



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2013

Contact: John Habat
(216) 429-1299 ext. 244
(216) 870-1743 - cell

jhabat@clevelandhabitat.org

**Media Event for Sunday
July 7, 2013**

100 Volunteers From Around Country Focus Sunday Day of Service on Colfax Road

Street Revitalization Part of Habitat's Anniversary Initiative to Revitalize Neighborhoods

Location: Colfax Road (E. 67th – E. 75th) in Lower Kinsman Neighborhood
Date: Sunday, July 7, 2013
Time: 10am-3pm

CLEVELAND, Ohio (July 2, 2013) – More than 100 volunteers from around the country will come together on Sunday, July 7, 2013 for an unprecedented day of community revitalization on Colfax Road in Cleveland.

Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity is partnering with Safeguard Properties and Burten, Bell, Carr Development Corporation to rehab vacant homes for new homeowners, help with exterior home repairs for existing residents, remove yard debris and make landscaping improvements.

Safeguard Properties is the largest mortgage field services company in the U.S., headquartered in Valley View, Ohio. Safeguard employs approximately 1,700 people, in addition to a network of thousands of vendors nationally.

“Safeguard Properties is committed to Cleveland and emphasizes community service to its employees and vendors,” commented Palmer DePetro, Director of REO Regional Coordinators for Safeguard, and a member of Habitat’s Board of Directors. “We are excited to be making a strong contribution to the Colfax Road revitalization effort.”

Safeguard’s 10th Annual Vendor Conference is being held in Cleveland on July 7- 9. About 100 Safeguard vendors and employees will take time out of their conference schedule to roll up their sleeves for a day of painting, landscaping and repairing homes on Colfax Road. Colfax Road was adopted by Habitat as the site for its 25th Anniversary Initiative to revitalize two streets – Colfax and Clement Avenue in Slavic Village.

“This approach of helping existing residents in addition to rehabbing vacant houses for Habitat families is unprecedented for us in Cleveland,” stated John Habat, Executive Director for GCHFH. “We will help about 15 existing residents with improvements such as porch and fence repair, painting, landscaping and debris removal.”

Tim Tramble, Executive Director at Burten, Bell, Carr Development Corporation which is spearheading the community development in the Lower Kinsmen area says residents have embraced this project and want to see more Habitat for Humanity homes built for low-income families of the Kinsman community. “We are so grateful to Habitat and Safeguard for all of their support and for making this day happen,” said Tramble. “We know our homeowners on Colfax are also grateful for the help in making their environment more beautiful.”

Of the homes on Colfax Road currently owned by Habitat, two are available for occupancy now. Families wishing to become home owners through Habitat are encouraged to submit a home ownership application to GCHFH. Information may be found on www.clevelandhabitat.org.

Habat noted that funds to rehab houses for new families have been donated by Wells Fargo, Medical Mutual, New York Community Bank Foundation, Thrivent/area Lutheran churches, and others. “The generosity of our financial supporters is amazing,” said Habat.

###