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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco Completes the World's Most Innovative Urban Habitat:  
36-unit condominium building in Daly City**

*Welcome 36 families to their new homes on April 13*

**San Francisco** — April 3, 2013 — Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco announces the completion of 7555 Mission Street, a 36-unit condominium development, where families and their children will grow, develop and thrive. Construction began in June 2010, with the first volunteers working on-site in February 2011 and the last volunteers putting the finishing paint touches on the homes on March 30, 2013. The Habitat model relies on volunteer labor to keep costs low and homeownership affordable. Mission Street welcomed over 11,000 volunteers collectively who donated nearly 155,000 hours. Volunteers and generous in-kind donations have allowed Habitat to come in \$3.5 million dollars under budget, the cost to build totaling \$13 million.

Built along El Camino Real, the development is a cornerstone of the Grand Boulevard Initiative, exemplifying the revitalization that is underway to provide compact, urban design and construction in a pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented corridor. Designed by noted architect Dan Ionescu, the homes complement nearby structures, ensuring they mesh well with the existing environment. They also include environmentally friendly components, such as tankless water heaters, solar to power the common areas, drought tolerant landscaping and denim insulation. The current site was an asphalt parking lot; therefore the Habitat homes and their landscaped common garden area facing Mission Street are a welcome addition.

Habitat Greater San Francisco partnered with the City of Daly City, the development's largest funder, to address the needs of local residents—maximizing the number of homes appropriate for the land, including “green-building” features and deep levels of affordability to ensure achievable homeownership opportunities for working families who want to stay in or near their city.

“Without the commitment and tremendous investment from the City of Daly City and other government partners, this development would not be possible,” said Phillip Kilbridge, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco. “Daly City’s leadership enables 36 families to realize their dream of home ownership, which is virtually unattainable for the majority of residents throughout the Bay Area.”

The 7555 Mission Street development represents a tremendous public/private partnership in affordable ownership housing with investments from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco. Community support from local corporations, civic organizations, foundations, faith groups and private individuals comprised the remaining required funding.

Of the 36 families moving into the development the final week of April, 67% of them are current Daly City renters. The remaining families are relocating from Colma, South San Francisco, San Francisco, San Bruno and Pacifica. These families are hard working Bay Area residents who come from all walks of life—nurses, sales associates, home health aides and security guards—and ethnic backgrounds, but all share in the common dream to own their own homes and provide a stable base for their families.

"I've always dreamed of having a stable home for my family; but as a single parent, it seemed impossible," said Ilma, mother of three who works at San Francisco General Hospital. "Thanks to Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco I'm able to afford my own home by volunteering to help build it, while helping other families too."

Habitat for Humanity provides a hand-up, not a hand-out. Habitat Greater San Francisco partners with hard-working families with low- and very-low incomes (the average income for a family of four is \$53K) to create safe and affordable homeownership opportunities. Habitat provides a zero-percent interest loan and requires 500 hours of "sweat equity" in lieu of a down payment. All new homeowners have completed an extensive selection process, including a review of their financial status, job history, residency, and other qualifications. Applicants must meet certain income guidelines, have good credit, a minimal level of debt, and be willing and able to perform the 500 hours of labor to build their own home.

Join Habitat Greater San Francisco along with Congresswoman Jackie Speier, the Mayor of Daly City and other noted guests on **April 13 from 10am-noon as we welcome 36 families home** in a public dedication and key passing ceremony at **7555 Mission Street in Daly City**. This brings the total number of homes built in Daly City by Habitat to 50 homes built over the last 23 years.

Video assets and b-roll of the construction site, volunteers and families are available upon request. A full photo bank can be found [online](#).

#### **About Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco**

The volunteers, donors and homeowners who join with us at Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco share a belief: hard work and success go hand in hand. Every day, we do what Habitat does best around the globe, but we do it right here in a very Bay Area way, by coming up with inventive solutions to our area's expensive real estate challenges. Because, when we invest in our neighbor's quest to become a homeowner, it benefits the whole community.

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco has enabled more than 200 families to purchase affordable homes since 1989. For more information visit [www.habitatgsf.org](http://www.habitatgsf.org).

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