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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Contact:**

Tammy Marine  
Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley  
(951) 296-3362

### **Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley selected to participate in Habitat for Humanity International's Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative**

*Program encourages expansion of services to reach more families in need of decent, affordable housing*

Temecula, June 25, 2010 – Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley has been selected as one of 163 affiliates nationwide to participate in Habitat for Humanity International's initial phase of its Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative. That effort will focus on improving housing conditions while partnering with other community organizations to provide services that enhance the overall quality of life across struggling neighborhoods.

“Our goal as an agency has always been to improve living conditions while providing services to as many families as possible in Inland Valley. This new initiative will help us expand our efforts at a time when the community needs us the most. I couldn't be more thrilled!”, Stated Gary Thornhill, Board President of Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley.

As part of the first phase, Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley will receive training and guidance on how to revitalize communities through a variety of housing solutions and community development efforts.

In 2009, Habitat for Humanity International announced the formal launch of the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative. The initiative encourages affiliates to serve more families and to create more resilient and sustainable communities by offering a variety of services in addition to new house construction.

“The affiliates selected to take part in the first phase of the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative are a diverse group so that we can learn how NRI will work in as many different affiliate situations as possible,” said Larry Gluth, senior vice president of Habitat's U.S. and Canada area office. “We'll take lessons learned from this first phase and incorporate them as the program expands over time. The Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative adds another dimension to our mission of providing families with decent, affordable places to live.”

Through the initiative, Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley will work with other community organizations to determine the projects that will be carried out locally. Habitat services may include new house construction, rehabilitation of vacant and foreclosed properties, house repairs for low-income homeowners, and weatherization to make houses more energy-efficient and affordable.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
121 Habitat St.  
Americus, GA 31709-3498 USA  
(229) 924-6935  
toll free (800) 422-4828  
fax (229) 924-6541  
[www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)



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“If we are going to help families thrive in healthy neighborhoods, we have to direct some significant efforts into healing America’s troubled communities,” said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International. “These affiliates will work together to develop strategies and create strong networks that can address individual neighborhood issues.”

Founded in 1991 by a handful of local residents, Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley covers an area bounded on the north by Perris and Lake Elsinore, and the San Diego County Line on the south. For more information on Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley, please visit [www.habitat4inlandvalley.org](http://www.habitat4inlandvalley.org) or call (951) 296-3362.

**About Habitat for Humanity International**

**Habitat for Humanity International** is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people. For more information, or to donate or volunteer, visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).