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**MHC to Provide Over Half Million Dollars to Habitat for Humanity**  
Funding Will Provide Dream of Homeownership for up to Fifteen Mississippi Families

Jackson, MS-The Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC) announced today it will provide \$545,000 to Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Mississippi, helping approximately fifteen Mississippi families achieve their dream of homeownership.

Governor Haley Barbour said, "Habitat for Humanity has a long, admirable history of building houses for low-income Mississippians, and MHC's investment in Habitat bolsters Mississippi's future by providing further opportunities for construction of decent and affordable housing. Together, these two organizations have a great partnership that serves to unite all segments of the community."

Since the program's inception, MHC has provided over \$5 million to Habitat for Humanity affiliates statewide and purchased 180 loans. "The program operates as a revolving loan fund, so this investment will continue to help Habitat affiliates," said Dianne Bolen, Executive Director of MHC. "As we receive payments for the loans, we recycle those payments to purchase additional loans to help other families realize their dreams of homeownership," she added.

Former MHC Board member Luther Millsaps of Tupelo, Miss. has long been involved with Habitat for Humanity in the South and was instrumental in creating MHC's Habitat Loan Purchase Program. "Habitat encourages people to roll up their sleeves. We get everyone to help, even elected officials, and I never hesitate to call them to participate. Habitat for Humanity has affected Mississippi tremendously; they've built over 1,000 houses."

"The slow economy in our area has created more need for assistance through our program of providing affordable housing to low income families," said Barbara Carter, Executive Director of the Pontotoc County Habitat for Humanity. "MHC's loan purchase program allows us to continue our work by providing the cash up front to build more houses," she explained.

Her sentiment was echoed by Kristi Singleton, Operations Manager for Habitat for Humanity Bay-Waveland Area, Inc.: “The home loan purchase program to HFH Bay-Waveland enables us to keep building affordable housing in our area.” As the demand for affordable housing for low income families increases, so does the importance of having the money available to begin the next build.

Habitat for Humanity affiliates interested in participating in the program should contact the Mississippi Home Corporation at 800-544-6960. Homebuyers interested in participating in Habitat for Humanity should contact their local Habitat affiliate.

*The Mississippi Home Corporation was created by the State in 1989 to serve as the State’s Housing Finance Agency. In that capacity, MHC administers the Mortgage Revenue Bond program and the Housing Tax Credit program, among others. MHC’s mission is to enhance Mississippi’s long-term economic viability by financing safe, decent, affordable housing and helping working families build wealth.*

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