



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pittsburgh Pirates Center Fielder Andrew McCutchen Volunteers as Spokesperson for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, PA (October 20, 2012): Andrew McCutchen, the center fielder with the Pittsburgh Pirates, has agreed to serve as the official spokesperson for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh. McCutchen will help raise awareness about Habitat's affordable housing programs.

Through Habitat for Humanity, client families obtain the stability of homeownership that breaks the cycle of poverty for future generations. Habitat's affordable housing programs include homeownership through interest-free mortgages, and new neighborhood revitalization programs involving owner-occupied home repair, weatherization, a Veteran's initiative, and a retail ReStore outlet that sells new and used building materials, hardware, appliances and home décor to the public.

Habitat sees a direct link between the strong ethics McCutchen demonstrates in his baseball career and personal life and the determination it takes to become a Habitat program participant.

"Habitat is a hand up, not a hand out," said Maggie Withrow, executive director, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh. "Our program families invest in their homes through hours of sweat equity and are required to pay back interest free mortgages and loans."

"I am honored to work with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh," said McCutchen. "As a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Pittsburgh community, it is important for me to be able to work with organizations that benefit the community in a powerful way. I strongly believe in the mission and goals of Habitat for Humanity, and am eager to assist in improving the quality of life for those that are less fortunate." McCutchen also commented that he learned from his own upbringing in Florida that a home can be "the foundation for love, support, safety," as well as "the family bonds that are critical for children to grow into happy, productive adults."

"We are beyond blessed to have Andrew as our spokesperson," added Withrow. "There are many new Habitat for Humanity programs and opportunities for our local community and we're grateful for his support in helping us talk about our mission. It's a home run for future Habitat client families!"

For more information, visit www.pittsburghhabitat.org, call 412-351-0512, ext. 12, or send an email to Withrow at mwithrow@pittsburghhabitat.org.

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh's affordable homebuilding program works with client families to create a better and more stable life by building and renovating homes alongside scores of volunteers. Families then purchase the home through a no-interest mortgage financed and held by Habitat. The average mortgage for a 3-bedroom house is \$450/month, which includes insurance and tax escrow. Mortgage payments are then recycled back to Habitat to provide homes to other families in need. Habitat Pittsburgh relies on local donations and volunteers to support its affordable housing operations. Since 1986, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh has built or renovated over 80 homes with the support of over 10,000 local volunteers.

Habitat clients gain further cost savings by earning "Sweat Equity" (time in lieu of a cash down payment). Sweat Equity includes a minimum of 350 hours of labor at house construction sites and the ReStore, which helps a family learn to maintain their new home and fosters a sense of pride, accomplishment, and responsibility to their community. Clients must also participate in Habitat's "Smart Start" homeownership education curriculum. Classes cover the home buying process, the value of good credit, predatory lending and home maintenance.

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