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Photo included

Habitat for Humanity of the Mississippi Gulf Coast is named a 2012 Clarence E. Jordan Award recipient for creativity and innovation

GULFPORT, Miss. (April 3, 2013) – Habitat for Humanity of the Mississippi Gulf Coast recently received Habitat for Humanity International’s Clarence E. Jordan award for its Homeownership Incubator program. The award is given by Habitat for Humanity International and recognizes Habitat affiliates’ creativity and innovation in building homes and communities.

The award presentation was made by at Habitat International’s Global Conference on Tuesday, March 12 in Atlanta, GA. The conference was attended by over 2,200 Habitat affiliates’ staff and Board members. Larry Gluth, HFHI Senior Vice President for US and Canada along with Liz Crossman, Chair of HFHI Board of Directors presented the plaque along with a cash award to Chris Monforton, HFHMGC Chief Executive Officer and Cristal Hunt, HFHMGC Client Services Program Specialist.

The Homeownership Incubator is a client driven homeownership coaching program designed for buyers that are not mortgage ready or otherwise financially prepared to purchase a home at the time of their application. Prior to implementation of the Homeownership Incubator program, these clients would have either been denied or enrolled on condition that they become mortgage ready on their own while working toward home purchase. The Homeownership Incubator program was awarded the Clarence E. Jordan award because it combines innovation, creativity and core Habitat principles in a way that lets HFHMGC serve more people in more ways while simultaneously improving sustainability of the program by ensuring better prepared homebuyers and borrowers.

“Habitat for Humanity of the Mississippi Gulf Coast is proud to be named one of Habitat for Humanity’s 2012 Clarence Jordan award winners. We continue to seek innovative ways to serve the community and support Habitat’s mission. We look forward to helping more families in need of decent, affordable housing in 2013,” said Chris Monforton.

The award honors the legacy of Clarence Jordan, the founder of Koinonia Farm, a religious community in southwest Georgia, where the idea for Habitat for Humanity was born. Award recipients are voted on by other Habitat affiliates.

Because of the success of Homeownership Incubator program, HFHMGC now offers a personal finance education and coaching program called INVEST IN YOURSELF that uses a variety of group education and individual coaching methods to help participants create a brighter financial future for themselves and their families. This program is offered for free to the public and is not restricted to those seeking assistance in homeownership or mortgage readiness preparation. Participants are free to pursue any financial goals or work on any financial challenge they face.

“Homeowners and communities reap the benefits when Habitat affiliates think creatively and seek innovative ways of fulfilling our mission. Whether it is a clever new idea for fund raising and engaging supporters or developing more energy efficient designs, I am inspired by their ingenious ways to respond to the challenges of affordable housing.” said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International.

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About HFHMGC

Habitat for Humanity of the Mississippi Gulf Coast was formed in January 2007 when Harrison County HFH and HFH of Jackson County merged organizations. Since then, HFHMGC has incorporated Stone County into its service area and has constructed or repaired more than 600 homes. HFHMGC works in partnership with community stakeholders to create innovative, sustainable housing solutions by empowering all members of our community to actively participate in creating opportunity for people to transform their own lives. To learn more, visit www.hfhmgc.org.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization that seeks to put God’s love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Since 1976, Habitat has served more than 600,000 families by welcoming people of all races, religions and nationalities to construct, rehabilitate or preserve homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. For more information, to donate or to volunteer, please visit www.habitat.org, or follow us at www.facebook.com/habitat or at www.twitter.com/habitat_org or join Habitat’s blog community at www.habitat.org/blog.