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## Lee County Habitat to Build In Southeast Asia

Lee County, FL; November 9, 2009 – Habitat for Humanity of Lee County joins former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, his wife, Rosalynn and thousands of volunteers from around the world to build during Habitat for Humanity's 26<sup>th</sup> annual Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Southeast Asia. The five-day event from, Nov. 15-20, 2009 will serve to construct and rehabilitate a total of 175 houses.

During this year's Carter Project, volunteers will build houses along the Mekong River region, which includes Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and Laos. The event will launch Habitat's five-year Mekong Build campaign to serve 50,000 families throughout the region.

To help in these efforts, Habitat of Lee County has sent \$100,000 to fund 22 of 85 homes in Thailand, as a part of the chapter's annual tithe donation to overseas building. Along with this contribution, the vice president of Habitat's communications department will participate in the Southeast Asia project. Each year, Lee County's Habitat affiliate designates ten percent of its funding to go toward global builds. To date, more than 700 homes have been built outside the U.S. in more than 50 countries by Habitat for Humanity of Lee County.

The Carters are Habitat's most famous volunteers. Each year since 1984, the Carters have given one week of their time to build homes and raise awareness about the need for simple, decent and affordable housing. The 2009 Carter Work Project will mark the fourth time the former U.S. president and his wife have built with Habitat for Humanity in Asia. Previous Carter Work Projects were held in India in 2006, in South Korea in 2001 and in the Philippines in 1999.

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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