

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, please contact:
Michelle Boyd 317.919.4943
Kate Rooney 317.509.4952

Local Volunteers To Rehabilitate Homes in the Riley Development Corporation Neighborhood

Local Representatives Will Work Alongside Volunteers to “Rebuild Indianapolis”

INDIANAPOLIS — Hundreds of volunteers, including corporate citizens, union tradesmen, homeowners, bankers, city officials and the mayor, will work with Rebuilding Together Indianapolis to restore 26 homes in the Riley Development Corporation Neighborhood. This year, the organization will help to rebuild its 200th house, located on north Eastern Avenue.

The ninth-annual build day begins at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 26 with the Opening Ceremonies Neighborhood Rally featuring local celebrity emcees, Jim, Deb and Kevin from the WFMS Morning Show. Other guests include Butler University Women’s Basketball Coach, Beth Couture; Design-Build Institute of America President, Rick Ford; Indiana Fever General Manager, Kelly Krauskopf and Susan Williams, President of the Indiana Sports Corporation.

During the day, volunteers work on a variety of tasks ranging from carpentry, plumbing and electrical projects to cleaning and weatherizing. Improvements will be made in the neighborhood bordered by 10th Street, Rural Street, Michigan Street and Tecumseh Street. Local dignitaries will work alongside volunteers and cheer on their teams during the daylong event.

“This is a true community effort,” said Frank Short, president of Rebuilding Together Indianapolis. “Our volunteers are local residents who are committed to giving something back to their community.”

In 2007, Rebuilding Together Indianapolis raised nearly \$200,000 in local corporate donations. Volunteer support has also grown to include many groups, escalating from 250 volunteers rehabilitating 10 homes in 2000, to 600 volunteers rehabilitating 23 homes in 2006. This year, Rebuilding Together Indianapolis is expecting more than 750 volunteers.

“Helping homeowners who cannot otherwise help themselves is extremely rewarding for our union tradesmen,” said Michelle Boyd, spokesperson for the Indiana Union Construction Industry, whose members donate hundreds of hours of service for the event. “By using their education and skills to help revitalize Indianapolis neighborhoods, our laborers become energized about the city they live in.”

###

About Rebuilding Together Indianapolis:

Rebuilding Together Indianapolis is part of a national rebuilding program called *Rebuilding Together*, the nation’s leading volunteer organization working in partnership with communities to rehabilitate owner-occupied low-income housing. *Rebuilding Together* operates in more than 200 cities and towns in all 50 states.