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Press Release

May 8, 2006

First Habitat-VI Fundraiser Rose Over \$50,000! Let's Build a House!

On May 7, 2006, Habitat for Humanity of the U. S. Virgin Islands (Habitat-VI) held their first major fundraiser from 11am to 2pm at Coral World. The Kickoff Fundraiser Brunch included live music, buffet, interactive homebuilding auction, 50/50 raffle, and local and international guest speakers. The Let's Build a House! Auction allowed attendees to bid on building materials including foundation, roof, toilets, windows, doors, shutters, and paint while constructing a mock home with the auction items.

The land for the first Habitat for Humanity home in the U. S. Virgin Islands was generously donated by Cecile Galiber DeJongh and the Galiber family. The house will be constructed in the Garden Street area on Adele Gade. Dr. Andre Galiber, spoke in honor of his mother Adele Louise Gailber. "Her life was rich and colorful and productive as the garden she has always kept around her cottage," Dr. Galiber said.

The event was full of excitement, inspiration, fun, development, and fundraising. Live music was performed by the Louis Taylor Quartet. Pastor Thembaletu Mkhabela presented the greeting and opening prayer. Matthew Allen (Habitat-VI founder), Tom Bolt (emcee, President, and auctioneer extraordinaire), Adrian Bishop (Director), and Michelle Smitherman (Board member and Habitat International volunteer) spoke enthusiastically about Habitat's success and future goals; affordable shelter is a matter of conscience, community, and action! Clive Rainey, Habitat's first volunteer and Director of Communications for Habitat for Humanity International, motivated the attendees to stay involved and get others to join in our efforts. We are looking forward to Clive Rainey's return, our second fundraiser, selecting our first partner family, and the ground breaking in June.

The event successfully raised over \$50,000 that will be used to build simple, decent, affordable houses locally. Habitat is still in need of greater resources to keep this project moving forward to completion. This time next year, Habitat-VI plans to celebrate their first Partner Family, construction of their first house, and raise funds for their next series of houses.

Habitat would like to enthusiastically thank all of our partners that contributed energy, time, money, faith and hope. Together, all things are possible! Let's build a house!

For more information about Habitat-VI, please visit us online at www.Habitat.VI or call us at (340) 714-5678.