

For Immediate Release
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High School Student Coalition Strives to Rebuild East Baltimore One Block at a Time

Baltimore, MD (November 10, 2010) – Hundreds of students from Baltimore City and County public and independent high schools have embarked on a year-long initiative to raise \$300,000—and to invest the necessary hands-on labor—to restore six blighted homes on the 2400 block of Jefferson Street in East Baltimore. Working in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake (HFHC), the schools are part of a first-in-the-nation pilot program called Build-A-Block (BAB). Habitat for Humanity will host a kick-off event for students and faculty at the 16 participating schools, as well as local and elected officials, and Habitat volunteers, on Tuesday, November 16 at 4 p.m., on the building site at 2400 Jefferson Street in the McElderry Park community.

“This is an exciting event for Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake,” said CEO Mike Mitchell. “To have students from public and private schools come together to invest in their city and provide affordable, decent, permanent housing for deserving families sends an important message that our youth are committed to making their world a better place.”

High school students gain invaluable real-life experience through Habitat for Humanity projects. Over the next six months, representative from the 16 school-based Habitat for Humanity clubs will participate in numerous fundraising activities, including corporate presentations, grant writing, and securing gift-in-kind donations from businesses involved in the building trades. The students will also get their hands dirty performing supervised on-site construction duties on many Saturdays throughout the school year.

The BAB schools coalition includes: Park School, Friends School of Baltimore, The Bryn Mawr School, Edmondson Vocational Technical High School, Mergenthaler Vocational Technical School, Carver Vocational Technical High School, McDonogh School, Jemicy School, Roland Park Country School, Independent School I, Mercy High School, Hereford High School, REACH!, Dulaney High School, Calvert Hall College High School and Baltimore City College High School.

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake works with people of all faiths and backgrounds to provide simple, decent, affordable homes for families in Anne Arundel County and the Baltimore region. Working together, partner families, volunteers, and staff have built more than 285 houses toward the goal of revitalizing neighborhoods as we pursue our vision and mission to eliminate poverty housing in the region.

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