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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spring Breakers to Build Homes with Chatham Habitat for Humanity

PITTSBORO – More than 150 students from across the country will travel to Pittsboro for spring break to build Habitat for Humanity houses this spring. The students are participants of Collegiate Challenge, a Habitat for Humanity program that provides year-round opportunities for youth to help build homes during their vacations in partnership with low-income families. During their time in Pittsboro, the Collegiate Challenge volunteers will dwell at Camp Royall and an additional group will stay with host families at Ferrington Village.

During the month of March, students from DeSales University, Boston College, Villanova University, Rivier College, Georgetown Law School, Quinnipiac University, Delaware Valley College, and the University of Illinois will help frame the interior and exterior walls for up to four houses. The homes will be located in Chatham Oak, a unique mixed-income community being developed by Chatham Habitat on land purchased by the county for affordable housing. Chatham Habitat will build a total of eight homes (for families earning 25% to 50% of median income) and a commercial builder will construct seven (for families earning no more than 80% of median income).

The students will also put up and paint siding and install cellulose batting, an energy-efficient product made mostly from recycled newspapers, which is being donated by Apple Blossom Insulators.

“We are very pleased to host Collegiate Challenge volunteers again this year. The students consistently bring in a lot of energy and enthusiasm and they really rev up our construction efforts,” said Construction Project Manager Gaby Fornari. “They are making a difference in our community by helping families in need obtain safe, decent and affordable homes.”

This spring break marks the 20th anniversary of the Collegiate Challenge program, and more than 12,000 students will travel to 200 locations to build houses through the program. Throughout its 20-year history, more than 166,000 students have participated in Collegiate Challenge, raising more than \$15.5 million. This year alone, Collegiate Challenge participants will contribute \$1.8 million.

“Youth who choose to volunteer and build houses with Habitat for Humanity during their spring break are making a powerful statement about the role they want to play in helping families move into affordable housing,” said Desiree Adaway, Habitat’s senior director of Volunteer Mobilization. “We are grateful that for the past 20 years, youth have united to eliminate poverty housing across the United States through the Collegiate Challenge program.”

State Farm® is the national corporate sponsor of Habitat’s youth programs and is the sponsor of a 20th anniversary celebration event to recognize the students and affiliates who have made Collegiate Challenge a success over the past two decades.

About Chatham Habitat for Humanity: Since 1989, Chatham Habitat for Humanity has worked to change substandard housing conditions throughout Chatham County by making homeownership possible for nearly 90 families. In the process, Habitat is able to transform lives, improve neighborhoods, and most importantly, give hope and strength to our communities. For more information visit our web site: www.chathamhabitat.org

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. 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. For more information, visit www.habitat.org.