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**TRIANGLE
BUILDERS
GUILD**

News Release: May 31st — June 7th, 2008

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The Heart of Custom Builders in the Triangle

RALEIGH, North Carolina – May 31st — June 7th, 2008 - “Home Builders Blitz”, which is now a national program, has local roots. It was the brainchild of Tom Gipson, one of the four Founding Members of the Triangle Builders Guild.

Gipson first got involved with Habitat for Humanity of Wake County in 2002 when he created a local event they called the “Home Builders Blitz.” He recruited 12 homebuilders from the Raleigh/Wake Co. Home Builders Association to join his efforts, and together, they built 12 Habitat houses in one week — at no charge to Habitat.

In 2004, the Blitz produced 24 homes in five days. The results were so successful for the Wake County Blitz, Gipson approached Habitat for Humanity International, based in Americus, Ga., about making the organization’s local Home Builders Blitz a national program. Habitat agreed to make it work, so Gipson traveled to more than 40 cities promoting the blitz concept and recruited fellow Raleigh home builders to travel to another 25 cities. The results were staggering.

In 2006, through Tom Gipson’s involvement and leadership, more than 1,000 building industry professionals joined forces to build 459 houses in 130 communities across the country. The 2006 national Home Builders Blitz became the largest one-week Blitz build in Habitat’s 30-year history. 20 of the 459 homes were built in Wake Co. during the Blitz by local homebuilders. The Blitz accounted for 8% of all Habitat homes built that year. In total, these new homes are valued more than \$25 million.

Thomas Gipson Homes, of Raleigh, N.C., was honored in 2006 by the National Housing Endowment — the philanthropic arm of NAHB — for working with Habitat for Humanity International and organizing the first National Home Builders Blitz.

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“We are extremely proud of Tom’s vision and achievements that make such a difference in the lives of families of our community and across the country. His work and efforts are a true testament to the man himself, and continue to be an inspiration to Guild members and other professionals working with Habitat for Humanity,” said Dave Baron of Baron Custom Homes and TBG Marketing Chair.

The Triangle Builders Guild, along with the leadership of Habitat Wake Board Member Owen Williams, of Williams Realty & Building Company and TGB member Ward Russell of Legacy Custom Homes, is spearheading the 2008 Wake County “Home Builders Blitz.” Held during the week of May 31 – June 7th 2008. The Guild’s 29 members are donating their services and recruiting an army of subcontractors and procuring supplies to build 5 homes at no cost to Habitat.

Mark Massengill of Mark Massengill, Builders LLC and Raleigh/Wake HBA 2008 President adds, “I pulled in the subdivision at the check point today and a nice lady was sitting in the hot sun and asked where I was going. I told her that I was a member of the TBG and was coming in to check on the progress. She welcomed me to the site and just before I could drive off she asked me if I was a builder from the previous Home Builders Blitz. I told her I had participated before and her friendly smile beamed with excitement. She said I was her builder and that “I pray for you every night and I thank God that you helped my family to own a home”. She hugged my neck and invited my wife and I to have dinner at her home. She told me how well her kids were doing and what a difference that a home had made in the family’s life. Well, she made my day my week and my month! Sometime we wonder if what we are doing makes a difference and let me tell you, what you (TBG members) are doing this week will make a huge difference in these families for generations and I hope yours. We all need someone’s prayers more than money and it is nice to know we have a little help from a friend. I thanked her for her blessings and I thank you (TBG members) for the blessings that you are doing this week.”

To learn more about the impact of Tom’s vision or to get involved, view the Project Locations Home Builders Blitz 2008 Map at www.habitat.org/buildersblitz/us_map.aspx

About TBG - The Triangle Builders Guild (TBG) is a network of local professional residential homebuilders who have come together in a unique, non-competitive organization. The Triangle Builders Guild formed in 2005 to bring together the best custom homebuilders in the Triangle area of North Carolina. We are local business owners invested in the quality of life and the beauty of the area. We demonstrate our commitment by building attractive homes and neighborhoods and by giving back to the community through charitable activities and donations. www.trianglebuildersguild.com

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About Habitat for Humanity of Wake County

Habitat for Humanity of Wake County develops partnerships with sponsors, volunteers, and future homeowners to build healthy, affordable homes for families with modest incomes.

Habitat Wake is nationally recognized as a leading urban affiliate for Habitat for Humanity International. To volunteer, submit a homeowner application or make a gift, please visit www.HabitatWake.org To learn more about the Home Builders Blitz, please visit www.HabitatWake.org/blitz

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 250,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than one million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org.

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