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PENINSULA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CELEBRATES 100 HOMES

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., September 8, 2007 – Peninsula Habitat for Humanity today held a “Rally for Affordable Housing” and dedication event celebrating its 100th home – a major milestone in the organization’s 18 year history. Designed to raise awareness about the local housing crisis, the rally featured community leaders and officials from local, county and state government as guest speakers, including San Mateo County Supervisors Jerry Hill and Adrienne Tissier, Silicon Valley Community Foundation’s Emmett D. Carson, CEO and President, and California State Assemblymember, Ira Ruskin, 21st District.

“The supply of affordable homes in our county is shrinking,” said Supervisor Jerry Hill. “With the median home price in San Mateo County in the \$800,000 range and the average monthly mortgage around \$4,000, what family can afford to own a home in San Mateo County? Certainly not those who work in the service industry.”

Following the rally, Peninsula Habitat dedicated its 99th and 100th homes. The event marked the completion of Peninsula Habitat’s Brisbane project, which included five homes on Plumas Street that were dedicated in May and the two newest homes on San Bruno Avenue and Glen Parkway. With congratulations from Mayor Steve Waldo and more than 200 others in attendance, the new owners of the homes – the Batres and Dimitrov families – received their keys at the event and were visibly overjoyed.

“My family is one of the families that considered themselves unable to buy a home on the open market,” said Eleonora Dimitrov. “We are a family whose dream to own a home in Brisbane would not have become a reality without Peninsula Habitat for Humanity. And today we are here to celebrate something very remarkable in the history of our family, and that is our home.”

Spencer Christian, weather forecaster for San Francisco’s ABC7 News at 6, co-host of *The View from the Bay*, a live one-hour local entertainment program, and former national weather forecaster for *Good Morning America*, lead the event as master of ceremonies.

Founded in 1989, Peninsula Habitat for Humanity is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. By partnering with families in need, along with community volunteers and donors, Peninsula Habitat builds affordable ownership homes for very low-income families in San Mateo County – offering them a hand up, not a handout. In

18 years, the agency has worked with more than 40,000 volunteers and community donors to empower more than 100 families to become homeowners. Families who are selected for a Habitat home invest a lot of effort into achieving this dream, including 500 hours of "sweat equity" to help build their own homes. They purchase their homes with no down payment and a zero-interest mortgage provided by Peninsula Habitat, structured not to exceed one-third of their monthly income. Some families go on to purchase market rate homes, creating a new cycle of opportunity as their Habitat homes become available again in the community affordable housing pool. Currently, four homes in South San Francisco and eight homes in Redwood City are under construction.