



## “HABITAT OLYMPICS” ON FEB 13<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATES TEAMWORK AND HELPS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Los Angeles, CA - February 10, 2010: On February 13th, the Habitat Olympics are coming to LA to benefit **St. Monica Habitat for Humanity** projects. The event starts at 7pm at **St. Monica Church**, and includes dinner, live music, competition in athletic and Habitat for Humanity themed games, and a Wii sports tournament.

Hosted by **Mike O'Malley** (“Yes, Dear”), the Habitat Olympics will feature a musical performance by singer and songwriter **Angela Wood**, with opening ceremonies by **Father Tim Klosterman** and a special appearance from the **Monroy** family, new Habitat partner homeowners. Dinner includes food from **California Pizza Kitchen** and **Fritto Misto**, vitamin and sports drinks provided by **Activate Drinks**, and organic coffee and fine tea served by **Urth Caffé**. Teams will compete in a variety of games, including: a hockey shot competition; indoor curling provided by **New Age Kurling**; and a house building competition from recycled (and random) materials. Guests will also be able to compete individually in a Wii winter sports tournament.

A raffle and silent auction will go on throughout the night, with almost \$10,000 in prizes available including: a 2008 Olympics podium jacket, signed by Team USA flag bearer **Lopez Lomong**; a photo session with celebrity photographer **Anna Webber**; personal training with **Erika Jacobson** from Bravo TV’s “Workout”; Band Hero and Guitar Hero bundles signed by the artists at **Neversoft**; surfing and lunch with **Father Tim** at **Mariasol** in Santa Monica; and a variety of gift certificates and products from local businesses. A full list of raffle and auction items can be found at [www.HabitatOlympics.com](http://www.HabitatOlympics.com).

Tickets are \$25, and can be purchased at **St. Monica Church** or at the door. RSVP to [christine@stmonica.net](mailto:christine@stmonica.net).

“It’s an incredible experience to work on a Habitat home” says **Chris Mercurio**, co-chair of **St. Monica Habitat for Humanity**. “Working alongside deserving families like the Monroys, and knowing the impact that safe, decent housing will have on their lives. It’s important to have events like the Habitat Olympics so we can provide that for more families in Los Angeles.”

Habitat for Humanity is not a give-away program. Volunteer teams make housing affordable and provide a “hand up” to low-income, working families. In addition to a down payment and mortgage payments, homeowners must invest up to 500 hours of “sweat equity”, working as part of the building team. The Habitat Olympics celebrates that whether in sports or on a build site, it’s all about teamwork!

**St. Monica Habitat for Humanity** has contributed to Habitat for Humanity projects for years; whether in LA, across the United States or internationally. Volunteers have worked in New Orleans after Katrina, in Northern Ireland as part of a peace build, and on a monthly basis at various build locations around Los Angeles. Los Angeles ranks last out of 223 American cities for affordable housing, so current work is focused locally, helping to support **Habitat of Greater Los Angeles** and **Habitat of the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys**.

**Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles** strives to eliminate poverty housing through advocacy, education and partnership with families in need to build simple, decent, affordable and sustainable housing. Since 1990, HFH GLA has built and renovated over 600 homes locally and worldwide, transforming the lives of hundreds of individuals. HFH GLA is a GuideStar® Valued Partner. For more information, visit [www.habitatla.org](http://www.habitatla.org) or call 310-323-4663.

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### For more information and to reserve tickets:

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