

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***HOMEAID HOUSTON'S WELLSPRINGS PROJECT MARKS COMPLETION
WITH DEDICATION CEREMONY***

December 12, 2006 - Wellsprings Village was the site for a recent dedication ceremony that officially marked the completion of six homes for survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The homes were built through a partnership of HomeAid Houston, HomeAid's Gulf Coast Rebuilding Fund – funded by Ameriquest Mortgage, the Greater Houston Builders Association and the staff, board and volunteers of Wellsprings, Inc.

Representatives from various aspects of the Project's team were on-hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Matt Moriarty represented David Weekley Homes and Eddie Martin and Richard Webb represented Tilson Homes. Both builders headed construction. Also on-hand were Genette Eaton, CEO, HomeAid National; James Anderson, vice president, Government and Community Affairs, Ameriquest Mortgage Co.; Anthony Love, CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless; Valerie Beckham, director for Wellsprings Village; Diane Dempcy, HomeAid National; Brian Binash, board president of HomeAid Houston; Randy Bayer, president of the GHBA; Bette Moser, executive director of HomeAid Houston; Toy Wood, CEO the GHBA; HomeAid Houston board members; State Representative Dr. Alma Allen; Eddie Violet and Sandra Warren from HUD, and Guy Rankin and Brenda Kirk from Harris County Houston Authority.

The Project was originally initiated in July 2004 when Wellsprings, Inc. purchased a three-acre tract of land specifically for a transitional residence program. Two houses were currently on the site and were designed to house eight women each. The additional six homes will house 48 new beds. The homes are a simple design, each with four bedrooms and four bathrooms, a common living and dining area, kitchen, laundry facility and study.

Wellsprings Inc. was founded by Sister Rita Owens and Sister Justine Farinella at a site originally in the Montrose area of Houston. "These two women shared a vision that would ultimately better dozens of women's lives," said Bette Moser, executive director of HomeAid Houston. "I can speak for the whole team that it has been an honor to help them reach their dream to provide a setting that will give women the opportunity to become self-sufficient and to become empowered by increasing their income level through job skills, training and educational programs in hopes of breaking the cycle of homelessness, abuse, poverty, addiction and illiteracy. Wellsprings Village is on the road to helping women rebuild their lives in so many ways."

Dozens of companies have come together to offer their services, materials and funds to help construct six homes for women who are in need of a safe environment to begin a new life.

“It has been so rewarding to work with the various vendors, builders, remodelers and subcontractors who have come forward to help out,” said Richard Webb, Corporate Development for Tilson Homes and acting as Project Manager for the Wellsprings Village Project. “Companies such as Suncoast Post-Tension, Sherwin Williams, 84 Lumber, Amegy Bank, Elk Group, Integrity Concrete, Goodman Manufacturing Company, Capital Heating and Air, Burgess Construction Consultants, HomeTeam Pest Defense, Allied Concrete and All Points Services are providing their materials or services to make a difference. Everyone asks ‘What can I do?’.”

HomeAid Houston was established as a non-profit organization by the GHBA in 2003. The first HomeAid Houston project was the \$3.1 million Bonita House of Hope facility that was completed in the spring of 2005. This 199 bed facility for homeless men, women and children was a critical provider of services in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. HomeAid Houston also recently completed The Mission of Yahweh in October. This project provides 16 units for women and children. Builder captions for the Project were Green Mountain Building Co. and Doyle Stuckey Homes. For more information on HomeAid visit www.homeaid.org