



### **Western students breaking ground on new Habitat for Humanity home**

**LONDON, ON, August 3, 2011** – Students from Habitat UWO's Club will be picking up the tools of the construction trade as they begin building a new home for a London-area family.

They're breaking ground on Thursday, August 4 at 11 a.m. at 578 Highbury Avenue, a site which will eventually be the home of a new, raised bungalow for the Rashid Family.

The project is the 2nd Annual Habitat London Youth Project; a partnership with [Libro Financial Group](#) and [Habitat for Humanity UWO](#), a student group formed by [Habitat for Humanity London](#) in 2007.

"Until someone had introduced me to Habitat for Humanity London, I was losing hope of finding a nice, clean place to live that was affordable," said Hamid Rashid, recipient of the 2011 Habitat London Youth Project home.

Habitat for Humanity London's mission is to provide simple, decent and affordable homes for low-income London-area families. The Habitat London Youth Project brings student leadership opportunities to the cause and is part of a three-year commitment by Libro Financial Group. Libro is both a financial supporter as well as a mentor to the students fostering the development of sustainable partnerships in the community with the end resulting in three local families living in safe, decent and affordable homes.

"Habitat UWO is very grateful to Habitat London and Libro Financial Group for supporting and demonstrating their belief in London's youth. It is both motivating and humbling," said Radha Joseph, Habitat London Youth Project Chair.

Last year's Youth Project was built on the former site of an Outlaw's clubhouse. The property was rejuvenated to accommodate three Habitat homes, one of which was for the Hernandez/Herrera Family and their three children in the first phase of the project.

Jeff Duncan, CEO of Habitat for Humanity London, said the project partners are thrilled to kick off the second phase.

"Habitat UWO continues to bring a youthful enthusiasm to the project that has inspired many youth organizations to join the movement," he said. "Additionally, Libro's financial and professional support of the students is an essential component to the success of this project."

Bonnie Hardy, Libro Financial Group member representative, said the project is a great fit for Libro because it helps youth to develop essential work and life skills while also helping the community.

“The Libro Community Builder Program supports initiatives that give youth the opportunity to develop leadership and career skills,” she said. “The youth that are involved are extremely talented and passionate about giving back to our community, and together, we look forward to building the next Habitat home.”

**WHAT:** Groundbreaking for 2nd Habitat London Youth Project

**WHERE:** 578 Highbury Avenue, London

**WHEN:** August 4, 11 a.m.

**Media opportunity:** Photos and interviews with project partners and Rashid Family, recipient of the 2011 Habitat London Youth Project Home

#### **About Habitat for Humanity London**

Habitat for Humanity London believes that every man, woman and child has the right to the confidence, security and hope that a home provides. Affordable housing is key to building strong, equitable and thriving communities. By mobilizing volunteers and community partners, we can build affordable housing and promote home ownership as a means of breaking the cycle of poverty. Amazing things happen to people when you “address” them.

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#### **For more information, please contact:**

Jeff Duncan, CEO, Habitat for Humanity London Inc., 519-659-1949, ext. 222, Cell: 519-200-2339 [jduncan@habitat.london.on.ca](mailto:jduncan@habitat.london.on.ca)

