



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Habitat Susquehanna Receives \$50,000 Grant, Teams with Bank of America and Harford Technical High School to start 8th Student-Built Home

(Bel Air, MD) – Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, the non-profit housing organization devoted to building affordable homes and providing critical repairs in partnership with low-income families and the community, teamed up with volunteers from Bank of America and Harford Technical High School on Friday, September 30, to begin constructing a new home.

Students planned lessons and became the teachers during Bank of America’s third Global Build, a weeklong event during which Bank of America and its employees partner with Habitat to address affordable housing challenges and revitalize communities in the U.S. and around the world. The project was selected as one of only 85 worldwide, and Habitat Susquehanna was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the build. Bank of America brought 19 volunteers to work on the foundation of the home.

Janet Currie, Senior Vice President, Greater Maryland Market Manager, Enterprise Business & Community Engagement for Bank of America, joined the volunteers. She reflected, “This is a unique Habitat opportunity for Bank of America, because not only are we able to contribute financially to the project, but we have volunteers that come to the high school. We are able to interact with the students for whom this experience can also lead to careers in the future. So it’s meaningful that we’re able to work with the students and ultimately that we’re building a home for a family right here in the high school.”

The students have built homes at the school since 2006, and this eighth home will feature cutting-edge green technology, as the five most recent “Habi-Tech” homes have. Over 650 students across the trades programs offered at Harford Tech have worked on these homes, learning all aspects of home design and construction. The home design is aimed at being “net-zero” for energy use and cost.

Habitat’s executive director, Karen Blandford, notes, “A lack of decent, affordable housing remains a critical challenge for many individuals and families. In Harford County, nearly half of renters (48%) pay more than 30% of their income in rent and over 35% of mortgage holders have unaffordable housing payments.”

“We appreciate our partnership with the local high schools, both Harford Tech and C. Milton Wright. We are grateful for Bank of America’s commitment to our work, and we have fun showing off this wonderful program!”

Harford Tech’s principal, Chas Hagan, agrees saying, “The opportunity to work on the Habitat house is important to Harford Technical High School and our construction students. What I find to be the most important part of this project is that the school, the community, the volunteers, the families and corporations literally work hand in hand to produce something for a struggling family; and the house they produce means that a struggling family will have their own home. That is the connection that our students learn that cannot be learned anywhere else, and I hope that they will carry with them and that they will replicate throughout the rest of their life.”

Bank of America has graciously sponsored all eight of the Harford Tech home builds, plus 11 more home build projects, and named Habitat Susquehanna one of its Neighborhood Builder grantees in 2009. This year’s Build celebrates Bank of America’s 30 year commitment to Habitat for Humanity and our work together to connect individuals and families to affordable housing. Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna looks forward to continuing our partnerships in Harford and Cecil counties to ensure that everyone has a decent place to call home.

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About Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, Inc. (HHS) is an ecumenical Christian housing organization devoted to building, renovating and repairing homes in partnership with qualified families in Cecil and Harford counties. Since its inception in 1993, HHS has served over 500 families by building/rehabbing 98 homes and repairing over 360. To apply for a home or a home repair, or to donate or volunteer, call 410-398-3399 (Cecil County) 410-638-4434 (Harford County) or visit www.habitatsusq.org.

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