



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO LOCAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AFFILIATES AGREE TO MERGE

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco Continues Mission to Eliminate Poverty Housing and Provide Affordable Homes for Families with Low Incomes

REDWOOD CITY AND SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., May 29, 2008 – For nearly two decades, Habitat for Humanity’s presence in the community has helped to provide affordable housing solutions in one of the least affordable real estate markets in the world—a place where many working-class families live in unsafe, unhealthy and substandard living conditions. Today, two local Habitat affiliates announced they will join forces to become an even stronger advocate for their cause.

Peninsula Habitat for Humanity and Habitat for Humanity San Francisco have agreed to merge following unanimous approval of their respective boards of directors on May 22nd. Under the leadership of Phillip Kilbridge, current executive director of the San Francisco affiliate and a Peninsula native, the merged affiliate will be known as Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco, serving San Francisco, Marin and the Peninsula. The merger becomes effective July 1, although the transition phase of integrating operations, staff, and boards is already beginning. Details of where the merged affiliate will be located have not yet been finalized and will be disclosed at a later date.

The merger follows months of discussion and due diligence by Peninsula Habitat and Habitat San Francisco, from which both organizations have concluded that by streamlining operations and consolidating overhead expenses, together they can have a greater impact. Both affiliates believe the merger will enable them to more efficiently leverage donor funds and ultimately increase the number of affordable ownership homes built and families served.

“When a Habitat house is built here or anywhere else in the world, it becomes a life-altering event for the family, providing security, stability and a more promising future for generations to come,” said Leif Langensand, newly elected chairman of the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco and past chairman of the Peninsula board. “If we can give that opportunity to more families under one streamlined organization, then the merger is absolutely the right step to take. Also, because both organizations are so alike organizationally and in spirit, we believe the transition to one affiliate will be very quick and smooth.”

“We are delighted that two organizations, both so strong in their own right, can learn from each other and grow together.” said Rob Howard, former board president of Habitat for Humanity San Francisco. “The new board believes that Leif’s experience as board chairman for Peninsula Habitat and his fantastic leadership during this due diligence process positions us very well for future success.”

About Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco is a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International that partners with families in need, along with community volunteers and donors, to build affordable ownership homes. Habitat's homeownership program allows families working in service, manufacturing, retail and other sectors to live near their jobs in decent, safe, permanent homes. The Habitat for Humanity philosophy encourages self-help by providing a "hand up—not a hand out." Habitat homeowners invest a lot of effort into their dreams, including 500 hours of "sweat equity" to help build their own homes, as well as additional time for homeownership training. Houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable, zero interest mortgages structured never to exceed one-third of their monthly income.

In 19 years, Habitat has built more than 135 homes throughout the San Mateo and San Francisco counties. The new affiliate's geographic area extends nearly 100 miles from East Palo Alto in southern San Mateo County to as far north as Novato and coastal areas of Marin County. A total of 28 incorporated cities and 38 unincorporated communities are included in its service area. Currently, Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco is building eight townhomes on Lincoln Avenue in Redwood City and twelve single-family homes on De Long Street in San Francisco's Outer Mission neighborhood. Habitat is also partnering to build seven homes at Whitney Young Circle in San Francisco's Bayview community. Additionally, Habitat has proposed new affordable housing developments on Terminal Avenue in Menlo Park, Mission Street in Daly City, and Lower Eagle Rock Road in unincorporated Marin County. These proposed developments are in varying stages of the approval process.

For additional information about the merger and Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco, go to www.peninsulahabitat.org or www.habitatsf.org.

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