

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland to break ground on a four house neighborhood in Portland**  
*HFHGP, the 2008 Portland Interfaith Steering Committee, the Build it Green Committee, Hancock Lumber and Bank of America host a ceremonial groundbreaking on Demerest Street Ext.*

[Portland, ME][Date]- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland (HFHGP) staff, volunteers, and sponsors will hold a ceremonial groundbreaking for four houses on Demerest St. Extension on Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. The ceremony will honor the many donors and partners responsible for turning this ambitious dream into a reality. House sponsors include: Bank of America, Hancock Lumber, HFHGP 2008 Portland Interfaith Build Committee, and the HFHGP Build It Green Committee.

Representatives from the Maine State Housing Authority, the City of Portland, and spokespersons for each of the projects will be offering comments at the groundbreaking celebration. Leaders from various faith communities throughout Portland will offer opening and closing blessings for the event.

HFHGP was recently notified by Bank of America that it had been selected to receive a full house sponsorship donation of \$120,000. This represents the largest single donation our organization has ever received. In addition to their generous monetary donation they have committed 100 Bank of America employees to volunteer their time on various build sites throughout greater Portland on Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Their hope is to set a precedent that will encourage other corporations and businesses to make similar commitments to HFHGP in the future.

The HFHGP 2008 Portland Interfaith Build Committee will be partnering with Hancock Lumber to sponsor HFHGP's 50<sup>th</sup> house. The HFHGP 2008 Portland Interfaith Build Committee includes representatives from several diverse faith groups in the Portland community that are collaborating to raise the funds and materials necessary to build this home. Hancock Lumber sponsors one house each year, by donating all the building materials for an entire home.

The Build It Green Steering Committee was formed to assist HFHGP with the design and construction of the affiliate's first LEED certified homes. This project has been endorsed by Maine State Housing Authority, Maine Indoor Air Quality Council, Portland Trails, U.S. Green Building Council, Hancock Lumber, Efficiency Maine, and GrowSmart Maine. One of the primary goals of this project is to serve as a model for an affordable "green" home for HFHGP as well as other builders. This represents possibly the first LEED Certified *affordable* home in New England. While two houses have been designated as "green" builds, all four homes will be built using green building practices.

"Years ago we realized that building one house at a time would not put a dent in the affordable housing problem," said Steve Bolton, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland, "so we knew we had to look for larger lots that would accommodate small subdivisions or denser build outs. The lot on Demerest St. was perfect for us."

In order to build these four houses a complete road, built to City of Portland standards needs to be constructed. Thanks to the team of Key Bank, RJ Grondin & Sons, Maine State Housing Authority, Sebago Technics, Bernstein Shur and the City of Portland road construction is underway.

#### **About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland**

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland, an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, is a non-profit Christian organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Habitat brings people and resources together to build simple, decent, affordable homes. These houses are then sold to partner families at no-profit through a no-interest loan. HFHGP was founded in 1985 and has built 46 houses in Cumberland County.

The ultimate goal of Habitat for Humanity is to eliminate poverty housing homelessness from the face of the earth by constructing and building adequate and basic housing. Furthermore, all our words and actions are for the ultimate purpose of putting shelter on the hearts and minds of people in such a powerful way that poverty housing and homelessness become socially, politically and religiously unacceptable in our nations and world.