



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:           Syd Janney  
                          Atlanta Habitat for Humanity  
                          (404) 223-5180, ext. 165  
                          [syd.janney@atlantahabitat.org](mailto:syd.janney@atlantahabitat.org)

## **Atlanta Habitat Dedicates Townhouse Phase I** *Completion of New Building Product Is Big Event in 25th Anniversary Year*

**Atlanta, GA—July 21, 2008—** On July 26, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity completes construction of Phase 1 of its first-ever townhouses after a well-executed 8-week build schedule. Completion of the townhouses demonstrates Atlanta Habitat’s smart urban planning and showcases the strong collaboration among the six corporate sponsors and the benefits of building ‘green’, all during an eventful 25th anniversary year.

### **Smart Urban Planning**

As one of the city’s most productive affordable housing builders, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity introduced two-story attached townhouses to its housing products to use valuable land more efficiently and ultimately to keep homes affordable. By constructing townhouses in addition to traditional single-family houses, Atlanta Habitat contributes to smart urban planning for the community and wise use of resources while providing more housing options for working families. Located on a beautiful wooded tract in the Sylvan Hills neighborhood, the newly named Sylvan Forest Townhomes are within walking distance of the Lakewood/Ft. McPherson MARTA station.

### **Valued Sponsors and Adaptable Volunteers**

Phase I of the townhouse project was supported by a strong partnership of metro Atlanta’s corporate leaders, including Atlanta Gas Light; Equifax; GE; Hardin Construction Company; Jordan Jones & Goulding; and SunTrust Bank, Atlanta. Speaking as one of the six corporate sponsors of the townhouse build, Kirby Thompson, Vice President – Community and Legislative Affairs of Equifax, observed, “Participating in this unique milestone with Atlanta Habitat energized our employee volunteer team, but it is actually helping a family build its very own home that continues to inspire our commitment to this important mission. The collaborative nature of the build has been a great experience for each individual involved and for our company’s entire volunteer team.”

The townhouse project provided opportunities to use building techniques new to Atlanta Habitat and to adapt its valued volunteer resources. Townhouse construction differed from the single-family detached home process,

with some steps, such as stairs and all upper roofs, undertaken by an outside vendor. Volunteer activities on the exterior were completed from special safety-engineered scaffolding and included the installation of all doors and windows, siding, and trim, as well as painting. A total of 90 volunteers each week provided significant interior construction work on both floor levels and the completion of all low roof areas.

### **EarthCraft House/ENERGY STAR Certification**

Each of the 3-bedroom townhouse units are constructed to EarthCraft House/ENERGY STAR certification standards, as have all houses built by Atlanta Habitat since 2004 when the affiliate began building 'green'. At the townhouse dedication on July 26, Atlanta Habitat will receive the official EarthCraft House/ENERGY STAR certification for the townhome project. Noted Stephen Christensen, EarthCraft House Technical Advisor with Southface, "We thank Atlanta Habitat for making the connections between affordable housing and affordable utility bills. By building green houses, Atlanta Habitat is contributing to higher energy efficiency, longer construction durability, and healthier indoor air quality."

Atlanta Habitat's townhouse project includes six total townhouse units, three in each of two free-standing buildings. The townhouses are being built in two phases. With the successful completion of Phase 1 on July 26, construction of Phase 2 begins in late August. Each building phase (of three units each) takes 8 volunteer build days to complete. Designed to be handicapped visitable, each townhouse has a bedroom and accessible bathroom on the first floor. Two bedrooms and an additional bathroom complete the second floor spaces. The townhouse project provides opportunities for six families on a tract of land that would normally accommodate only three detached houses.

###

### **About Atlanta Habitat for Humanity**

Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, one of more than 1,600 U.S. affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable housing to Atlanta's working families. Since 1983, volunteers from corporations and from faith-based and civic organizations have worked in partnership with qualified homebuyers to construct quality, affordable homes in Atlanta, which are then purchased through no-interest, no-profit mortgages. From 1983 to 2007, Atlanta Habitat built more than 940 homes in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County. The organization is on track to build 60 homes in 2008, its 25th anniversary year, and celebrate the completion of its 1,000th and 1,001st homes by year end. For more information about Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, please visit [www.atlantahabitat.org](http://www.atlantahabitat.org) or call 404-223-5180.