



**National Women
Build Week**
Sponsored by Lowe's

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More than 135 women volunteers set to raise walls during Women Build in Hancock County

EVENT: Women Build

LOCATION: 545 State Street, Bay St. Louis

DATE: May 3 – 5, 2010

TIME: 8:30 – 4:30

BAY ST. LOUIS, MS (April 29, 2010) – Women volunteers from throughout Hancock County will soon raise walls on a home on State Street in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. The total number of volunteers during the three-day event will top 135, which is the largest group of local volunteers to build with Bay-Waveland Habitat to date.

“We’ve had such great response to this event, we’ve expanded the build site to include another Habitat home next door!” remarked Susan Daigre, Bay-Waveland Habitat’s resource development director.

Several Habitat partner homeowners will also be working side by side with the volunteers to help meet their “sweat equity” requirement, which is time spent helping to build their home and the homes of others. In Hancock County, Habitat’s “sweat equity” requirement is 250 hours per household.

The build is part of Habitat for Humanity International’s nation-wide Women Build event. Sponsored by Lowe’s, the annual event is scheduled to take place during the week leading up to Mothers’ Day. This year, Women Build will unite women in all 50 states to build more than 200 homes for families in need. Last year, more than 7,000 women participated in the week-long event, which over the years has led to the construction of more than 1,700 homes nation-wide.

One of the goals of the Women Build event is to raise awareness of the staggering need for adequate housing. In the United States alone, more than 12 million children – one in six – live in poverty housing. “Women often find themselves on the front lines of this crisis,” commented Wendy McDonald HFH Bay-Waveland’s executive director. “This event gives women an

opportunity to make a tangible difference in our community by helping build attractive, energy-efficient, environmentally responsible homes that are also affordable.”

Lowe's has been the sponsor of Habitat's Women Build program since 2004. This year, Lowe's is committing \$1 million to National Women Build Week by providing \$5,000 grants to 200 participating affiliates. This build is a major initiative of Lowe's five-year, \$20 million pledge to Habitat. That commitment includes underwriting of Habitat's Women Build program, as well as providing construction know-how at in-store clinics and build sites, and funding for a variety of Habitat projects across the country.

In addition to sponsoring the local Women Build for the past two years, Lowe's of Waveland has been an ongoing partner with Bay-Waveland Habitat in Hancock County. In 2010 alone, partnerships include the donation of a Katrina Cottage and a \$60,000 grant for house construction. “We're proud to be a partner with Bay-Waveland Habitat to help build decent, affordable homes in Hancock County,” remarked Mark Tortomasi, manager of the Waveland store. “This partnership provides another opportunity for us to make a difference in the rebuilding and recovery of our community.”

Construction on the Women Build homes in Bay St. Louis is set to begin at 8:30am May 3rd, with walls being raised shortly thereafter.

ABOUT BAY-WAVELAND AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat's work in Hancock County began after hurricane Katrina damaged or destroyed 70% of the housing in the county in 2005. Since then, Habitat has built more than 140 houses in partnership with homeowners, volunteers, donors, partners and friends. In recognition of its work in Hancock County, HFHBW was named 2009 Affiliate of the Year by Habitat for Humanity International. While much has been done, much work remains. For more information, visit www.habitatbw.org.

ABOUT LOWE'S

Lowe's is a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity International, American Red Cross, SkillsUSA/SkillsCanada, and The Nature Conservancy, in addition to numerous non-profit organizations and programs that help communities in North America. In 2009, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together contributed more than \$30 million to support community and education projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Lowe's also encourages volunteerism through the Lowe's Heroes program, a company-wide employee volunteer initiative. Lowe's is a FORTUNE® 50 company with fiscal year 2009 sales of \$47.2 billion and has more than 1,700 stores in the United States, Canada and Mexico. For more information, visit Lowe.com/community.

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 more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org.