

PRESS RELEASE

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – NEW YORK CITY HONORS BLOOMBERG, BISHOP SULLIVAN AND THE SWINDELL FAMILY AT ITS NOV. 9 GALA

More than 600 guests helped build door frames today and saluted honorees at Habitat for Humanity – New York City's 6th Annual Builder Awards Gala at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The event raised more than \$1 million, which will help create more Habitat homes in New York City.

Habitat-NYC honored **Bloomberg** and **Peter Grauer**, Chairman and President, as *Corporate Partner of the Year*; **Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan** of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, *Richard Wong Faith in Action* awardee; and the **Swindell Family**, *Family Partner of the Year*.

Designers, handymen and other home improvement specialists donated their expert services as part of a live auction led by **Al Roker**, weatherman for NBC's *Today Show*. During the gala, guests helped build door frames for future Habitat homes and signed personal messages of support on the two-by-four frames.

"We are deeply gratified to have so many committed supporters join us tonight," said **Roland Lewis**, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity-NYC. "Our dedication and our will to achieve our dreams are the tools we need to build a better world. We are proud and heartened to have the support of these dedicated partners as we strive for a world of social justice and opportunity for all."

Bloomberg was honored for its longtime support of Habitat homes and affordable housing in New York City. **Peter Grauer**, Chairman and President of the media corporation, accepted the award.

A powerful advocate for affordable housing and social justice, **Bishop Sullivan** led efforts to promote inclusionary zoning policies in New York City. As a result of his work, at least 8,500 new affordable homes will be built over the next decade.

After putting more than 300 hours of sweat equity into their new Habitat-NYC home in the Bronx, the **Swindell** family hammered the final nail, spackled the last wall and settled into their house in January. They are being honored for their hard work, dedication and determination to overcome personal challenges. Accepting the award were **Vernon Swindell Sr.**, his wife **Kim**, and their daughter, **Jasmyn**.

Vernon Swindell Sr. told the audience: "For me, there are few things in life more satisfying than coming home to your family and to a home that is yours. Our old apartment was a place to lay your head. This is a place you look forward to going to. This is 'home.'"

"We always thought the American Dream of owning a home would be just that—a dream. But now, our dreams have come true," **Kim Swindell** said.

Habitat-NYC transforms lives and our city by uniting all New Yorkers around the cause of decent, affordable housing. With the help of more than 10,000 volunteers every year, Habitat-NYC has built more than 150 affordable homes in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan. ###