



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 22, 2009

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Habitat for Humanity of the MS Gulf Coast: Saving Money, Saving Energy Biloxi, MS January, 2009 – Habitat for Humanity of the Mississippi Gulf Coast (HFHMGC) has begun the construction of ENERGY STAR approved homes, helping families avoid the costs of wasted energy. This initiative will cut excess waste through the use of simple construction techniques designed to increase home performance, as well as through the installation of ENERGY STAR rated appliances.

Energy is wasted every day because of flaws in the structural design of buildings, along with appliances that consume extravagant amounts of electricity. This wasted energy can be a major pressure on the pocket books of low-income families, who, according to Habitat for Humanity Int'l, can spend over 15% of their income on utilities needed for their house to operate.

Fortunately, these malfunctions are easily remedied through basic alterations in construction methods and the use of energy-friendly appliances.

Airtight seals around windows, doors, and exterior walls, investments in efficient windows, light fixtures, and appliances, and the conservation of water through low-flow plumbing fixtures will ensure the cost of living in the home will be reduced while the comfort of living in the home is increased.

Habitat for Humanity International began a partnership with Building America, an industry driven research program, back in 1995. This brought Building America – Industrialized Housing Project (BAIHP) into the design and manufacture of Habitat homes. Because of BAIHP's interest in high performance homes, the collaboration is paving the way for cost-effective, ENERGY STAR endorsed products to be incorporated into the homes of Habitat for Humanity.

HFHMGC has completed one ENERGY STAR home at 2201 21st St. in Gulfport, MS.

Beginning this spring, HFHMGC will only build homes that meet or exceed ENERGY STAR standards.

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Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Gulf Coast (HFHMGC)

In January of 2007 Harrison County HFH and HFH of Jackson county merged organizations to form HFH of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. HFHMGC serves Harrison, Jackson and Stone counties. Over 250 homes are under construction or completed since the merger. To learn how you can help, visit www.hfhmgc.org

ENERGY STAR & Building America

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

Building America is an industry driven research program designed to accelerate the development and adoption of advanced building energy technologies in new and existing homes.

