

For Immediate Release
Nov. 9, 2009

Contact: Beverly Chevront
phone: 212-991-4000 x. 344
e-mail: bchevront@habitatnyc.org

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – NEW YORK CITY’S NOV. 9 BUILDER AWARDS HONORS
DELTA AIR LINES, ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY CAMPUS CHAPTER, PASTOR VIVIAN GRUBB
AND TRUE HOLY CHURCH AND THE CANDACE GEORGE FAMILY**

Nov. 9, 2009 (New York City) – **Habitat for Humanity - New York City celebrated its 10th Annual Builder Awards tonight at Cipriani’s Wall Street, saluting the following honorees:**

- **Delta Air Lines, Corporate Partner of the Year Award. Gail Grimmett**, Senior Vice President – New York, accepted the award;
- **St. John’s University Habitat Campus Chapter, Millard Fuller Social Justice Award. Rev. Donald J. Harrington**, President of St. John’s University, and **Ludy Registre**, President of the Campus Chapter, accepted the award;
- **Pastor Vivian Grubb and True Holy Church, Richard Wong Faith-in-Action Award;**
- **The Candace George Family, Family Partner of the Year Award.**

The city’s real estate industry was well-represented at the awards program, reflecting the ongoing support from **Brokers Build**, which was founded by broker **Stan Ponte** and other leading brokers to help fund and build affordable homes with Habitat-NYC.

The event also included active participation from its first Junior Committee, spearheaded by **Daly Reardon**.

Hoda Kotb, NBC Today Co-Anchor, who emceed the evening, said: "I'm excited to be part of an event that recognizes individuals who make time in their busy lives to improve the lives of others. At a time when so many families are struggling, it's heartwarming to know that Habitat for Humanity – New York City has built more than 220 homes throughout the five boroughs, giving hundreds of people a fresh start and hope for their future."

Josh Lockwood, Executive Director of Habitat-NYC, said: "We are proud to celebrate all the incredible work that our organization has undertaken in the past year. In a difficult environment, we are building more homes, for more families in need, than ever before. Beyond building homes, we are also strengthening communities, by repairing public spaces in distressed neighborhoods in all five boroughs. But it is in partnering with incredible, hardworking families that we see the true power of our work and renew our commitment to transforming lives by offering a "hand up, not a handout" to low-income homebuyers.

"Delta people have a rich history in supporting the communities where they live and work," said **Gail Grimmett**, Senior Vice President – New York. "In the last year, Delta heavily focused on growing and strengthening its presence in the City and at the same time, Delta people have done an outstanding job of reaching out to their neighbors and communities to help those who need it most."

Delta Air Lines and its employees have contributed more than one million hours of service to Habitat for Humanity affiliates around the globe over the past decade. In New York City, the Air Lines has

sponsored homes and most recently, employees helped install a green roof on a Bronx Habitat condominium building.

Two hundred dedicated students participate in the very active **St. John's University Habitat Campus Chapter**. Formed in 2002, this student chapter's hardworking members have helped build many Habitat-NYC homes and raised public awareness about housing issues and solutions.

"The Vincentian Mission of St. John's is very much in line with the mission of Habitat for Humanity. Our commitment is to help and serve those less fortunate in the New York and Metropolitan area communities, and by working with Habitat-NYC to build homes for families in need, our students understand the power of partnership," said **Father Harrington**. "They see first-hand how people from all walks of life, all communities, all religions, all ages, all income groups and all educational levels can unite in a common cause and bring about enormous good."

Residents of Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Brooklyn, join Habitat-NYC in honoring **Pastor Vivian Grubb** and **True Holy Church** for their spiritual and material aid to the community and for their strong support for Habitat-NYC's nearby homes and future homeowners.

Pastor Grubb said: "It is a joy to look across the street today and see what we can achieve by working together. These homes will soon be filled with new families, and life and love and joy. I can think of no greater gift to our community. I thank Habitat for Humanity – New York City, every one of the volunteers and families – and all of you here today – for bringing these homes to our community. "

Habitat-NYC Family Partner **Candace George** and her children – **Soudea, Pryce-Gary, Elizabeth, Elijah and Daniel** – exemplify the transformational power of Habitat homeownership. They were honored for their hard work, dedication and determination to overcome personal challenges.

"To open a gate and walk inside—it gives you such a positive feeling," **Candace George** said. "It's not only for the children. A habitat home motivates you to want to do more for yourself and your community. You think: 'I own a home. Maybe I can get a degree. Maybe I can open a business.'"

She added: "I still become very emotional when I think of all Habitat-NYC did for us. There are so many things . . . where do I start!"

Habitat for Humanity - New York City transforms lives and our city by building quality homes for families in need and by uniting all New Yorkers around the cause of affordable housing. With the help of thousands of volunteers every year, Habitat-NYC has built more than 220 affordable homes in the five boroughs of New York City. Learn more at www.habitatnyc.org.

###