



National Women Build Week

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Habitat for Humanity hosts National Women Build Day with Professional Women in Building

Georgetown, TX (May 8, 2013) – Members of the Home Builders Association of Greater Austin Professional Women in Building (PWB) volunteered on the Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County (HFHWC) construction site in Taylor on May 8, 2013 in recognition of National Women Build Week, May 4-12. National Women Build Week challenges women to devote at least one day to help build affordable housing in their local communities.

A HFHWC home takes about 10 weeks to build with over 250 volunteers completing 90 percent of the work saving over half of the labor costs. Future homeowners, Cesar and Lucia Rodriguez and their two children currently live and work in Taylor. Responsible for completing 500 hours of sweat equity, Cesar works on his home in addition to attending homeowner and financial education seminars with his wife. The Rodriguez family will purchase and move into their home in June.

The PWB group participated in Women Build day to highlight women in construction-related professions and as advocates for affordable housing. With 10 women in attendance, PWB completed interior work and hosted lunch for volunteers while enjoying a great opportunity to put their skills and professional experience into action.

“Being part of the PWB is all about helping women and giving back to our community. Participating in Women Build was so rewarding. To see so many people donate so much of their time and effort was heartwarming. As women in the homebuilding industry, we tend to get stereotyped as to what we can do, so it was nice to show that we can also roll up our sleeves, put our hair back, and put in some work. This was definitely a worthwhile experience and our group will definitely return to help build more homes,” stated Vanessa Valero, co-President of the PWB, who works at Home Team Pest Defense.

Lowe’s donated \$5,000 gift cards to participating Texas Habitat affiliates including HFHWC with a total of \$1.75 million to the 2013 National Women Build Week supporting 300 participating affiliates. National Women Build Week is supported through Lowe’s five-year, \$20 million pledge to Habitat.

In Williamson County, more than 5,500 families found themselves living in poverty within the past year. These and more families are faced with very high housing costs; about half of renters pay more than 30% of their gross income on housing leaving them with fewer funds for life’s basic needs. Habitat partner families purchase homes via a 20-year, zero interest mortgage; an average monthly mortgage payment can range from \$375 to \$600. Between July 2012 and June 2013, HFHWC will complete one rehab and four new homes in partnership with eight adults and their eleven children.

About Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County (HFHWC):

Founded in 1999, Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County (HFHWC) is a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. HFHWC builds affordable ownership homes by partnering with qualified low-income families in Williamson County – offering them a hand up, not a handout. In 13 years, the organization has worked with more than 15,000 volunteers and community donors to help 55 families become homeowners. Families selected for Habitat homeownership, invest 300 – 500 hours of ‘sweat equity’ to help build their own homes, which they assume with a zero-interest mortgage. For more information, visit www.williamsonhabitat.org

About Lowe’s

Lowe’s Heroes employee volunteers support local community projects and our national nonprofit partners such as Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together and the American Red Cross. In 2012, Lowe’s and the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation together contributed more than \$30 million to support communities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. To learn more, visit Lowe.com/SocialResponsibility.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization that seeks to put God’s love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Since 1976, Habitat has served more than 600,000 families by welcoming people of all races, religions and nationalities to construct, rehabilitate or preserve homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. For more information, please visit www.habitat.org.