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April 30, 2009

Home Sales Encourage Thrift Store Buys

Lee County, FL; April 30, 2009 – With the recession in full swing, second-hand stores nationwide are finding an increasing acceptance by consumers. Locally, the boost in home sales has brought in bargain-conscious remodelers and builders to stock up on Habitat's selections. "Habitat for Humanity of Lee County's retail outlet has seen a new and growing customer base interested in fixing up homes, since housing has become more affordable. For us, this is a win-win situation because we use every dollar from our thrift stores to invest into the next Habitat home we provide," says Vice President of Communications Trisha Goins.

Habitat's thrift stores carry high-quality used -- and sometimes new -- building materials like doors, windows, cabinets and countertops at low prices. The store is also known to carry thrifty home and patio furniture as well. "Last year, we were able to provide about 7 homes just from thrift store sales. This year, we are projecting almost 12," adds Goins. At 70 Habitat stores around the United States, sales rose 25 percent between 2007 and 2008, according to a recent Associated Press story. A national Habitat official said annual sales exceed \$200 million.

To browse the mix of Habitat's materials and furnishings, visit its North Fort Myers location at 1288 North Tamiami Trail, Monday-Saturday, 9am to 5pm or its Main street site in Labelle. You can call Habitat for Humanity of Lee County for more information, 239-652-0434.

Habitat for Humanity of Lee County is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in the community. Since 1982, the affiliate has provided 1000 families a safe and affordable place to live. Through the use of volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds simple, decent housing for families who otherwise could not afford it. **Homes are sold to the homeowners at no profit on an interest-free mortgage**, making homeownership an affordable reality.

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