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## **SFI PARTNERS WITH TENNESSEE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Implementation Committee in Tennessee has teamed up with Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity to build an affordable home with products from responsible sources.

“This partnership with the SFI forest certification program and its local participants will help Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity achieve its goal of building homes that are affordable and represent a great environmental choice,” Chris McCarthy, president and CEO, Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity, said today. “The generous donation of resources and volunteer assistance is especially appreciated during these tough economic times.”

“Our committee members are always looking for ways to work proactively and collaboratively with community and other natural resource organizations in Tennessee,” said Kevin Hoyt, chair of the Tennessee SFI Implementation Committee. “This project shows how deeply we care about the communities that we live in, about the forests that cover half our state, and about the positive impact the forest industry has on our state’s economy.”

The SFI-sponsored house in Timberwood, Habitat’s third affordable housing community in the Nashville area, will be built to the National Green Building Standard (ANSI/ICC 700-2008) green building rating system. On Monday Sept. 21, SFI program participants will be involved in a sponsored Build Day at the site.

SFI Inc. is a registered non-profit organization responsible for one of the largest third-party forest certification programs in the world. SFI Implementation Committees, which promote the SFI program as a means to broaden the practice of responsible forestry, involve private landowners, independent loggers, professional foresters, public officials, university scientists and conservationists.

In addition to Tennessee, SFI Implementation Committees in Minnesota and Maine have partnered with local Habitat for Humanity affiliates, and SFI program participants are donating resources and providing volunteers to build Habitat homes for Aboriginal families – including the first Habitat home in a First Nations community at Alderville, Ontario, and one involving the Manitoba Métis Federation.

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“Responsible forest management and community involvement go hand in hand, and our 37 state, provincial and regional SFI Implementation Committees prove this every day through their work with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity,” said Kathy Abusow, president and CEO of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Hoyt, who is senior natural resource analyst for Huber Engineered Woods LLC, which is donating ZIP wall and roof panels for the Nashville project, says the project is important to Huber staff. “Our company has been an important part of the state’s economy since 1996, and this lets us show our friends and neighbors that we strive to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program in our wood procurement operations.”

Other organizations providing resources or volunteers for the project include the Tennessee Tree Farm Committee, the Tennessee Forestry Association, the Kentucky-Tennessee Society of American Foresters, the Tennessee Nature Conservancy, The Tennessee Environmental Council, and the Tennessee Division of Forestry. The Tennessee SFI Implementation Committee received \$5,000 from SFI Inc. for this project through a grant program administered by the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors using assets from the non-profit National Resources Council of America.

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### **About Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity**

Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization committed to providing families with the life-changing opportunity to purchase and own decent, affordable homes. The agency, which consistently ranks in the top one percent of all Habitat affiliates, built 60 homes in 2008 – 42 locally and 18 abroad. To date, it has served more than 1,400 family members, including 900 children. Since 2007, all Nashville Area Habitat homes have been ENERGY STAR compliant, earning the agency the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year award in 2008 and 2009 from the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 2009, the agency won national recognition with the 2009 HOPE Leadership Award. For more information, call (615) 254-HOME (4663) or visit [www.habitatnashville.org](http://www.habitatnashville.org).

### **About SFI Inc.**

SFI Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program ([www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org)), that is internationally recognized and among the largest in the world. It is one of the fastest-growing forest certification programs with 175 million acres (70 million hectares) of SFI-certified forests across North America. The SFI Standard also includes unique fiber sourcing requirements that promote responsible forest management on all suppliers’ lands and a chain-of-custody certification, which can communicate to buyers how much certified fiber is in a specific product. The SFI forest standard is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, a global umbrella organization that has strict requirements for endorsement. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.