



## Press Release

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*Developing the Next Generation of Latino Leaders*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 20, 2009

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## **CHCI Fellows Help Build Brighter Future for Others**

The Home Depot Foundation and DC Habitat for Humanity Partner with CHCI to Build Affordable Homes

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), the nation’s premier Latino youth leadership development and educational organization, is partnering with The Home Depot® Foundation and Habitat for Humanity of Washington, D.C. for a day of community service.

CHCI fellows are part of a nine-month exclusive program that offers talented Latinos who recently earned their undergraduate or graduate degrees the opportunity to gain hands-on experience at the national level in public policy working on Capitol Hill. Fellows have the opportunity to work in such areas as international affairs, economic development, education policy, housing, or local government. Every class of fellows is required to complete a community service as part of the program.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our next generation of leaders to physically see the fruits of their labor and also give back to the Washington, D.C. community, which they have come to call home over the past nine months,” said Esther Aguilera, CHCI President & CEO. “Community service is a core value of CHCI and we are glad that this class of fellows has embraced this and understands that community service extends beyond the work they do on Capitol Hill.”

CHCI’s official sponsor for the community service project is The Home Depot Foundation. Dedicated to building affordable homes for working families, The Home Depot Foundation encourages developers to incorporate responsible design and use durable materials to ensure that homes are more energy and water efficient, have good indoor air quality, and provide a safe and healthy space to live.

“We have seen firsthand how increasing access to housing that is healthy and affordable not just to move into, but to live in for the long term, changes people’s lives,” said Kelly Caffarelli, president, The Home Depot Foundation. “That’s why we are proud to partner with organizations like CHCI and Habitat for Humanity whose shared mission is to provide opportunities and

educational resources for underserved communities. This is what the Home Depot Foundation is all about.”

DC Habitat sells homes to families who are ineligible for conventional financing offering no-profit, no-interest, and 25 year mortgages for buyers. Prospective homeowners make a \$500 down payment and contribute 300 hours of sweat equity towards construction of their own home. Mortgage payments on completed homes (typically \$400 - \$425 a month) are reinvested in a revolving Fund for Humanity to finance further construction and the acquisition of additional properties and building materials.

“DC Habitat for Humanity is honored to welcome the CHCI Fellows,” said Logan Sheehan, Volunteer Service Manager for DC Habitat. “We are lucky to have wonderful volunteers like the CHCI Fellows who make all that we do possible. Without their time, sweat, creativity, and faith, these homes would be nothing more than a dream, a plot of land, and a pile of materials.”

#### **About Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute**

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), a nonprofit and nonpartisan 501(c) (3) organization, provides leadership development programs and educational services to students and young emerging leaders. The CHCI Board of Directors is comprised of Hispanic Members of Congress, nonprofit, union and corporate leaders. For more information call CHCI at (202) 543-1771 or visit [www.chci.org](http://www.chci.org).

#### **About The Home Depot Foundation**

The Home Depot Foundation was created in 2002 to further the community building goals of The Home Depot. The Home Depot Foundation is dedicated to building affordable homes for working families that are healthy to live in and affordable to own. To make homes healthy and affordable, the Foundation encourages developers to incorporate responsible design and use durable and quality materials to ensure that homes are more energy and water efficient, have good indoor air quality, and provide a safe and healthy space to live. Since its formation, The Home Depot Foundation has granted \$70 million to nonprofit organizations and supported the development of more than 50,000 affordable, healthy homes. For more information, visit [www.homedepotfoundation.org](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org).

#### **About Habitat for Humanity**

Founding in 1988, DC Habitat has completed over 100 homes and renovated 75 low-income cooperative units in the District of Columbia. Over 4,000 volunteers a year have contributed toward the construction of homes.

The mission of DC Habitat for Humanity is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness in the nation's capital by building affordable, energy- and resource-efficient homes for God's people in need.

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