



Press Release and Photocall

Giants support the Big Build!

Photocall Wednesday 27th May 2009

Time 11.00am

Habitat site Sydney Street West (Tennant St) Belfast

For immediate release 26.05.09

Belfast Giants have committed to support Habitat for Humanity's BIG BUILD 09 by helping promote the opportunity for people across Northern Ireland to take part in the charity's biggest team yet - 250 volunteers who will help travel to Romania in October to build 10 homes in a week!

Todd Kelman, General Manager Belfast Giant's said, 'since 2000 when the Belfast Giant's burst onto Northern Ireland's sporting landscape we are proud to have had the support of the entire community. When Habitat explained that they wanted to send a giant-sized team from Northern Ireland we were delighted to be able to tell our fans about this BIG opportunity!'

Peter Farquharson, the charity's co-founder and Executive Director said '2009 is Habitat's 15th year in Northern Ireland and the Big Build is a way of celebrating our global partnerships and our commitment to transforming communities by building decent homes alongside those in need wherever they live. We are hoping that Giant's fans from across Northern Ireland will take up the Big Build Challenge and help us fill the plane we have chartered. The Big Build is for 1 week, leaving Dublin

on 3rd October at 7.55am on 3rd October – we have just over half of the team registered and need another 125 people to take up this Giant sized challenge!

Over the last 10 years more than 200 local teams have taken part in Habitat's international volunteer programme raising £1.7 million in donations which has helped transform the lives of families in need in 32 countries worldwide. More than 300 volunteers on 27 different teams have worked alongside families in need in Romania building not just homes but hope for the future.

Today more than ever vulnerable families all over the world are struggling. 35% of the total housing stock in Romania is in the state of complete neglect and needing urgent repairs. In addition to the economic toll, Romania faces the challenge of thousands of children orphaned under the previous communist regime. The Big Build will include homes for 5 orphans who are no longer eligible to remain in the local orphanage and will provide a fresh start and new hope for the future.

You can take part in the Big Build whether on your own or travelling as part of a team from your company, church or other group.

To find out more about Habitat's work visit www.habitatni.co.uk or call 02890243686.

Ends

Notes

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, non-denominational Christian movement with a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 300,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.5 million people. A Habitat home is completed somewhere in the world every 21 minutes.

In Northern Ireland our work is focused on community regeneration and reconciliation, building houses, building community and building hope locally and around the world.

Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland is a key partner in the global mission raising funds to support international projects and sending volunteer teams to work alongside families in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

For more information about the work of Habitat for Humanity or to arrange an interview contact Jenny Williams on 02890 262 949 or mobile 07595 895526

For more information about Belfast Giants please contact Todd Kelman 028 90591111

Web: www.belfastgiants.com

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY BELFAST GIANTS ON-SITE