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On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Habitat for Humanity of the U.S. Virgin Islands, I thank you, the donors, volunteers, businesses for your generous donations of time and talents, of in kind and direct contributions. I have been moved by the coalescing of our island community to establish the newest Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

Since our inception, we have made great strides in our goals and objectives and have organized a productive team of volunteers. We still have a lot to do to get our first home completed and reaching our goal of securing four additional property sites for future building in 2007. There is a lot to talk about, from the response to our public meetings for family applications to our upcoming Kick-off Fundraiser Brunch, and we hope you take a moment to review our first newsletter to hear more about our efforts. We anticipate updating you quarterly on Habitat-VI's efforts and accomplishments via our newsletter.

I'd like to remind you of the great affordable housing need in the U.S. Virgin Islands. While the number of families in poverty is growing, the number of affordable rental units is shrinking, and most families who qualify for government housing assistance aren't receiving any form of aid. By making affordable housing possible we are furthering our Habitat goal which is founded upon the premise that every man, woman and child should at least have a simple, decent, affordable place to live in dignity and safety.

Habitat is not a hand-out, but rather a hand-up! Habitat Partner families are selected from residents of our island community who are now living in sub-standard housing and have family income less than 80% of the local median income.

I invite you and all to come join us in the Habitat for Humanity movement. Together - we are building homes. Together - we are building hope.

Warm Regards,

Tom Bolt  
President