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Press Release -

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SOUTH SARASOTA CO, INC. WINS NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARD

February 13, 2008, Orlando, Fla.— Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota Co., Inc. of Venice, Fla., has been recognized by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center and U.S. Department of Energy as a leader in energy-efficient construction. As the winner of a 2012 Silver EnergyValue Housing Award (EVHA) in the existing home reconstruction, hot climate category, the company has demonstrated a noteworthy commitment to building energy-efficient homes.

Now in its 17th year, the EVHA program not only recognizes builders' and remodelers' energy-efficient practices, but also serves to educate the home building industry and the public about advanced technologies and successful approaches to energy-efficient construction that can now be implemented by mainstream building professionals. EVHA winners consider the effect of every material and product on a home's overall efficiency – from the framing methods used, the type and location of insulation installed, and the selection of appliances, to the other critical details like air sealing, ductwork placement, and HVAC sizing, EVHA winners make sure the entire home works together as an efficient and integrated system.

Michael Luzier, president of the NAHB Research Center said, "EVHA winners are pioneers in their fields and the level of innovation and home design this year is outstanding. Clearly, the home building industry's efforts to expand energy efficiency and green building have taken hold and will continue to make a positive difference for future generations."

Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County, Inc. (HFHSSC) is certainly an organization known for making a positive difference in the lives of the families to which it provides housing. Its laudable mission is also challenging though as HFH relies primarily on volunteer construction crews. HFH South Sarasota County knows well the challenges and rewards of having volunteer crews build and renovate affordable housing. But their EVHA-winning remodeling project, the first major energy-efficient renovation the Florida HFH affiliate had undertaken, was more challenging than most others they'd encountered. The project's construction manager, Michael Sollitto, said, "It was tough to figure out how

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we could transform a 1970s home into one that would rival any newly-built home in the efficiency department, keep it affordable, and accomplish all of that with volunteer labor.”

The construction team decided to create an unvented attic to bring the ducts and air handler into conditioned space and solve the issue of major air leakage between the house and the vented attic. All exterior walls were also insulated with rigid insulation and furring strips were placed over the reflective insulation surface to provide a nailing anchor for new drywall and, more importantly, the airspace needed for the low-e surface to prevent heat gain into the interior space. These measures in combination with the installation of new low-e, double-pane windows, drywall, and final air sealing measures provided a vastly improved building envelope – there was an 82 percent improvement in blower door test results compared to pre-renovation. As a result of these improvements, the team was also able to replace the old, inefficient three-ton heat pump with a new two-ton model – with a better sealed home, the extra capacity was just unnecessary cost. All told, with the energy efficiency improvements, the home went from having annual energy bills around \$2,600 down to an estimated \$950 per year; a real energy value!

The EVHA program is managed by the [NAHB Research Center](#), and supported by the U.S. Department of Energy through its [Building America program](#), the [National Association of Home Builders \(NAHB\)](#), and the [National Renewable Energy Laboratory \(NREL\)](#). This year’s award sponsors include: **Platinum Sponsor** [BASF – The Chemical Company](#); **Gold Sponsors** [Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc.](#) with [Progressive Foam Technologies, Inc.](#), [DuPont](#), [Icynene, Inc.](#), and [Reflectix, Inc.](#); **Silver Sponsors** [Whirlpool Corporation](#) and [SEISCO International Limited](#); and **In-Kind Sponsors** [BuildingGreen, Inc.](#), [Fine Homebuilding](#), and [GreenBuildingAdvisor.com](#).

For more information on Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County, Inc., contact Judith H. Wilcox at 941-493-6606. To learn more about the EVHA program, contact Debra Sagan, EVHA program manager, at dsagan@nahbrc.com or (800) 638-8556, ext. 6210.

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