



NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
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NYCHA and Habitat for Humanity to Work Together for Recovery Efforts in Haiti

NEW YORK (Feb. 2, 2010) – The New York City Housing Authority will work in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity - New York City and Habitat for Humanity International in efforts to rebuild and repair housing in Haiti after the devastation of the Jan. 12th earthquake. NYCHA and Habitat-NYC are building on their ongoing partnership, focused on housing revitalization and renovation. Both organizations will work together to assist in what is certain to be a multi-year effort to help provide homes in partnership with people devastated by the earthquake.

“Our NYCHA community of more than 400,000 residents and 12,000 employees understands the importance of housing that is safe and secure and we want very much to support the people of Haiti,” said John B. Rhea, Chairman of NYCHA. “Who better than NYCHA to draw on the talent, energy and expertise of staff and residents to support families in need. NYCHA and Habitat recognize that the needs of the people of Haiti will extend far beyond immediate disaster relief, and providing permanent shelter will be a key part of that nation’s recovery.”

“Habitat for Humanity - New York City shares the grief of our Haitian family partners and the Haitian community here, who have been devastated by the tragic earthquakes in Haiti,” said Josh Lockwood, Executive Director of Habitat-NYC. “Habitat for Humanity International, which has a long history of building homes in Haiti, is gearing up to help rebuild this nation. Our affiliate and our partners at the New York City Housing Authority are committed to supporting these efforts in every way we can.”

Since 2007, NYCHA and Habitat-NYC have had a partnership through which Habitat volunteers have assisted in revitalizing and renovating public housing facilities. NYCHA’s employee group, the Haitian American Association, along with other employee associations at the Authority, will lead the effort to raise funds needed to support Habitat in rebuilding permanent, safe housing in Haiti. A key component of the partnership includes the active participation of NYCHA resident and employee volunteers in Habitat-NYC endeavors, who will then leverage their local experience to assist with rebuilding efforts in Haiti.

“Our goal is to galvanize the people of public housing, both families and staff, to take part in improving their own communities while also giving back to a community in recovery,” said Margarita López, Commissioner of the Board of NYCHA. “The people of NYCHA have a special affinity for those in need, as well as a willingness to reach out to empower the people of Haiti.”

“The NYCHA community includes 4,000 Haitian residents with direct ties to Haiti, as well as scores of employees who are experiencing personal emotional loss and grief. We are and will be forever grateful for this outpouring of support,” said Florence Balan, President of the Haitian Employees Association at NYCHA, which is leading fundraising efforts at the agency. “Working with Habitat in building shelter for the people of Haiti will provide a long-term need that speaks of hope for a better and brighter future.”

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NYCHA and Habitat see this as a unique opportunity for public housing residents and staff to gain hands-on experience by joining with Habitat-NYC volunteers to take part in revitalization endeavors at NYCHA developments, at Habitat-NYC building sites around the city, and in the future rebuilding of permanent homes in Haiti. Many NYCHA employees, and City workers, are also giving more immediate support for relief efforts in Haiti by making contributions to NYC's Haiti Relief Fund, administered by the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, directly and through a payroll deduction program over the next few weeks. The Mayor's Fund is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization and 100 percent of the donations raised are directed to emergency relief organizations serving victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

About the New York City Housing Authority

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is the largest public housing authority in North America and provides decent and affordable housing in a safe and secure living environment for low and moderate income residents throughout the five boroughs. NYCHA has 336 housing developments with 400,000 residents. The Authority also administers a citywide Section 8 Leased Housing Program in rental apartments. NYCHA serves approximately 1 in 13 New Yorkers through its public housing and Section 8 programs.

About Habitat for Humanity – New York City

Habitat for Humanity - New York City transforms lives and our city by building quality homes for families in need and by uniting all New Yorkers around the cause of affordable housing. With the help of thousands of volunteers every year, Habitat-NYC has built more than 220 affordable homes in the five boroughs of New York City. Learn more at www.habitatnyc.org.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people. For more information, or to donate or volunteer, visit www.habitat.org.

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