From: Habitat Sarasota
To: Laurie Colton;
Subject: Habitat for Humanity Updates
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HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY SARASOTA

August 20, 2007

E-News - Volume 4

Dear Laurie ,

Last week I accompanied a reporter and photographer from the *Herald Tribune* on a "walk the dirt tour" led by Habitat Sarasota's executive director, Mike Jacobson. The aptly-named tour is our in-depth answer to the frequently-asked-question, "what is Habitat going to be working on next?"

Walking the dirt with Mike is an eye-opening journey that takes you from the rubble of a former public housing complex just north of downtown, to a paved parking lot next to the Greyhound race track off University Avenue, to various empty lots in Newtown. For me, the most jarring part of the tour is a drive down two county roads nestled inside Habitat-owned property on Leonard Reid Avenue. There are several houses on those unfinished roads that you would not believe exist in Sarasota. Advertised in the classifieds as "two bedroom homes on a quiet street", they are nothing more than shacks in the middle of overgrown, under-developed property.

The landlords have thankfully sold these buildings to Habitat. Beyond repair, they will be torn down, and in their place Habitat will build houses that are not only affordable, but safe, decent and beautiful, owned by the families that live in them. This is the heart of Habitat's mission around the world - to eradicate substandard housing.

As we move ahead with our future projects, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a "walk the dirt tour". We hope you'll join us for the tour and will continue to join us in our mission of building homes with families in need.

Sincerely,

Laurie Colton
Communications Director
Habitat for Humanity Sarasota

Habitat Properties Update

"Walk the dirt tour" preview - where, when and what are we building? *

Central Avenue

- Located on Central Avenue between 20th and 21st Streets
- 7 eco-friendly homes
- Building to begin in 2007

Training for volunteers provided. Dates to be announced.

24th Street

- 12 front porch-style townhomes designed by Home Front Homes
- Energy efficient panelized construction tested to the highest wind-resistance standards
- Building to begin in 2008

"Puppy Park"

- 16.5 acre site located next to the Sarasota Kennel Club off of DeSoto Road
- Proposed 230-townhome, master-planned community by Carl Abbott FAIA Architect / Planner PA
- On-site community center with early childhood education center provided by Children First
- Building to begin in 2008

Cohen Way

- Located between Lemon Avenue and Central Avenue in the Rosemary District
- 75-condominium unit, mixed-income community developed by Habitat Sarasota in partnership with Lion's Gate Development and The Proscenium
- Building to begin in 2009/2010

Leonard Reid

- 15 acres of assembled property bordered by Martin Luther King Way, 32nd Street, Leonard Reid Avenue and Newtown Estates
- Up to 195 homes "green built"
- Mixed-income, multifamily community built in partnership with Goodwill Manasota's GoodHomes Program
- On-site Children First early childhood education center
- Building to begin 2009

Home-Ownership Portion of Public Housing Redevelopment

- Partnership with Michael's Development Corporation, the developer of the Sarasota

Public Housing Redevelopment Project
- Approximately 100 homes built by Habitat Sarasota throughout Newtown
- Building to begin in 2010

Payne Park

- Up to 100 affordable condominiums
- Partnership with Quincy Investments
- Close to hospital - ideal location for critical health-care staff

**** building schedules based on August, 2007 projections***

Volunteer News

A busy Saturday at Habitat Sarasota

A big thank you to student volunteers from **Cardinal Mooney High School** and **Ringling College of Art and Design** who spent the last Saturday of their summer vacation volunteering with Habitat for Humanity Sarasota. Over 50 student athletes from Cardinal Mooney divided into two teams - one group working at our **Jordan's Crossing** community, the other at **Beacon Place** where they assisted current Habitat home owners with their neighborhood clean-up day.

A dozen and a half incoming Ringling students converged on the Habitat outlet and furntiure stores to work on special projects, much to the delight of Habitat staff **Larry Stephens** and **Greg St. George**.

Both groups of students have made volunteering at Habitat a tradition over the last couple of years. Cardinal Mooney's community service coordinator, **Scott Scheur** had noticed that many student athletes were having trouble fitting required community service hours into an already packed academic and athletic schedule. To motivate the students to volunteer, he and the coaches decided to substitute a morning practice with volunteer work. Volunteering with Habitat, they were still sure to get a work-out!

Thanks also, to the on-going crew of **ReHabitat** volunteers. The **Everett Family** home, featured several times in the local news, was almost finished when I stopped by on Saturday to get a photo of Mr. Everett and all the volunteers in front of his home. Habitat director of constrution, **Dean Shelton,** estimates that the Everett home will be complete next Saturday!

Church of the Palms has provided sponsorship funds and regular volunteers throughout the course of this extensive rehab. Look for a ReHabitat update with before and after photos in our next e-letter!

Interested in joining our team of volunteers? Visit the volunteer page on our website or contact **Richard** at rcurcio@sarasotahabitat.com or 365-0700 to learn more.

Keep in mind that with future building projects, some of the construction volunteer jobs may change, but the jobs will remain volunteer-friendly and Habitat will provide training along the way.

Hammers and Hope

Have you watched our newest Habitat video, Hammers and Hope? Listen to home owner stories, hear about our history and get a glimpse of our future. Check it out on our home page at www.sarasotahabitat.com.

And ... Sarasota's gala season is almost here. Save the date for Habitat's **2nd Annual Hammers and Hope Celebration Dinner**, scheduled for March 27, 2008 at the Municipal Auditorium.

Habitat for Humanity Sarasota

We appreciate your interest in Habitat for Humanity Sarasota and invite you to visit our website. CONTACT US for further information. To continue receiving our newsletter in your mailbox (and not in your junk folder), please add lcolton@sarasotahabitat.com to your address book or safe sender list.

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