

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Habitat for Humanity Newark Dedicates Five Homes on June 2<sup>nd</sup> Enriching Five Families and Expanding a Community***

**Newark, NJ-** Five beautiful new homes will be dedicated on Saturday, June 2, 2007 by *Habitat for Humanity Newark* in a ceremony beginning at 10:30 AM along the 200 block of Fairmont Avenue in the Central Ward. The event will be followed by a reception. The five single-family homes represent Habitat Newark's 59<sup>th</sup> through 63<sup>rd</sup> residences built in partnership with a vast community of volunteers and homeowners. The public, friends, neighbors, elected officials, Habitat Board, staff and volunteers will join the five new homeowners in celebration.

These homes were sponsored by families and churches. The Gardner Family and friends of the late Jeff Gardner raised the funds to build a home in honor of Jeff who was a regular volunteer at Habitat Newark and who lost his life on 9/11 in the attack on the World Trade Center. The Conk Family House was sponsored by this family whose late parents afforded them a wonderful home environment and who inspired their children to "pay it forward" through donating the money and many hours of volunteering at the construction site. Habitat's 5<sup>th</sup> Faith House was sponsored by many different faith communities in Essex County. The congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair and St. Cassian Roman Catholic Church of Upper Montclair individually sponsored the \$90,000 per house needed to purchase the materials to build two homes. The churches also sent many volunteers who contributed hundreds of hours building. A second home sponsored by St Cassian members is still in construction and will be dedicated later this year.

*Habitat for Humanity Newark* has helped to redevelop neighborhoods in the City's Central and West Wards which once had many vacant lots and abandoned houses. When driving or walking through this area, one can see that most of the streets are lined with lovely new homes and that the neighborhood has been greatly improved by the proud new homeowners who have created a strong community over the past two decades in partnership with *Habitat for Humanity Newark*. The dedication ceremony symbolizes the culmination of the efforts of many people from all walks of life who have come together to build homes, hope and community and celebrate this joyous event.

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*Habitat for Humanity Newark* invites volunteers to help build houses Wednesday through Saturday or to volunteer in other capacities with its many committees or in the Habitat office located at 298 South Orange Avenue. Volunteers work alongside the construction staff and Partner Families who are required to contribute a minimum of 400 hours of “sweat equity” to become Habitat Homeowners.

Additionally, corporate and individual donations to *Habitat for Humanity Newark* are being sought to ensure funding for more houses slated to be built in Phases 6 & 7 of development. Presently, Habitat is in need of more lots in order to continue its work in Newark. Mail tax-deductible contributions to *Habitat for Humanity, Newark*, PO Box 3246, Newark, NJ 07103.