



Rebuilding
hopes,
lives &
dreams

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BAY-WAVELAND TO UNVEIL FIVE GREEN HOMES ON KATRINA ANNIVERSARY

BAY ST. LOUIS, Miss.—Habitat for Humanity Bay-Waveland Area will host a ribbon cutting for five green duplexes at the Seal Pointe neighborhood at 9 a .m. on August 29, the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina’s landfall.

The duplexes, also known as *The Villas*, have been built to accommodate the special needs of senior adults and adults with disabilities.

“We’re excited to be able to make this kind of housing available to our community,” commented Habitat Bay-Waveland Executive Director Wendy McDonald.

Habitat built the 42-unit Seal Point neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina damaged or destroyed 75 percent of the homes in Hancock County. The neighborhood features some of the greenest housing available on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

“Building houses that are affordably green is not just environmentally responsible, it’s financially beneficial,” said McDonald. “The monthly savings our families receive in their utility bills can be hundreds of dollars. In a money strapped economy, this makes our houses even more affordable.”

Construction of the neighborhood was funded through a number of grants and donations made by government agencies, corporations, non-profits and private groups and individuals.

A \$4.6 million dollar Long Term Workforce Housing grant from the Mississippi Development Authority helped pay for the construction of neighborhood infrastructure like roads, water lines and sewer systems. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, through its Eco-Cottage grant program, provided \$1.72 million for the construction of 26 of the homes in the Seal Pointe neighborhood. Other contributors include Enterprise Green Communities, Hancock Bank, Habitat for Humanity International, Lowes and Home Depot. The total estimated cost for the neighborhood is \$8.8 million.

“Our agency is excited to be a part of this project,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “The duplexes in Seal Pointe are a great example of incorporating green building practices into the recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.”

(more)

More than 2,000 volunteers from across the United States, Canada and Ireland helped build the houses, alongside partner families and staff.

Habitat Bay-Waveland began building homes to green certification standards in 2009. To date, more than sixty of the affiliate's houses have either received green certifications or are in the process of being certified through the U.S. Green Building Council, the National Association of Home Builders Research Center or Enterprise Green Communities. One home built by Habitat Bay-Waveland was recently named Affordable Green Project of the Year by the National Association of Home Builders.

For learn more about the mission of Habitat for Humanity Bay-Waveland, visit www.habitatbw.org.

For directions to the event [click here](#).

About Habitat for Humanity Bay-Waveland Area:

Habitat's work in Hancock County, Mississippi began after Hurricane Katrina damaged and/or destroyed 70% of the housing stock in the Gulf Coast community in 2005. Since then, Habitat has partnered with more than 7,000 volunteers, donors, partners and friends to build 185 homes for families in need. In recognition of its outstanding progress, Bay-Waveland Habitat was named Affiliate of the Year in both 2009 and 2010 by Habitat for Humanity International. A leader in green building, a house built by Bay-Waveland Habitat was just named 2011 Green Affordable Project of the Year by the National Association of Home Builders.

NOTE TO MEDIA: The ribbon cutting will be held at the entrance to the Seal Pointe neighborhood. 111 Old Spanish Trail, Bay St. Louis 39520 (corner of Union Street and Old Spanish Trail).