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### **Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver 2006 Home Builders Blitz Backgrounder**

**June 10, 2006** - AURORA - Habitat for Humanity, a national homeownership nonprofit dedicated to building and selling decent and affordable homes in partnership with low-income families, is hosting a nationwide building bonanza, the week of June 3, 2006. The initiative aims to construct more than 400 homes in seven days, with the help of 1,000 professional homebuilders. These homes will be sold to hard-working families in need of decent and affordable homes with a no-interest loan.

Locally, 15 professional homebuilders will construct 15 homes in just 7 days in a mixed-income community called New Bridge at Tollgate Crossing in Aurora. In addition to the homebuilders, 400 companies are contributing materials, resources, labor and/or skills to make this build a reality. It's an incredible show of support for building quality, affordable housing in the metro Denver community!

The Home Builders Blitz will kick off with all 15 homebuilders raising the first walls of the homes on Saturday, June 3rd at 7:00 am. The homes will be completed by the following Saturday, June 10th, and a Dedication and Celebration ceremony will take place at 2:00 pm with families cutting the ribbons on their newly completed homes.

#### **About The Home Builders Blitz in Colorado**

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver and 15 Colorado home builders are participating in the 2006 Home Builders Blitz and will be building 15 houses in Tollgate Crossing, a Habitat for Humanity community in Aurora. The builders are responsible for the entire project, from obtaining funding, to planning, to building the homes. The builders also solicit donations of money, materials and labor to deliver the home at no cost to Habitat for Humanity. The 2006 Home Builders Blitz builders are: Amber Homes, Austin Signature Homes, K & D Holdings in partnership with All Trades Services, Dimensions, Inc., KZ Smith and Company, McStain Neighborhoods (building two Habitat homes), Monterra Homes, New Town Builders, Palace Construction, Pulte Homes, Renaissance Homes of Colorado, Sattler Homes, Summit Chalet Properties and Wonderland Homes.

#### **The Homes**

Habitat for Humanity and Braun & Yoshida Architects designed the homes to be durable, attractive, energy efficient, compatible with market-rate homes and constructed by volunteers. The single-unit detached homes range from 950 to 1,350 square feet and feature three distinct architectural styles including Craftsman, Denver Square and Farmhouse. The homes will be sold to Habitat families with no-interest loans.

#### **The Neighborhood**

The Home Builders Blitz is taking place at Tollgate Crossing, a new 300-home community by New Town Builders located near E-470 and Quincy in Aurora. For the first time in metro Denver, the Habitat for Humanity homes are being built in a new, market-rate subdivision. An anonymous donor donated 54 lots to Habitat for Humanity. The Builders Blitz is using 15 of these lots, with the remaining 39 lots to be built by Habitat volunteers over the next three years. Tollgate Crossing is located in the Cherry Creek School District.

#### **The Families**

Habitat for Humanity sells homes to hardworking families in need of safe, decent and affordable housing with an interest-free rate. Because mortgage payments are set at only 25 percent of the homeowners' gross monthly income, families have more income to spend on important needs other than housing. The homeowners go through a rigorous screening process and spend between 250 and 500 hours helping to build their home. They come from all walks of life, but all have the same goal – to build a better life for their family.

**Rocio and Victor Mejia:** “Our daughters only have a small concrete patio to play in. A yard will be wonderful for them!” Many families live in apartments or in areas where it’s too dangerous, typically because of gangs and crime, for their children to play outside.

**Alaa Mohamed:** Mohamed, a refugee from Sudan, holds a degree in economics from the University of Sudan and works as a grocery store clerk. His wife is a child care worker. “Owning a home is a dream for us. We are so grateful for everyone’s generosity – we know we are being given a big chance.”

**Alicia Perez:** Perez is a single mom with two young children. She works as a hospital aide and hopes to become a nurse in the future. Like most of the families chosen for the Builder Blitz, she is looking forward to the stability of owning her own home and living in one place. “The most exciting thing for me is knowing that my children will go to the same school and be a part of the same neighborhood for years to come.”

**Anjelina Trujillo:** “My children will benefit so much from being in the same school system year after year, and especially one as good as Cherry Creek Schools. I look forward to really being part of a neighborhood and a community.”

**Becky Madison:** Madison works the graveyard shift at a girls counseling center. “Being able to afford a decent home in a nice neighborhood, or kids’ sports activities, or church summer camp, or even a small savings for family vacations are things that some people don’t think twice about – but for us means actually living life, and not just existing in it while the world passes us by. The day that we move into our new Habitat home will be just like walking right into the very first day of the rest of our lives!”

For more information about the 2006 Builder Blitz visit [www.HabitatMetroDenver.org](http://www.HabitatMetroDenver.org).

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