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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's challenge women volunteers to build houses during National Women Build Week

Charleston, SC—In the days leading up to Mother's Day, construction crews of women will be pounding nails, raising walls and laying brick at Habitat construction sites across the country in recognition of National Women Build Week, May 2-9. Lowe's and Charleston Habitat for Humanity are looking for local women volunteers to work just one day on a Charleston Habitat construction site during the event. Construction or home improvement experience is not necessary.

Developed through the partnership between Lowe's and Habitat for Humanity, National Women Build Week challenges women to devote at least one day to the effort to eliminate poverty housing. The Mother's Day timeframe was selected for its significance to many volunteers, as families with children make up the staggering number of those in need of adequate housing: more than 12 million children- one in six-live in poverty housing in the United States. To date, women volunteers have built more than 1,400 Habitat houses nationwide.

Women from the Charleston community will join together to help with Charleston Habitat's home rehab program by repairing the roof and the siding at 2524 Violet Avenue in North Charleston. Also, volunteers will make the bathroom handicap accessible at this home. Lowe's awarded Charleston Habitat for Humanity a \$5,000 grant to use for purchasing materials. Over 170 other Habitat affiliates were chosen to receive grants from Lowes during Women Build Week. Other funders for the Charleston Habitat for Humanity Women Build Week include The Exchange Club of Charleston and Habitat for Humanity International's Softwood Lumber Program.

Charleston Habitat is asking female volunteers to sponsor a square foot of the house. One square foot costs \$54.00. In partnership with local spas and nail salons, every female volunteer who sponsors a square foot of the house (or finds someone to sponsor a square foot in their honor) will be entered to win a complimentary pedicure at a local nail salon or spa. The female volunteer with the most square feet sponsored will receive a full day of spa treatment. *(This sponsorship is optional. A volunteer does not have to sponsor a square foot of the house to volunteer during Women Build Week.)*

For women who would like some training prior to Women Build week, construction supervisors of Charleston Habitat for Humanity will lead a "Rooftop Workshop" on how-to skills, tools training, and power-tool usage on **Saturday, April 18th from 3:00pm-5:00pm** on the construction site-2524 Violet Avenue in North Charleston.

Michelle Beach, Charleston Habitat volunteer and participant in the upcoming Women Build Week, states, “What I really love about this program is meeting the families and being a part of something bigger than myself. I’ve even started some projects at my own home, just from the skills I have learned while working with Habitat.”

To volunteer or donate to this project, please call 722-7145, email laurel@charlestonhabitat.org or visit www.charlestonhabitat.org

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Charleston Habitat for Humanity: *Charleston Habitat for Humanity is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. Charleston Habitat for Humanity provides affordable homeownership opportunities for working families of moderate income in the cities of Charleston and North Charleston. Families can qualify for either new homes or home repair programs. Financial and in-kind support comes from homeowner principal mortgage payments; contributions from individuals, businesses, grants and foundations; sales from the Charleston Habitat for Humanity ReStore; and volunteer labor on our construction sites.*