



For Immediate Release

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**Immigrant Family who fled the Sudan's Civil Unrest 15 Years Ago Finally
Getting a Place to Call Home**

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati and Sponsor Ethicon Dedicate New Home in Madisonville

CINCINNATI – On March 22, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati (www.habitatcincinnati.org) will dedicate the second home in Madisonville that was sponsored by Ethicon during 2013. The home was also built and supported by the Sycamore Coalition of Churches. The new home will belong to the Ahmed and Zahara Abass family who emigrated from the Sudan 15 years ago.

A Dedication Ceremony will take place at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday March 22nd at 6421 Desmond Street in Madisonville, OH.** The community and members of the news media are welcome and encouraged to attend. Guests can expect to hear comments from **Alan Rae, Vice President of New Business Development for Ethicon**, in addition to Habitat's leadership, members of the Sycamore Coalition of Churches as well as the Partner Family. After a brief ceremony, the Abass family will be presented the keys to their new home.

Ethicon generously donated \$40,000 to support this project in addition to a separate donation of \$40,000 to fund a second home in Madisonville last year. Ethicon associates volunteered over 300 hours throughout 2013 to build the two homes. In addition to Ethicon, the Sycamore Coalition of churches has donated \$40,000 to complete the funding needed to build the Abass' home.

"The faithful support of Ethicon and the Sycamore Coalition of Churches is helping to write a story of hope for working families like the Abass' who dreamed for many years of coming to America to make a better life for their family. Now, because of the generosity of time and talent from Ethicon and Sycamore, that American dream of purchasing and owning their own home is coming true," commented Ed Lee, President and CEO of Greater Cincinnati Habitat.

The Abass family left their home and emigrated from the Sudan to escape political unrest. They were sponsored by Catholic Social Services, who connected them with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, which is also an active Habitat partner. Good Shepherd provided them with affordable housing in September 2010, extended the family's lease upon their approval to participate in Habitat's home ownership program, and has strongly recommended this family saying that they have been exceptional tenants, fixing items on their own when able and taking excellent care of the property. Ahmed views this home as a foundational piece of his family's "unity, hopes, and dreams as well as the completion of a journey of more than 15 years for his family."

For more information on Greater Cincinnati Habitat or to donate or volunteer, visit www.habitatcincinnati.org, follow us on twitter <http://twitter.com/HabitatCincy> or like us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/HabitatGC>.

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati (HFHGC)

HFHGC is a non-profit Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate substandard housing by building and renovating simple, decent, affordable homes to sell to low-income families in need. Habitat works in equal partnership with families, volunteers and donors building a sense of community as well as affordable housing. Our partners include corporations, churches, foundations, organizations and individual donors who donate money, labor and materials to fund and build each home. HFHGC builds throughout a 9 county region in the Tri-State area including Hamilton, Butler, Clermont and Warren counties in Ohio; Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties in Kentucky; and Dearborn and Ohio counties in Indiana.

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