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### Amber Homes Steps Up (Again) For a Great Cause

**March 06, 2006** - Aurora - Amber Homes Purchasing Manager Tom Krause laughed when he first heard the idea of building a home in seven days. But then again, Krause and his coworkers at the Aurora-based home building company love a challenge.

That's why Amber Homes agreed to join 13 other metro-area builders in constructing a total of 15 new homes in seven days at Tollgate Crossing in Aurora. They are participating in Habitat for Humanity's Home Builders Blitz, a simultaneous nationwide event during which 1,000 new homes will be built between June 3rd and 10th, 2006.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that builds decent, affordable homes in partnership with low-income families. Qualified families make a down payment and also contribute 250-500 hours of labor to help build their home as well as the homes of other Habitat families. Their monthly mortgage payments help fund more Habitat homes.

Becky Madison and her four children will be moving into the house that Amber Homes builds. Becky works the graveyard shift as a counselor for teenage girls at Excelsior Youth Center in Aurora, home schools two of her sons, and is working toward a bachelor's degree in social work.

"We feel blessed to know and work with people like Becky and her family," said Linda Harmon, who, along with her husband Jim, owns Amber Homes. "She is working hard to improve her life and the lives of her kids. This home will help give her family the security and space they need to make their journey a bit easier."

Amber Homes employees agree that working with Habitat for Humanity is a worthwhile, rewarding endeavor. But building a home in *seven days*?

"I think it can be done. I think it will be pretty neat," Krause said, adding that project superintendents won't be getting much sleep that week.

"Everyone's going to have to bring an army of labor to get this done," he mused.

Krause gives a lot of credit to Amber Homes' reliable subcontractors and suppliers, who have stepped up to donate thousands of dollars worth of materials for the home.

Roughly 40 different companies are contributing to the effort. Hope Lumber, for example, is donating all framing materials. BMC West is providing roof trusses and Stock Building Supply is contributing all interior trim.

"Our subcontractors and suppliers are the best," he said. "They are as enthusiastic as we are about giving back to the community."

The Habitat project is only one of the ways Amber Homes gets involved in the larger community. The company built the first "Inspiration House," donating profits from the sale of a home to the Home Builders Foundation, which provides housing accessibility and other services for victims of crime, accidents and disease. Every Christmas, employees rally together to provide clothing and toys for needy families. And Jim and Linda Harmon were named Child Advocates of the Year by the Denver Children's Advocacy Center for their work on behalf of abused children.

Linda Harmon is grateful to – and inspired by – the employees, subcontractors and suppliers who come through time after time to put so much effort into Amber Homes' various

charitable endeavors.

“It’s a wonderful experience to work with people who think beyond the office and job site,” she said. “Even though it often means more work, they’re always offering suggestions and volunteering to help above and beyond their job descriptions.”

For more information about Amber Homes’ charitable projects or any of its seven communities, call (303) 671-5556.

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