

## **MERGER COMMUNICATIONS**

### ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

#### **DOES THE MERGER MEAN THAT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VALLEY OF THE SUN AND/ OR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE WEST VALLEY WILL BE CLOSING?**

No not at all. Affordable housing is a critical issue. Our goal is to increase our capacity and better service our families in need of housing, our dedicated volunteers, and the corporate, individuals and faith based donors who recognize the acute need.

#### **WE'VE HEARD THAT YOU WILL NOT BE BUILDING IN SOME OF THE COMMUNITIES THAT YOU PREVIOUSLY BUILT IN?**

We plan to continue to partner with every city in the Valley. Plans for the upcoming year include projects in Apache Junction, Avondale, Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Mesa, Peoria, Phoenix and Surprise. As land becomes available in the various communities throughout the Valley, we will qualify families and seek sponsors to build affordable housing.

#### **WHY DID THE TWO AFFILIATES DECIDE TO MERGE NOW?**

Both affiliates have engaged in dialogue for the last year. By joining the resources and staff of two active Habitat for Humanity affiliates we can increase our capacity, strengthen our existing partnerships and open the doors to new innovative solutions to affordable housing.

#### **WHEN WILL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VALLEY OF THE SUN AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE WEST VALLEY BEGIN TO FUNCTION AS ONE ENTITY?**

We are in the process of transferring all of the assets and applying for a name change for the 501(c)3 currently held by Habitat for Humanity West Valley. The Board of Directors, management team and staff are designing and implementing strategies to fully align and integrate our administrative, development, finance, construction and homeowners services departments. This is likely to take one year.

#### **WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE AFFILIATE?**

The name of the merged organization is Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona. Until certain financial and legal aspects of the merge are complete, donors can continue to make checks payable to either Habitat for Humanity Valley of the Sun, Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona.

#### **ARE THERE DIFFERENCES IN THE MISSION OF THE AFFILIATES? IF SO, HOW WILL THAT BE ADDRESSED?**

Habitat for Humanity Valley of the Sun and Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley have always worked to eliminate sub-standard housing. Family qualifications, home sponsorships and construction practices have always been aligned. We will identify the best practices of each affiliate and continue to operate with the same concerns of making affordable housing a reality for qualified families.

#### **HOW WILL THE MERGER AFFECT EMPLOYEES?**

Staffing levels will remain the same. The merger has allowed us to identify needed positions to help us grow as an organization. We currently have staff members with the skills to fill the new positions.

### **ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL?**

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit agency with over 1700 affiliates in 300 countries. As an affiliate, Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona follows the guidelines set forth by Habitat for Humanity International. We will continue to rely on local donations. We tith a portion of donations back to Habitat for Humanity International to support the mission of affordable housing worldwide. We are now ranked in the top ten affiliates in the world.

### **WHO WILL LEAD THE NEW ORGANIZATION?**

Roger Schwierjohn became the CEO of Valley of the Sun in October, 2007 after serving as the President of the West Valley affiliate for a year and a half prior to joining Valley of the Sun. Roger will serve as the merged affiliates President/CEO. In addition, Lee Mashburn, President of the Mashburn Companies and Jim Denson, environmental Protection Manager of Waste Management will serve as co-chairs on the new merged affiliate's Board of Directors.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE MERGER?**

*The people we serve* - As an organization that combines the strengths, resources and expertise of two Habitat for Humanity affiliates, we will ultimately be able to acquire more land, partner with more families to build more homes, and house more families. Furthermore, we will be able to better serve families with more extensive family support programs.

*Our supporters* - Having several affiliates in the same geographic area created some confusion for our existing and potential donors. Our new identity as a single organization distinguishes us to our current and potential supporters, as well as the media. Also, it will give our volunteers more opportunities to partner with us and help us build in different geographic areas.

### **IF I MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VALLEY OF THE SUN OR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE WEST VALLEY, WHERE WILL MY MONEY GO AND WHAT WILL IT BE USED FOR?**

Every donation will be used for the purpose intended. Donations can be designated for a specific house and general donations will further our mission.

### **WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

We welcome any questions you may have. You can contact our President/CEO, Roger Schwierjohn at 602-262-8640, Missie D'Aunoy, Chief Operating Officer at 602-262-8642 or Karen Tremper, Chief Development Officer at 602-558-1604.