



Coastal Community Credit Union Mortgages Make a Difference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Comox Valley – February 1, 2006: Comox Valley based Habitat for Humanity is getting an \$8,700 boost from Coastal Community Credit Union to support its building and ReStore initiatives in the Central/North Island. The Credit Union earmarked ten dollars towards Habitat for Humanity from every new mortgage and mortgage renewal generated from its 2005 “Bring Your Mortgage Home” program.

Habitat for Humanity Comox Valley believes that everyone deserves simple, decent, safe and affordable housing. Serving the Comox Valley and surrounding areas, their mission is to eliminate poverty housing in our communities.

Comox Habitat Board Chair, Jon Toogood is in it for the kids. Since becoming associated with HFH in Winnipeg in 1988, he’s witnessed firsthand the difference a Habitat home can make in the lives of recipients, especially children. “I have seen kids succeed at school and go on to become contributing citizens in their communities due in large part to having a Habitat house. This year we are working to build at least two homes in the Comox Valley and continue with ReStore initiatives throughout the North Island and West Coast regions.”

Families apply to Habitat affiliates for a house and are chosen based on their need, willingness to participate in the process and ability to repay the mortgage. A family is eligible if their income is below the poverty line, as set by the government for their particular region.

Comox Habitat also operates a ReStore, proceeds from which help to finance the construction of Habitat homes. The ReStore accepts donations of new and used building materials from individuals, retailers, contractors, manufacturers, as well as items salvaged from the deconstruction of buildings. When people donate to a ReStore they are helping to build homes for families that would otherwise not be able to afford one.

Habitat for Humanity is a grassroots organization with global reach. Ninety percent of funds raised by Habitat affiliates go toward building homes for struggling families in our community. The remaining ten percent goes to the organization’s national office to build homes in countries such as Bangladesh, where the cost of a basic house is only \$600. People can help by donating their money, time, tools and building materials or simply by shopping at the ReStore.

Each year Coastal Community Credit Union chooses community partners to share in the success of its Mortgage Campaign. “Our partnership with Habitat for Humanity is an important one”, says Dean Rathwell, Coastal’s Vice President of Community Investment. “Habitat for Humanity shares our vision of leading our community to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Coastal Community Credit Union is the largest credit union based on Vancouver Island serving communities from Victoria to Port Hardy through 20 branches and 19 insurance offices. Passionate about our communities, the Credit Union provides financial, in-kind and other resources to support charity and non-profit groups through its Community Investment program.

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