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Habitat for Humanity Names New President and CEO

Fort Myers, FL; March 2, 2010 – The board of directors of Habitat for Humanity of Lee County and has named Katherine “Kitty” Green as the company’s chief executive officer and president. Vern Archibald, CEO for almost 20 years, has retired from the non-profit organization.

Green, 47, has spent the last ten years with the Bonita Bay Group, developer of seven master planned communities in Southwest Florida. While there, she was promoted five times, and resigned in 2009 as President and CEO. Green was responsible for the development of Verandah in east Lee County, and Sandoval in Cape Coral. Although the real estate downturn hit Bonita Bay Group hard, Green was credited with making many changes that improved the company’s ability to survive.

A lifelong resident of Fort Myers, Green has served as a volunteer for Habitat for nearly 15 years. Since 2002 she has served on Habitat’s Board of Directors, most recently as Vice Chairman. Green is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Lee County Horizon Council, heading up the 2010 Community Outreach Task Force, and is a member of the Lee County Port Authority Special Management Committee and the Southwest Florida Expressway Authority. In 2008, Green was featured as one of Gulfshore Life’s Women of the Year.

Charles Idelson, Habitat for Humanity of Lee County’s chairman, said that the board selected Green based on her history with Habitat and successful track record in business management. “Kitty was an obvious choice,” said Idelson. “She has been a Habitat supporter for years and has demonstrated her leadership while on our board.

“Our former president and CEO built Habitat into a leader in affordable housing throughout the country. Kitty has a proven ability to lead in changing times, and we are confident that she will help us take Habitat to the next level.”

Green said, "Habitat's home ownership philosophy of providing a hand up, not a hand out, to deserving families has such a positive impact on people's lives. I feel lucky to be able to provide leadership to an organization I believe so strongly in."

Green officially took up her new duties March 2. She succeeds Vern Archibald, a 20-year company veteran who was named Habitat's first executive director in 1990. Archibald's retirement from Habitat will be his second, following 30 years in the United States Navy.

Join Habitat for Humanity on Thursday, March 11th from 4pm – 6pm to celebrate what has been proclaimed "Habitat for Humanity Week" in the City of Fort Myers and Lee County. The organization will open its doors for public tours through its 12+ acre campus, which includes administrative offices, senior housing complex, 27,000-sq. ft. thrift store and pre-build warehouse. The community is invited to meet the staff and Habitat's new CEO during this time. Plus, take advantage of an additional 30 percent off all merchandise and 40% off select items in the thrift store during the 2-hour celebration.

Habitat for Humanity of Lee County is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in Lee County. **Habitat has built more than 1000 homes in Lee County since 1982 and is one of the largest Habitat chapters in the country.** 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.