



NEWS RELEASE

3750 N. McCarty | Houston, TX 77029
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact

Holly Myers, Houston Habitat for Humanity
713.391.0937 | hmyers@houstonhabitat.org

Remembering Carl Umland, Houston Habitat's First President

HOUSTON, TEXAS – February 22, 2012 – Carl Umland's impact on the city of Houston is long-lasting and far-reaching. Umland was the first President at Houston Habitat, now the largest nonprofit builder in the city with almost 900 homes and a legacy of families transformed. Umland passed away earlier this month and the Houston Habitat family is reflecting fondly on his contributions and commitment to providing affordable housing.

In 1987, a Houston businessman offered the newly founded organization six plots of land in Houston's 5th Ward with the stipulation that Umland – newly retired from Exxon Chemical – take on the Presidential role. Thus began a leadership role that spanned more than a decade and yielded innovation and determination in the affordable housing arena in Houston.



"Carl Umland's dedication and vision made Houston Habitat the organization it is today," said Board Chair David Keane. "He brought to light the need for affordable housing in Houston and we are continually inspired by his work."

During his tenure at Houston Habitat, Umland spearheaded Houston's largest one-week home build with the 1998 Jimmy Carter Work Project that provided homes to 100 families. He went on to initiate construction of the affiliate's largest neighborhood, Wood Glen, a community of 217 homes in northeast Houston. In 2007, Houston Habitat broke ground on the 126-home community, Umland Park, in recognition of his years of commitment and leadership.

Carl Umland had a true heart for service and is quoted in a 2000 Houston Chronicle article saying, "[Habitat] has captivated my heart in a way I never really intended. I just found there's a lot of need in this world, and this is a way I can ease the burden."

Services will be held at Umland's home church, First Congregational Church of Houston, in March.

About Houston Habitat for Humanity:

Since 1987, Houston Habitat for Humanity, along with thousands of sponsors and volunteers, has built more than 860 affordable homes for purchase by hard-working, low-income Houstonians. Qualified Houston Habitat homebuyers agree to a no-interest mortgage and contribute 300 hours of "sweat equity" in lieu of a down payment. Partner families are also provided with classes on money management and home maintenance. More information about Houston Habitat and the Houston Habitat ReStore, a discounted building supply outlet, is available at www.houstonhabitat.org or 713-671-9993.

###