, and raise our families."

The grant money will assist construction of 11 additional affordable houses in Saginaw County. Including this most recent award, since 1996 the FHLBI has awarded \$1,092,000 to SHFH toward 113 of its houses, including seven which are yet to be built.

"Our partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis is crucial to our affiliate's ability to build affordable housing," said SHFH Executive Director Paul Warriner (753-5200). "We are indeed fortunate to have the strong continued support of Citizens Bank in this process."

Each year since 1989, the FHLBI has contributed 10% of its net income to affordable housing programs. The FHLBI has awarded over \$139 million in grant money through its programs, which have helped over 19,000 low-income families enjoy improved housing.

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 nearly 100 countries. For more information about Habitat for Humanity or this year's projects, call the Habitat office at 753-5200.

The FHLBI award is second-largest in affiliate history. "The FHLBI has been an indispensable partner for 10 years," said Warriner. "In these economic times, near-record community need means the local community resources are being stretched more than ever; making this an even more crucial partnership.

"We are blessed to have FHLBI and Citizens Bank among our partners. We are grateful to Jim Van Tiflin, Harry McBride, John Harken, and all the staff at Citizens Bank with whom we work closely during the application process and monitoring. Since 2000, they have helped us attain/obtain \$964,000 in FHLBI awards. These funds are vital to the construction of much-needed decent, affordable housing in Saginaw County."