

NEWS RELEASE

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

Habitat Announces Groundbreaking for 10th Annual Blitz Build

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for Saginaw's 10th annual Habitat for Humanity blitz build begins with a prayer and a song at 9:00 am Saturday, April 22, 2005 at the corner of Cornelia 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.

Five homes are planned for the June 9-24 build: two in the Cathedral District area, site of the 1998, 1999, and 2005 blitz builds; one on South 15th, site of the 2004 blitz build; and two houses on Saginaw's west side, one on Webster and one on Barnard. Over 1,000 volunteers are expected for construction and support. This blitz build will see the completion of Habitat for Humanity Houses #132-#136 in Saginaw County.

Returning house sponsors include General Motors Powertrain with the UAW, Catholic Churches of Saginaw County, Lutheran Churches, United Methodist Churches and the ecumenical groups Church Workers United and African American Christian Unity. St. Mary's of Michigan Medical Center is the site sponsor. Each sponsor pledges a minimum \$30,000 toward the cost of construction and recruits and schedules all the volunteers.

Pepsi Bottling Group returns for its seventh year as exclusive beverage provider.

Erica Donerson and Katie O'Mara from WNEM-TV5 are this year's honorary chairpersons.

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing and homelessness. HFHI has dedicated over 200,000 houses worldwide in its 30-year history. Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated 129 houses since its founding in 1987, with two 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 to volunteer, or for any questions.