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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Event and Photo Opportunity
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SPRING BREAK WITH HABITAT

More than 35 students will call Harrisburg home as work on Habitat homes as part of the Collegiate Challenge

Spring break is usually a time for fun in the sun and for taking a break from school. For a few dozen students, this year's spring break will be spent here in Harrisburg helping Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area eliminate poverty housing. The students are participants of Collegiate Challenge, a Habitat for Humanity program that provides year-round opportunities for youth to use their vacations to help build homes.

Between now and March 20th, more than 35 students from the northeastern United States will call Harrisburg home while working on homes for Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area. This week, students from the Worcester Poly Technical Institute in Worcester, MA, and next week, a group from the Avon Old Farms School in Avon, CT, will work at Habitat sites in the City of Harrisburg.

"This is a special group of people to give up their time to help make someone's life better," said Antron Watson, Project Administrator for Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area. Watson first became involved with Habitat as a collegiate challenge member as an undergraduate at Temple University. "I really enjoyed my time with collegiate challenge. It is nice to know that these volunteers are making a difference by coming to our community and helping families obtain safe, affordable homes."

Locally, Habitat for Humanity will also lean on some local neighbors to help make these two weeks successful. The Crosspoint United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, First Church of God in Harrisburg, Second United Church of Christ and Eric Bartholomew are all providing either sleeping space or food during their stay in Harrisburg.

This spring break marks the 20th anniversary of the Collegiate Challenge program, and more than 12,000 students will travel to 200 locations to build houses through the program. Throughout its 20-year history, more than 166,000 students have participated in Collegiate Challenge, raising more than \$15.5 million. This year alone, Collegiate Challenge participants will contribute \$1.8 million.

(more)

Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area is an ecumenical ministry that welcomes all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Through volunteer labor, tax deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat for Humanity builds new homes, rehabs and repairs homes and provides educational workshops. Homes are sold to partner families at no profit and with no-interest mortgages. Since its inception in 1986, the Harrisburg area affiliate has built 50 houses in the Harrisburg, PA area providing simple, decent and affordable homes with families in need. For more information, visit www.harrisburghabitat.org or contact the Habitat office at 545-7299.

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NOTE: If anyone is interested in an interview or would like to get photos or video at the sites, please contact Mark Mattern to arrange.

The Official registration and financial information of Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area
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