



NEWS RELEASE

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VIDEO AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

HOUSTONIANS TO GET INSIDER TIPS AND TRICKS ON MAKING THEIR HOMES BEAUTIFUL ON A BUDGET

*****NEW DATE*****

HOUSTON, TX (Sept. 29, 2008) — Want to know how to decorate your home inside and out on an affordable budget? Come see how it's done on Oct. 3, when Gifts with Heart and the Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA) showcase two Houston Habitat for Humanity homes that were fully decorated and landscaped on a shoestring budget. Experts in affordable interior design and landscaping will be on hand for the event providing tips and tricks to Houstonians looking to stretch their home decorating dollars a little further. The two-home showcase is also an opportunity for the Houston community to learn more about affordable homebuilder—Houston Habitat for Humanity.

The Habitat homes were decorated as part of a collaboration between the GHBA and Gifts with Heart—a local not for profit that creates interactive projects to bring awareness to social issues in the community such as affordable housing.

The two organizations brought together a team of designers from the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), The Art Institute of Houston and Houston Community College to meet with the two Habitat families. Together, the designers and families created a home-decor plan and went shopping for the furniture and materials used in the home.

“Pulling a room together is all about utilizing your own talents as a designer and meeting the needs of your client,” said ASID allied member and Principal of En'terior Design, Thomasine Johnson. “For this project, our clients were very excited first time homeowners, and they've been a blast to work with. We are truly helping them complete the home of their dreams,” Johnson added.

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HABITAT BLOCK PARTY | ADD 1 OF 2

Decorative items were purchased from Lowe's Home Improvement store. As part of the GHBA/Gifts with Heart collaboration, the designers also selected donated model-home furniture from GHBA member-builders at the Habitat ReStore. The Habitat ReStore is a home improvement store selling new and gently-used building materials and home furnishings at reduced prices.

"Through this decorating initiative we've been able to give these two new Habitat families the experience of not just walking into a house, but a home—from flowerbeds, to furniture to finishing treatments on the walls," said Shelda Keith, GHBA's Sales and Marketing Council community service chairperson and vice president of marketing for ABB Mortgage. "Simultaneously, the project also allows us to give homeowners from all over Houston the opportunity to see what we've done here and apply these same concepts to their own homes," added Keith.

In addition to the interior decorations, the grounds at each home were landscaped by Scotts Miracle-Gro.

While touring the two homes, Houstonians can consult with representatives from the following organizations or companies on how to create their own affordable, economical and innovative home designs, inside and out:

- The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
- The Art Institute of Houston
- Houston Community College/Design School
- Lowe's Home Improvement
- Valspar Paint
- Scotts Miracle-Gro

"This has been a unique partnership with many organizations that benefits our homeowners as well as the Houston community," said Algenita Scott Davis, executive director of Houston Habitat for Humanity. "Through the support of sponsors we can continue to build homes for deserving families and also collaborate on these kinds of educational events."

The two families purchased their Habitat homes at cost and with a zero-interest loan in Aug. 2008. In lieu of a down payment, each family invested 300 hours of sweat equity building their own homes and the homes of their neighbors. The houses are two of 10 sponsored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and were helped built by NCAA athlete-volunteers and more than 1,000 community volunteers from Houston.

Davis also noted that Habitat was grateful to the GHBA for the donation of furniture to the ReStore which will help the organization build more homes for hardworking Houstonians in the future. The Houston Habitat for Humanity ReStore (at 6161 South Loop East) is a home improvement resale store where items—such as the donation of the GHBA model-home furniture—are sold at greatly reduced prices. It is open to the public and sells both new and like-new materials. Proceeds from sales support the mission of Houston Habitat for Humanity.

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HABITAT BLOCK PARTY | ADD 2 OF 2

- WHAT:** Gifts with Heart and the Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA) to host block party and showcase two Houston Habitat for Humanity homes that were fully decorated and landscaped on a shoestring budget. Landscaping and design industry reps to provide tips and tricks to Houstonians.
- WHEN:** Oct. 3, 2008 | 6 – 9 p.m.
- WHERE:** 4800 Frankford Court, Houston TX, 77048
- WHO:** Two Houston Habitat for Humanity homeowner families; block party hosts from Gifts with Heart and the Greater Houston Builders; and designer and landscaper industry reps from:
- The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
 - The Art Institute of Houston
 - Houston Community College/Design School
 - Lowe's Home Improvement
 - Valspar Paint
 - Scotts Miracle-Gro

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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ABOUT GIFTS WITH HEART:

GIFTS WITH HEART is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity that provides community service opportunities and education through interactive, hands-on projects in order to help encourage self-confidence and create social awareness. For more information, please visit: www.giftswithheart.org

ABOUT THE GREATER HOUSTON BUILDERS ASSOCIATION:

Chartered in 1941, the Greater Houston Builders Association is a trade association representing all aspects of the residential building industry in the greater Houston area. The association interacts with the government, community and general public to enhance the business climate for its members, and to provide quality obtainable housing to the community it serves. The association is also active in community outreach and charitable events. For more information, please visit: www.ghba.org

ABOUT HOUSTON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

Founded in 1988, Houston Habitat for Humanity is a not-for-profit organization that provides new homes for hard-working, low-income Houstonians who otherwise would not be able to afford a mortgage. The organization provides zero-interest loans to first-time homebuyers who partner with volunteers and sponsors to build their own homes. Since its inception, Houston Habitat has built more than 750 homes in Houston and Harris County and ranks as one of the top-producing Habitat for Humanity International affiliates in the United States.

For more information about Houston Habitat for Humanity, its affordable housing sponsorship and its volunteer opportunities, visit www.houstonhabitat.org <<http://www.houstonhabitat.org/>> or call (713) 671-9993.

Houston Habitat for Humanity: Celebrating 20 Years --- Building Homes. Changing Lives.

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