



National Women Build Week

Sponsored by Lowe's

PRESS RELEASE

LOCAL WOMEN BUILDING HOUSES AS PART OF NATIONWIDE MOTHER'S DAY HABITAT INITIATIVE

Local Women Answer Challenge from Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's and Help to Eliminate Poverty Housing during National Women Build Week, May 1 – 9

BRIDGEPORT, CT, April 30, 2010 – In the days leading up to Mother's Day, more than 200 construction crews of women volunteers across the country are pounding nails and raising walls at Habitat for Humanity construction sites in all 50 states in recognition of National Women Build Week, May 1 – 9. Today, in Bridgeport, local women volunteers are taking up tools and building materials to work on the Hunter family's new home.

Developed through the partnership between Lowe's and Habitat for Humanity, National Women Build Week challenges women to devote one day to the effort to eliminate poverty housing. The event is an initiative of Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program, underwritten by Lowe's, which recruits, educates and nurtures women to build and advocate for simple, decent and affordable houses in their communities.

Grammy-award-winning gospel recording artist and radio morning show host Yolanda Adams and *New York Times* best-selling author Julie Edelman are helping launch National Women Build Week. Adams built with local women in Houston on April 29, while Edelman, author of "The Accidental Housewife: How to Overcome Housekeeping Hysteria One Task at a Time" and "The Ultimate Accidental Housewife: Your Guide to a CLEAN-ENOUGH House," is building May 4 and 5 with women volunteers in Paterson, N.J.

Approximately 20 women, including Lowe's Milford employees, will help build the walls for the Hunter family home in Habitat CFC's new panel shop at 1542 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport. This is part of the affiliate's Operations Center, which combines administrative and construction offices under one roof, creating a more efficient work environment. Habitat CFC expects that this home will be completed before Christmas so that the Hunter family, now living separately, can come together again as a family for the holidays.

"Women Build 7 already has incredible momentum," notes Marie Orsini Rosen, Habitat CFC's Chief Development Officer. "They not only have raised awareness about the Habitat story but also have raised significant revenue. Along the way, they've learned the skills necessary to help eliminate poverty housing in Coastal Fairfield County. They really know how to swing a hammer, too!"

Lowe's is providing Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County a \$5,000 Lowe's store gift card, as well as in-store volunteer training, in support of this one-day build. Nationwide, Lowe's committed more than \$1 million to National Women Build Week, providing grants and event support materials to 200 participating affiliates. This is a major initiative of Lowe's five-year, \$20 million pledge to Habitat, a

commitment including underwriting of the Women Build program, as well as providing construction know-how at in-store clinics and build sites, and funding for a variety of Habitat projects across the country.

“Lowe’s has been the proud sponsor of Habitat’s Women Build program since 2004. This innovative program encourages women from all walks of life to pick up their hammers and build homes alongside Habitat partner families,” said Larry D. Stone, Lowe’s president and COO and chairman of the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation. “2010 marks the third anniversary of National Women Build Week. Lowe’s salutes the more than 11,000 engaged women who have volunteered on Habitat jobsites across the U.S. during National Women Build Week to help bring an end to poverty housing.”

About Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County (HFHCFC) is an independently run, local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing wherever it exists. With each year that goal moves closer to becoming a reality. In their 25th year, HFHCFC will reach a “150 homes built” milestone serving nearly 700 people in Bridgeport and Stratford. Currently, staff, volunteers and families are working diligently to complete Habitat’s Historic Landmark Renovation of 235-257 William Street at the corner of Barnum Avenue in Bridgeport and HFHCFC has begun site work for eight townhouses in Stamford. Also, the affiliate has helped to rebuild the Gulf Coast, sending teams of volunteers and funding to fully sponsor two homes there. As a housing ministry, Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County seeks to build community and improve lives by partnering with low-income families in need of a place to live and with community volunteers to build simple, decent, safe and affordable neighborhoods. In order to fulfill its mission HFHCFC needs funding, partners, families, volunteers, land and materials. For more information, please visit www.habitatcfc.org or contact Director of Development, Wendy Ann Hrynewski at 203 333-2642 ext. 108 or whrynewski@habitatcfc.org.

About Lowe’s

Lowe’s is a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity International, American Red Cross, SkillsUSA/Skills Canada, and The Nature Conservancy, in addition to numerous non-profit organizations and programs that help communities in North America. In 2009, Lowe’s and the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation together contributed more than \$30 million to support community and education projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Lowe’s also encourages volunteerism through the Lowe’s Heroes program, a company-wide employee volunteer initiative. Lowe’s is a FORTUNE® 50 company with fiscal year 2009 sales of \$47.2 billion and has more than 1,700 stores in the United States, Canada and Mexico. For more information, visit Lowe.com/community.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org.