

For Immediate Release – April 19, 2009

Dedication Held at Habitat Home Built for Rwandan Family

Habitat For Humanity of Peconic marked the completion of its tenth project on Sunday, April 19, with the dedication of a home in Bridgehampton built in partnership with Rwandan refugees Faustin Nsabumukunzi, his wife, Agnes, and their three sons, Fabrice, Didier and Thierry.

A crowd of 65 people -- including elected officials, local clergy, Habitat volunteers, and well wishers – toured the house on Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, chatted with Faustin and then gathered in front under sunny skies for the afternoon ceremony, emceed by Habitat/Peconic president Felix McGibbon.

After blessings were offered by Father Peter of St. Andrews R.C. Church of Sag Harbor, Felix mounted the front steps and told the crowd that the project, which got underway last June 8th, was completed faster than any other local Habitat undertaking.

With a grateful nod towards Joe Farrell, who was at the ceremony, he credited Farrell Construction's generosity with speeding the job along.

He also thanked Southampton Town Councilman Chris Nuzzi for his continued help and encouragement, and cited the efforts of Habitat's dedicated volunteers – and new homeowner Faustin -- as a big factor in the successful and quick completion of the house.



Although the ceremony was truly joyous, the mood turned reflective when the house was officially dedicated to the memory of the late Mike Martino, a master builder who oversaw many past Habitat/Peconic projects. He remains an inspiration to all involved with the local

volunteer home-builders. With Mike's widow, Carol, looking on, a boulder and plaque were installed in front of the house in his memory. Carol also accepted a Golden Hammer awarded posthumously to Mike.

During the ceremony several volunteers were honored for their service. Golden Hammers were awarded to John Anderson, Mark Mott and Joe Farrell, and a Golden Dustpan was presented to Eleanor Molleson.

Faustin – the proud new homeowner whose family was granted refugee status in the U.S. after fleeing the genocide in their homeland -- was presented with a new Bible, a hammer used in building one of Habitat/Peconic's earliest projects, and a special Suffolk County Proclamation, signed by County Legislator Jay Schneiderman.