



New Habitat for Humanity London ReStore celebrates community support

Grand opening of London ReStore South on September 10

LONDON, ON, September 6, 2011 – With an eye toward increasing their capacity to build more homes for low-income families, Habitat for Humanity London is launching its second ReStore, a new and used building supply store open to the public.

The new London South ReStore is located at 317 Adelaide Street South and will complement the original London ReStore at Unit 6-45 Pacific Court. Although already operational and open to the public, the new ReStore will celebrate its official grand opening on Saturday, September 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a barbecue, children's activities, giveaways and special guests, such as the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development. Official launch is scheduled for noon.

"The Government of Canada is so pleased to see the continued success of Habitat for Humanity in our communities and we congratulate everyone involved in the opening of this ReStore in London," said the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). "We believe that everyone in Canada deserves a stable, safe and affordable place to call home and our Government takes pride in the partnership we have with organizations like Habitat London to help do just that."

"Above all, the second location for the Habitat London ReStore is our thank you to the London community," said Gerry Pieroni, ReStore Manager. "Certainly, Habitat requires the assistance from sponsors, the trades and business to put the bricks and mortar in place, but it is the incredible support the store has received over the last 15 years from our customers and donors that ultimately created the need for this second store."

ReStores are building and household supply stores run by Habitat for Humanity affiliates that accept donations for resale of new and gently used home improvement and renovation materials that would otherwise end up in landfills. The inventory at ReStores – such as windows, doors, paint, hardware, lumber, tools, lighting fixtures, and appliances – is always changing as items are donated daily by corporate and private donors.

Habitat for Humanity London plans to double by 2015 the number of homes built in the past 18 years.

"The opening of our second ReStore is a key part of Habitat for Humanity London's success strategy to serve more families in our home-ownership program. We need to build our capacity and strength," said Jeff Duncan, CEO, Habitat for Humanity London Inc. "In the same spirit of a hand up, not a hand out, we try to achieve self-sustainability by operating this social enterprise. The revenue from our ReStores is put right back into the operation of our affiliate allowing fundraising dollars to be spent on constructing affordable housing for families. ReStores are also the ultimate recycling centre for building materials and supplies, which helps our entire community through good stewardship."

Citi Canada provided \$25,000 of the total \$30,000 cost to refurbish the new ReStore building and it also contributed volunteers to do some of the work. Additionally, Werbar Investments provided a preferable lease rate and donated a \$25,000 forklift for the project.

“Citi is thrilled to support the second ReStore in London because it’s a shining example of both sustainability and social enterprise,” said Lissa Foster, VP Community Development, Citi Canada. “We value the work we do with Habitat London and its efforts toward economic improvement for families local.”

WHAT: Grand Opening of London ReStore South (children’s activities, goodie bags, prizes and giveaways)

WHERE: 317 Adelaide Street South (west side of Adelaide, just north of Commissioners)

WHEN: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., **Official Program: noon, Free BBQ from 11-1 p.m.**

Media opportunity: Photos and interviews with Diane Finley, ReStore manager Gerry Pieroni, staff, volunteers and customers

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.

For more information, please contact:

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