

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Cameron Brady, 753-5200**

**Habitat Announces Groundbreaking for Ninth Annual Blitz Build**

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for Saginaw's ninth annual Habitat for Humanity blitz build begins with a prayer and a song at 9:00 am Saturday, April 16, 2005 at the corner of South Warren and Atwater. Attendees will then walk together three short blocks to Longfellow Elementary School (1314 Brown) for an informational meeting and FREE pancake breakfast, open to neighborhood residents, all Habitat supporters and interested parties.

Seven homes are planned for the June 3-24 build in the Cathedral District area, as part of the Jimmy Carter Work Project 2005 throughout the state of Michigan. Up to 1,400 volunteers, including 100 members of the National Care-a-Vanner Reunion are expected for construction and support. This blitz build will see the completion of Habitat for Humanity Houses #120-#126 in Saginaw County. Habitat returns to this deserving neighborhood, site of the 1998 and 1999 blitz builds, where over 1,000 volunteers came together each June.

Returning house sponsors include Saint Mary's Medical Center, Citizens Bank with SBC Pioneers, General Motors Powertrain with the UAW, The Dow Chemical Company, Catholic Churches of Saginaw County, Lutheran Churches, United Methodist Churches and the ecumenical groups Church Workers United and African American Christian Unity. Each sponsor pledges a minimum \$25,000 toward the cost of construction and recruits and schedules all the volunteers.

Pepsi Bottling Group returns for its sixth year as exclusive beverage provider and Food Tent Sponsor.

Saginaw City Councilman Amos O'Neal succeeds Mayor Wilmer Jones Ham as Honorary Blitz Chairperson.

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing and homelessness. In August, HFHI will dedicate its 200,000th house in its 29-year history worldwide. Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated 114 houses since its founding in 1987, with five more currently under construction. Donations are tax-deductible.

Skilled volunteers as well as coordinators are still needed for this year's blitz build. Please contact the Saginaw Habitat for Humanity office at (989) 753-5200 or visit the website, [www.saginawhfh.org](http://www.saginawhfh.org) to volunteer, or for any questions.

