

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2007

Contact: Ms. Dianne Wells
Telephone: (340) 714.5678
info@habitat.vi

Habitat for Humanity's Announces its June Volunteer/Activity Schedule

St. Thomas, VI – From June 1-30, Habitat for Humanity of the U. S. Virgin Islands (HFH-VI) will once again play host to students from St. John's University located in Jamaica, New York. The students who volunteered at HFH-VI's Garden Street project in March were so encouraged by Habitat's work they returned to their university and recruited student volunteers for the entire month of June. The students are members of Collegiate Challenge – a division of Habitat for Humanity's Youth Program. Collegiate Challenge is a year-round alternative break program that provides opportunities for students from youth groups, high schools and colleges to spend their school breaks working with Habitat affiliates throughout the United States.

On June 7-23 13 men and women of the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard's 631st Engineer Detachment Unit will spend a portion of its annual training working with Habitat for Humanity of the U. S. Virgin Islands on its Garden Street project. However, the Guardsmen are no strangers to Habitat. On Saturday May 5, this same group worked alongside Habitat board member/construction supervisor Alan Fleming and several other volunteers.

The 631st Detachment Unit works on local construction projects as well in places like Germany, Panama, Honduras and Costa Rica. In 2006 they were deployed to New Orleans during the aftermath of Katrina and in November of the same year they worked in New Mexico helping to erect a 700-mile fence which spans four states. The fence is expected to deter vehicles trying to cross the border illegally. The 631st Detachment Unit is no stranger to the Middle East either. The unit was deployed from September 2003 to September 2004 to Afghanistan.

On June 9, in celebration of the Marriott's 80th anniversary, the company is sponsoring its 1st Annual "Spirit to Serve Walk-a-Thon." The walk-a-thon starts at 7:30am from Marriott's Frenchman's Cove Entrance and finishes at the Marriott's Morning Star Beach. The entry fee is \$20 and all proceeds from the event will go to support the United Way, Habitat for Humanity of the U. S. Virgin Islands, American Cancer Society, and VI Department of Human Services. You can register at Presto's Deli in Frenchman's Reef and Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort, the Signature Shop in the Ritz Carlton, or the United Way office in Nisky Center.

HFH-VI's first housing project is located in the Garden Street area and donated by Cecile Galiber deJongh and the Galiber family. The house is being restored to a three bedroom, two-bath home. You can view the entire construction time line at www.habitat.vi.

Habitat for Humanity of the U.S. Virgin Islands was incorporated in January 2005 and is a Christian, faith-based non-profit organization that builds homes and hope through partnership with individuals, business and faith communities. Habitat is in need of home sites and is accepting donations of vacant land and homes in need of renovation.

Habitat for Humanity International has more than 3,000 affiliates in 100 nations, which have built more than a quarter of a million homes for Habitat families.