

NEWS RELEASE

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

Habitat for Humanity agrees to donate former party store to church

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity (SHFH) agreed to donate a former party store to the Burk Church of the Nazarene. The building, at the corner of Sheridan and Atwater in Saginaw's Cathedral District, once sold beer, wine and cigarettes. New plans call for church-run youth programs in a neighborhood setting.

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity executive director Paul Warriner saw an opportunity and seized it. "The party store was included on the list of properties offered at a DNR auction," said Warriner. "We always want to look for ways to improve the neighborhoods where we build, and I saw this clearly as an opportunity." The former properties owners were delinquent on their taxes, leading to inclusion on the DNR list. Despite an SEV of \$30,300 Habitat paid a mere \$300 for the building and its fixtures then evicted the party store.

"We want to thank Habitat for Humanity for their donation. It is a blessing for us to receive this property and use it toward making progress in the community on the East Side of Saginaw," said Burk Memorial Church of the Nazarene Pastor George Carole.

The donation coincides with the launch of SHFH's Neighborhood Improvement Program and Home Repair Program. Habitat will work with neighborhood associations and individual homeowners to improve properties and eliminate blight. "Our mission calls for us to build, renovate and repair housing with communities and families in need," said Warriner. "It also calls for us to be good stewards of donor resources." Families will pay only for the cost of materials and professional labor, where needed, with Habitat's typical no-interest loans. Partner families and volunteers will continue to do the bulk of the work.

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing and homelessness. HFHI has built over 225,000 houses in its 30-year history. Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated 144 houses since its founding in 1987. Donations are tax-deductible.

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