



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY METROWEST/GREATER WORCESTER TO
BREAK GROUND ON HOME AT 21 AETNA STREET, WORCESTER**

Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester (HFH-MW/GW) will break ground on Friday, December 4th at 9:30 AM to begin building an affordable duplex home at 21 Aetna Street in Worcester, Massachusetts. Parking for the ceremony will be available in the Worcester Academy lot.

Worcester Academy purchased the vacant building at 21 Aetna Street in 2013 with the intention of donating it to Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester. Earlier this year, the school transferred the property to Habitat. As the house was not suitable for rehabilitation, the existing structure was razed and a duplex, each unit with two bedrooms, will be built for two of our partner families. According to Ron Cino, Head of School, "The school has a longstanding relationship with Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester. In turning over the property, Worcester Academy officials and students are excited to play a part in having a positive impact on the neighborhood and in changing the lives of the families who will someday live there. The Academy, along with its Habitat for Humanity Chapter, has been committed to addressing shortages in quality affordable housing".

The Home Builders & Remodelers Association (HBRA) will build the property to a large extent by substantially supplying building materials and other gift-in-kind items for the project. The 21 Aetna Street property will also be funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the City of Worcester. 21 Aetna Street is the first major project in HFH MWGW's five year plan to revitalize the Union Hill neighborhood in

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Worcester. Building the duplex is just the beginning of the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative to improve the quality of life throughout the community.

Among those expected to attend and speak at the public Ground Breaking Ceremony scheduled for December 4th are Ed Augustus, City Manager, Ron Cino, Worcester Academy's Head of School, Tim Firment, Executive Director of HFH-MW/GW, and Guy Webb, Executive Director of Home Builders & Remodeling Association (HBRA).

Mr. Firment added, "We are grateful for the support provided by the Home Builders & Remodeling Association, Worcester Academy, and the City of Worcester. Our partners are helping Habitat address the problem of poverty housing in our community. They show the way and encourage individuals, groups and organizations to volunteer their time, goods and services in helping Habitat achieve its mission. We are looking for additional sponsors to help support the 21 Aetna Street build".

Our mission is to build homes, community and hope for low-income families in the Greater Worcester and MetroWest areas of Massachusetts. Habitat has an open-door policy, welcoming all volunteers and supporters, regardless of religious affiliation, race, nationality or other background. Under the motto of "a hand up, not a handout," we build houses with families rather than for them. Partner families must contribute 400 to 500 hours of sweat equity building their homes and learning skills to become successful homeowners. The families will then buy the home at a 0% interest rate mortgage based on their income, which must fall between 30% – 60% of the area's median income.

For more information, contact Deborah Huegel, Development Director, at 508-799-9259, Ext. 118 or Deborah.Huegel@habitatmwgw.org. Or visit our website at www.habitatmwgw.org.

