



Department of City Development  
**News Release**

For Immediate Release  
September 21, 2005

**MAYOR ANNOUNCES MILWAUKEE 'OPERATION HOME DELIVERY'  
*A Milwaukee Habitat For Humanity Campaign For Hurricane Victims***

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett , Common Council President Willie Hines Jr. and the Milwaukee Habitat For Humanity launched a local 'Operation Home Delivery' campaign today to help victims of Hurricane Katrina and potential victims of Hurricane Rita. Mayor Barrett made an appeal to city employees to donate money and time to help build the first 'home in a box' that can be shipped from Milwaukee to the Gulf Coast and help shelter a family.

"The people of Milwaukee and the rest of the nation are painfully aware of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and we fear Hurricane Rita will leave more victims," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "While many efforts are underway to take care of the immediate needs of the Hurricane victims, we know the next step is to find permanent replacement housing for the hundreds of thousands of families who were left with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Milwaukee will join the 'Operation Home Delivery' campaign by Habitat for Humanity International to replace homes and rebuild hope."

'Operation Home Delivery' is an urgent 'home in a box' project to assemble the materials needed to build a house and then, using volunteer labor, "pre-build" the frame of a house over a few days. The house will be tacked together to ensure a rock-solid fit; then the frame will be taken apart and the components placed, along with other necessary construction materials, in a container and shipped to an area along the Gulf Coast where families, volunteers and builders will rebuild the home.

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Sara Kierzek said the local chapter hopes to assemble and ship five to 10 'homes in a box.' Each home costs \$66,000 in materials and 600 hours of volunteer labor.

- MORE-

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity will not cease in its mission to serve the local community needs for affordable housing but Hurricane Katrina has caused a tragedy of almost incomprehensible proportions,” said Kierzek. “We will put in as many extra hours and as much effort necessary to make ‘Operation Home Delivery’ a success while we continue to build homes for low-income people of Milwaukee.”

Mayor Barrett issued an urgent appeal to all city employees to collect donations to fund the first ‘home in a box’. Common Council President Hines said he believed city employees would succeed in reaching the goal, as many have already asked what more could be done to help hurricane victims.

“I urge all Milwaukeeans to join us in the Milwaukee ‘Operation Home Delivery’ campaign, to help rebuild homes and rebuild hope for families who lost everything to Hurricane Katrina,” said Hines.

Anyone interested in donated time or money to help build a ‘home in a box’ should contact the Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity, # 414-562-6100.

# # #