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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spring breakers unite to build homes with Three Local Habitat for Humanity Affiliates

Students from across the country will travel to the Lowcountry for their spring break as part of Habitat for Humanity's "Collegiate Challenge." Collegiate Challenge is a Habitat for Humanity International youth program that provides the opportunity for college and high school students to use their spring, summer, fall and winter vacations to help build Habitat homes.

Collegiate Challenge is one of the country's largest alternative spring break programs; more than 155,000 students have taken part in the program. This year, 12,000 students will donate their spring break to help Habitat for Humanity affiliates all over the country. Students participate in the building process at the stage that the affiliate is in when they arrive.

Between the end of February and April 2008, students from 28 different colleges and universities from around the United States will travel to the Lowcountry to help Charleston, Sea Island and East Cooper Habitat for Humanity Affiliates build houses for deserving families.

Williamstown First Congregational Church (Youth Group), McMaster University, Temple Israel of Sharon, Notre Dame College, The Agnes Irwin School, James Madison University, Villanova University, Davidson College, University of Central Florida, University of Pennsylvania, Boston University, Longwood University, University of Hartford, Hamilton College, Keene State College, Bon Air United Methodist Church, Cherry Hill East High School and Cathedral High School will help build homes with Sea Island Habitat for Humanity.

Schools participating with East Cooper Habitat for Humanity include Oakland University, William & Mary, Boston College, University of Idaho, Emerson College, Wilson College, Ohio State, NYU, and the University of Delaware.

Minnesota State University, Haverford College, Cornell University, and Northwestern University will participate at Charleston Habitat for Humanity.

Charleston Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, Dr. Jeremy Browning, states, "It's exciting for the local affiliates to host these enthusiastic students who make an invaluable contribution to our home building projects. We are very thankful to have the support of these colleges."

Throughout its 19-year history, Collegiate Challenge has sent more than 155,000 students to build Habitat houses. During this time, students have raised more than \$14.6 million through the program. This year, Collegiate Challenge students will contribute \$1.5 million to help build houses

“It is amazing what can happen in just one week. Students are able to help a family get closer to realizing the dream of homeownership while also experiencing the excitement of traveling to a new place, learning new skills and spending time with friends,” said Alynn Woodson, Associate Director of Youth Programs for Habitat for Humanity International. “Few programs give participants the chance to make such a tangible, meaningful difference in the lives of others like Collegiate Challenge does.”

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 1 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org