



## Women to Celebrate Women's History Month by Raising the Walls of a Richmond Habitat for Humanity House

**RICHMOND, VA** (January 14, 2008) - Women volunteers will raise the walls of a house in Richmond Habitat's new 17 home subdivision on Angus Road in the City of Richmond. Construction is scheduled to kickoff on March 1, 2008 in celebration of Women's History Month. Richmond Habitat's Women Build program challenges women to come together to build a better future for the children of our community and a legacy of volunteerism for their own children. Women can actively address the problem of substandard housing and be a part of the solution - one house, one family at a time.

Richmond Habitat's Women Build is being spearheaded by two local women's networking groups, River City Express Network (RCEN) and The Network of Enterprising Women (NEW). Cindy Mims, VP of SunTrust Bank and a member of RCEN, and Margaret Hill, Executive Director of Hanover Education Foundation and the immediate past-president of NEW, will co-chair the steering committee to raise the \$65,000 needed to fund the Women Build project. SunTrust Bank, a proud partner of RCEN, has contributed \$5,000 on behalf of the women in RCEN. The Network of Enterprising Women has also donated \$2,000 as seed money for the project.

The women are building the home with Donna Finney, Habitat homeowner partner and single mother of 5 children. Like all Richmond Habitat homeowners, the Finney family will buy their house through low payments on a 0% interest loan. The family will also contribute 350 hours of "sweat equity" by working on their home alongside volunteers.

Nationally, women make up 50 percent of Habitat's volunteer force, yet women account for only 15 percent of volunteers actively doing construction. By involving more women in construction, Women Build projects enable Richmond Habitat to build more homes with families in need.

"More than 12 million children - one out of every six - live in poverty in the United States alone," says Leisha G. LaRiviere, executive director of Richmond Habitat. "Richmond Habitat is literally putting the tools into women's hands that enable us to move families out of substandard housing and into decent and affordable homes."

The 5 bedroom, 1800 square foot house will be fully handicapped accessible and will be built in compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Women Build will take place in a "blitz style" with the majority of the house construction taking place in the first two weeks of March. Approximately 25 women will volunteer from Tuesday - Saturday in the "blitz build" phase of construction. All finishing work on the home will occur the last two weeks of March. Approximately 15 volunteers will be needed Wednesday - Saturday for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week to complete construction. The house dedication is expected to take place at the end of March.

Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity (RMHFH), an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, is a nonprofit organization that works with all God's people to eliminate poverty housing. RMHFH brings together people with resources and people in need to build simple, decent, affordable homes. The houses are sold to low to moderately low income

families at no profit. Richmond Habitat was founded in 1986 and has built over 296 homes in the 5 jurisdictions it serves, including the city of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Chesterfield, New Kent and Charles City.

Join the 400 women volunteers needed to build the new home this March in celebration of Women's History Month. To volunteer on Women Build, contact Robin Smith, [robin@e-sourceva.com](mailto:robin@e-sourceva.com), 804-897-8292

For in-kind donations of construction materials and services, contact Lin C. Gregory, [lin@richmondhabitat.org](mailto:lin@richmondhabitat.org), 804-232-7001, ext. 104.

To make a cash contribution to Women Build, click on our donate page and use the convenient and secure PayPal electronic order form below to make your donation make a contribution through PayPal. Or, send a check to [Richmond Habitat Women Build](#), 2281 Dabney Road, Suite A, Richmond, VA 23230.

# # #