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Two ministries, one mission – Habitat for Humanity and The Fuller Center for Housing unite to address poverty housing in Northshore

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Hammond, La -- Two local housing ministries, whose national origins share the same founders, are joining forces to become one organization focused on reducing poverty housing among Northshore residents. As Helen Ford Dufreche, Ginger Ford's daughter said, the merger "continues her mother's dream to help families in the local Hammond community have a decent house".

Ginger Ford Habitat for Humanity (GFHFH) and Northshore Fuller Center for Housing (NFCH) will become The Fuller Center for Housing – Ginger Ford Northshore. "The merger will put GFHFH back on track to build homes to fulfill its mission and commitment to families in need," according to Phil Livingston, Chairman of GFHFH.

The new organization will be led by former GFHFH and NFCH board members. David Danel, C.P.A. will serve as its Chairman and Stephen Smith, Southeastern Louisiana University's Vice President of Finance will serve as Treasurer. Other board members are: Connie Barringer, Amber Burch, Tamara Danel, Alexis Ducorbier, Glen Galbraith, Phil Livingston, Katrinka Lopinto, Dr. John Magee, Dr. Joe Miller, Robbie Miller, Tracy Miller, Dr. James Nelson, Jeanne-Marie Pierson, Gene Pregeant, Judy Roth, Elsbet Smith, Iris Wiggins, and Tyronee Williams.



The combined organization will operate out of the current Ginger Ford Habitat for Humanity facilities at 955 S. Morrison Boulevard in Hammond. The current Habitat ReStore and Shop for Habitat will continue as normal with no interruption in hours or service; however the names will change to reflect the new covenant partner, The Fuller Center for Housing-Ginger Ford Northshore.

The mission of the organization is to eliminate poverty housing by partnering with low-income families and volunteers to build new homes or renovate distressed homes. "By combining resources, the two organizations can fulfill the mission and ministry of (each)," says Stephen Smith.

New houses are built with discounted or donated materials and volunteer labor. Homeowner families are required to contribute 350 hours of "sweat equity" in the construction of their own house and those of others.

Through the Fuller Center's Greater Blessings and Renew Home Programs, volunteers help low income families renovate existing houses in need of repair. Each of these programs restores hope to the families, restores pride in the community and gives children a safer environment in which to grow.



Habitat for Humanity and The Fuller Center for Housing are both worldwide house building ministries founded by Millard and Linda Fuller from Americus, GA.

With the combined forces, The Fuller Center for Housing-Ginger Ford Northshore will be able to work with even more families to provide them a simple, decent place to call home. As Patti Giannobile, Former Executive Director of the GFHFH said, "I was proud to have been part of an organization which gives needy families a helping hand, most of all, a place to call home. The families served would never have been able to obtain a conventional home loan or live the American dream of home ownership without Ginger Ford Habitat for Humanity. It never gets old knowing you have helped change peoples' lives for the better. I wish the new organization continued success."

About: The Fuller Center for Housing – Ginger Ford Northshore:

The newly formed Fuller Center for Housing-Ginger Ford Northshore is an ecumenical Christian non-profit organization based in Hammond which is committed to eliminating poverty housing in Tangipahoa and Livingston Parishes. Visit www.fullercenter.org/northshore.

About the Fuller Center for Housing (International):

The Fuller Center for Housing is an ecumenical Christian non-profit started in 2005 by Habitat for Humanity founders Millard Fuller and Linda Fuller as a way to continue their vision of a grassroots movement working to eliminate poverty housing worldwide. Since its founding, Fuller Center volunteers and families have built or repaired over 1,000 homes worldwide. The work is expanding with more than 80 Covenant Partners now serving their communities.

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