

**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: January 16, 2007  
Contact: Steve Haggerty, Executive Director, Capital District Habitat for Humanity  
Office (518) 462-2993; Cell (518) 257-6343

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COMMITS TO BUILD 8 HOMES  
IN THE CITY OF ALBANY IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS**

**Non-Profit Seeks Families to Purchase Habitat Homes in South End**

As Capital District Habitat for Humanity winds down its efforts in the North Albany neighborhood of Broadway and Emmet Street, it has set its sights on the South End for the next major revitalization project.

Through a partnership begun in 2003 with the City and County of Albany with the donation of buildable lots, Habitat has built 13 affordable homes in North Albany for low income families. Three more are currently under construction and a fourth is being planned before Habitat fully shifts its resources to the South End. Habitat was able to leverage the donated parcels into sponsorship dollars, large volumes of volunteer labor, and innumerable in-kind gifts of service and materials to build the homes so that 18 families who would otherwise not have been able to afford a home are paying taxes on these vacated parcels while thriving in a neighborhood revitalized by the capital district community's efforts.

As a member of the South End Action Committee, Habitat's Executive Director, Steve Haggerty has been actively engaged in plans to revitalize the South End and met with representatives from the City and the Albany Housing Authority (AHA) specifically regarding Habitat's commitment to revitalize this area. "I have recently brought back to the full board of directors the information and a plan garnered from these efforts, and the board voted recently to support the plan for building in the South End," said Mr. Haggerty. This endeavor can only be accomplished through the replication of the model for revitalization endeavored in North Albany.

Habitat is actively seeking partners to support efforts to build 8 homes in the South End in the next 12 months. It is also seeking to connect with families who are interested in purchasing a Habitat Home.

**Capital District Habitat for Humanity will hold 3 information sessions.** Anyone who would like to find out if they are eligible for a Habitat Home is welcome. Applications will be taken.

**January 27th – 9:30am**  
**Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 58 Alexander Street, Albany, NY 12202**

**January 29<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm**  
**New Horizons**  
**146 Catherine Street, Albany, NY 12202**

**February 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm**  
**Union Baptist Church**  
**3 Morton Ave, Albany, NY 12202**

Historically, Habitat would seek partners to sponsor the construction costs of \$75,000 to build a home. That sponsorship could be in the form of cash or in-kind donations of building material and services. Simply, to build 8 homes Habitat would need to secure \$600,000 dollars. However through recently formed partnerships with two lending institutions (the Capital District Community Loan Fund and First Niagara Bank) Habitat is prepared to construct the 8 homes at a cost to sponsors of only \$280,000 dollars. Habitat will continue to partner with the homeowner families and manage their mortgages at zero percent interest, but the principal payment will pay back the long term loan rather than be reinvested in construction or used for operating costs.

The onus is now on the affiliate to identify alternative revenue streams to support operations and remain viable. “It is why we have worked so hard to establish the ReStore,” explained Steve Haggerty, Executive Director, “...and why we will need to work hard to identify new streams of unrestricted revenue,” he continued. The Habitat ReStore solicits new and used building materials and what it cannot use in its own construction is sold to the public at significantly discounted prices. The ReStore is located at 696 Delaware Avenue and is open Fridays and Saturdays from 9-2.

Individuals, civic organizations, faith based groups, and business and government partnerships are what makes Habitat capable to fulfill its mission. Anyone interested in more information can contact Habitat at 462-2993, or visit the website at [www.capitaldistricthabitat.org](http://www.capitaldistricthabitat.org).