

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cameron Brady, 753-5200

Saginaw County Medical Society partners with Habitat for Humanity and Delta College

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity will hold a ground blessing ceremony at 1725 Ribble on Friday, September 8, at 9:00am to bless the ground and begin construction of a shed and other preliminaries for a house wall-raising on Monday, September 25. This house will be built one block south of two other Habitat houses whose walls were raised on September 11, 2002. The ceremony begins with prayer at 8:30 a.m.

The Saginaw County Medical Society (SCMS) has raised \$30,375 toward the effort, and volunteers will assist with some construction beginning Friday, September 26. At least 20 physicians are expected to help with construction. Delta College building trades students will complete the house.

Primary contact with the SCMS is through Dianne Schutt, 790-3590.

Three other Habitat houses are currently under construction in Saginaw County in partnership with school building trades classes from Saginaw Career Complex (House #139, 1822 Burnham—Saginaw) and Carrollton High School (House #140, 428 Mapleridge—Carrollton) and a first-time collaboration with Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation and Dow Corning Corporation (House #137, 3280 Bluebird—Bridgeport).

Local schools have built 37 of SHFH's 136 houses. "We are seeking additional community support to continue these programs. The school partnerships are important to Habitat's mission in Saginaw County," said SHFH executive director Paul Warriner. "A deserving family will purchase a simple decent home, construction students get hands-on experience and learn the spirit of volunteering, and another neighborhood is improved."

Habitat's Annual Auction Fund-raiser to benefit the School Building Trades program is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25 at the Germania Town & Country Club. Last year's event took in \$11,000.

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing and homelessness. HFHI has built over 200,000 houses in its 30-year history. Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated 136 houses since its founding in 1987. Donations are tax-deductible.

Skilled volunteers as well as coordinators are still needed for construction and support. Please contact the Saginaw Habitat for Humanity office at (989) 753-5200 to volunteer, or for any questions.