

From the Desk of Tom Bolt, President of the Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat for Humanity of the Virgin Islands Celebrates its First Home Dedication

St. Thomas (June 8, 2009)—Habitat for Humanity of the Virgin Islands announced today it will dedicate its first home built in the USVI on Sunday, June 14th at #4 Adele Gade in the Garden Street neighborhood of St. Thomas. Cecila Hernandez will receive the keys to her new home and begins her journey as a homeowner with Habitat. First Lady Cecile Galiber de Jongh who donated the property along with her family, will be present at the ceremony and celebration, and will be joined by fellow Habitat for Humanity supporters. The site is the former residence of Mrs. de Jongh's grandmother, Adele Louise Lanclos Galiber, who built and lived in the original house on the site from 1920 to until her death in 1983. She taught music at the house and some of her students will be at the Dedication. Ms. Galiber was known for her piano playing, teaching, singing and beautiful plants. You can see an old mango tree on the site, still bearing fruit.

“This is truly a historic milestone for Habitat,” said Donald Charles, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of the Virgin Islands. “It has taken us four years to reach this first milestone, but with the continued support of the Virgin Islands community, we hope to build more homes, as well as rehabilitate homes within the next year.”

Ms. Hernandez is reeling with joy at the prospect of moving into a secure, comfortable and loving environment. She and her family have been working along with scores of volunteers on building the home since early 2007.

The Hernandez family home dedication and presentation of keys is Sunday, June 14th from 12 – 1:30 p.m (AST). The public is invited to the Dedication and refreshments will be served. The new house will be available for tours and Habitat volunteers will be present with information about upcoming projects. There will be complimentary shuttle to the site from Fort Christian parking lot from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Also since there are no ships in on Sunday, parking should be readily available nearby on Main Street and Waterfront with volunteers directing the way to Adele Gade in the Garden Street neighborhood.

For more information about this event and Habitat for Humanity of the Virgin Islands, please visit www.habitat.vi

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