



*Building
houses,
building
hope*

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AmeriCorps Storms the Gulf Coast

--Build-a-Thon benefits Hurricane Katrina evacuees--

More than 150 AmeriCorps members serving at local Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia are heading to Mobile, Alabama for a "Build-a-Thon" the week of May 7-11, 2006. Construction will begin on 11 new homes for Hurricane Katrina evacuees during this week.

The AmeriCorps Build-a-Thon is an annual event normally completed within each state. Due to the hurricanes of 2005 hitting the Gulf Coast, an initiative is being undertaken by the south territory of Habitat for Humanity to bring the individual state teams together for one build to benefit the storm damaged communities. AmeriCorps members have come from all over the United States and dedicated a year of service at their local Habitat communities. They will travel to Mobile, Alabama to continue the rebuilding efforts to build homes for those who lost their homes during the 2005 hurricane season.

Charleston Habitat for Humanity has collaborated with AmeriCorps for the past five years. Dr. Jeremy Browning, Executive Director of Charleston Habitat, quotes, "Having AmeriCorps members on our construction team has enabled us to manage more volunteer groups and thus build more homes with Charleston and North Charleston families. We at Charleston Habitat have greatly benefited from this partnership."

AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connect more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps members serve with more than 3,000 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations. Since 1994, more than 400,000 men and women have provided needed assistance to millions of Americans across the nation through their AmeriCorps service. For more information, visit www.americorps.org.

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