



**Greater Cleveland  
Habitat for Humanity**  
*building homes in partnership with God's people in need*

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## LEADING CLEVELAND LAW FIRMS BREAK GROUND ON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOMESITE

### Legal Community Will Donate Funds and Labor to Build a Home for Deserving Family

**For immediate release** – For the first time in Cleveland thirteen local law firms and Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity are joining forces to build an affordable home on Central Avenue for a deserving family. Habitat for Humanity representatives, Buildable Hours members, and the recipient family will commemorate the first annual Cleveland Buildable Hours program in a groundbreaking ceremony taking place at the build site on Tuesday, June 14th.

The project is affiliated with Buildable Hours, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit group that coordinates contributions and volunteer labor from law firms to help build houses for families through Habitat for Humanity. Tony O'Malley, Managing Partner of Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease, invited Tucker Ellis & West to “partner” with them in hosting this event in Cleveland. Similar efforts are taking place this year in eight additional U.S. cities.

The program, which is funded by participating law firms, will bring together lawyers, summer associates and staff to donate their time over the course of the summer to build the new residence. The future homeowners will work side by side with the Buildable Hours crew and community volunteers to complete their new home. The

home will be located on Central Avenue and is being built alongside two other Habitat homes.

O'Malley said that "Buildable Hours is a way for the Cleveland bar to give back to our community and we are especially pleased that this effort will result in a new home for a very deserving family." O'Malley highlighted the Cleveland Bar Association's recent recommitment to pro bono service, and added that last year through Buildable Hours, over 50 law firms around the country raised money for, and helped to build, six new homes. "This is Cleveland's first year participating in Buildable Hours, and already 13 local law firms have joined. We see this partnership between our legal community and the Greater Cleveland chapter of Habitat for Humanity continuing for years to come."

In addition to Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease and Tucker Ellis & West, the participating law firms are: Baker & Hostetler; Bricker & Eckler; Hahn Loeser + Parks; Jones Day; Reminger & Reminger; Roetzel & Andress; Squire, Sanders & Dempsey; Taft, Stettinius & Hollister; Ulmer & Berne; Weisman, Kennedy & Berris; and Weston Hurd Fallon Paisley & Howley.

### **About Buildable Hours, Inc.**

Buildable Hours, Inc. is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that organizes law firms to commit financial and physical resources to build homes for deserving families through Habitat for Humanity affiliates. Buildable Hours, Inc. was founded in 2002 by Roger Goldman, a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Latham & Watkins, and Scott Michel, a partner in the Washington, D.C. firm of Caplin & Drysdale. Since its founding, Buildable Hours has contributed close to two million dollars and over 15,000 hours of sweat equity to Habitat for Humanity projects.

### **About Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity**

Greater Cleveland Habitat For Humanity (GCHFH), founded in 1987, has given 115 families in eleven different Cleveland neighborhoods the opportunity to become homeowners. This is done through extensive collaborative work with each neighborhood in which they build. GCHFH involves everyone in the process of

revitalizing our neighborhoods, including residents, congregations, community organizations and public/private entities.

Families are given an opportunity to make investments in themselves and their futures by building and buying their own Habitat homes. Cleveland Habitat Partner families purchase their homes with a no-interest, no-profit, 20-year mortgage, and provide 500 working hours at the build site with volunteers. Habitat is dedicated to helping families become successful homeowners, to giving parents a chance to create a better life for their children and to adding valuable, needed new “stakeholders” to Cleveland’s inner-core neighborhoods.

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**Note to Editor:**

The groundbreaking ceremony on June 14 will be held at 3527 Central Avenue at 10:00 a.m. To attend the event, or to schedule an interview, please contact: Marlene O’Malley, 216-696-5282.

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