



## **NEWS RELEASE**



**Georgia Department of  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

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### **Atlanta Habitat for Humanity Recognized at 2004 Housing Georgia Conference And Magnolia Awards Program**

Nov 10, 2004 (ATLANTA) – Outstanding achievements in affordable housing were celebrated when the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) hosted the Fourth Annual Housing Georgia Conference and Magnolia Awards Program. The November 10th event featured presentations from finalists in each of six categories: Affordable Rental Housing, Creative Partnerships, Homeownership, Local Government Initiatives, Special Needs and Superior Design.

“DCA hosts the Housing Georgia conference each year because of the important role affordable housing plays in the health of Georgia communities,” said DCA Commissioner Mike Beatty. “It is an exciting and interesting day where we hear success stories from around the state and share ideas on how to make high quality, affordable housing a reality for more Georgians. It takes the resources of diverse groups to address the many issues people face as they try to buy their first home or rent a decent place that they can afford.”

Commissioner Beatty presented an award for Special Achievement in Affordable Housing to Atlanta Habitat for Humanity for its design solutions program. While Atlanta Habitat builds quality, affordable homes, the organization also seeks to integrate those homes into individual communities using neighborhood-appropriate designs. Because Atlanta Habitat uses a systemized process for construction, matching the distinct styles of Atlanta neighborhoods poses a challenge, but it is a challenge Habitat feels compelled to meet.

In the South Atlanta community and the Adair Park historic district, each Atlanta Habitat home is built with specific technical, structural and decorative elements according to agreements with neighborhood associations. Homes include elements such as a side or back landing, a spacious porch, special columns, decorative brackets, variations in roof pitch or exposed rafters to add to the aesthetic value and blend with existing houses. Even with these variations, Atlanta Habitat maintains affordability thanks to the use of volunteer labor for construction. Executive Director of Atlanta Habitat, Larrie Del Martin explains, “Through building attractive, interesting, affordable homes that intermingle with existing houses, Atlanta Habitat builds neighborhood pride and a strong sense of ownership.”

Atlanta Habitat was recognized in the Superior Design category, which was created to identify and celebrate outstanding design that is compatible with the surrounding environment. For information on other DCA housing initiatives, visit the website at [www.dca.state.ga.us](http://www.dca.state.ga.us). For more information on Atlanta Habitat, please visit [www.atlantahabitat.org](http://www.atlantahabitat.org).