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## **Habitat for Humanity of Michigan honors outgoing board members**

(LANSING) At its Dec. 12 board meeting and holiday luncheon, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan (HFHM) honored outgoing board members Murray Brown, Roger Bruins, Jacqui Cowles, Bishop Gary Hansen, Mary Margaret Hornbaker, Michael Lashbrook and Dr. Jackie Taylor. In total, these dedicated individuals contributed over 40 years of service to the HFHM Board of Directors.

During his nine years on the HFHM Board of Directors, Murray Brown served as board chair, board treasurer for five years and on a variety of committees. In 2007 Brown was selected to receive HFHM's distinguished *Bernice R. Bensen Service Award*.

Mike Lashbrook served as a board officer in the capacity of vice-chair and board secretary. Lashbrook, who chaired HFHM's first annual awards banquet, has been on the board for nine years, served on a dozen committees and in 2006 received the *Bernice R. Bensen Service Award*.

A board member for nine years, Dr. Jackie Taylor served as an officer in the capacity of first vice-chair and board treasurer. She served on various committees and most recently chaired the 2010 Transition and Selection Committee. Taylor received HFHM's 2008 *Bernice R. Bensen Service Award*.

Bishop Gary Hansen's six years of board service includes his work in bringing together ecumenical ministries and community agencies to strengthen support for HFHM. Hansen also worked on several Jimmy Carter work projects both globally and in the U.S.

Roger Bruins, president of National Nail Corporation, served with distinction for two years, having also worked on the 2009 Vietnam Build. Bruins' donation and distribution of nails to Habitat affiliates nationwide and his product contributions have reduced home building costs for countless Habitat families.

Jacqui Cowles and Mary Margaret Hornbaker were each thanked for serving two-year terms as affiliate representatives on the board. Cowles is the executive director of South Haven Area Habitat for Humanity and Hornbaker, is the executive director of Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity.

Each of the seven board members was presented with a framed resolution signed by Board Chairman Bob Filka, and HFHM President Sandra Pearson. "*I am humbled to work with these caring and dedicated individuals. The outgoing members of this board have set a standard and exemplified what a hard-working and successful non-profit board of directors looks like. What they brought to HFHM was ideas, energy, leadership and vision. I know I speak for all of us in saying they leave big shoes to fill but that we look forward to their continued involvement in all that is Habitat for Humanity,*" says HFHM President and CEO Sandra Pearson.

In other business, the board opened nominations for their slate of 2012 board members. New board members will be formally announced in February, 2012.

[Habitat for Humanity of Michigan](#) is the state support organization for Michigan's 76 Habitat for Humanity affiliates which serve every county in the state. HFHM's mission is to increase the capacity of Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Michigan to build or renovate simple, decent homes in partnership with people in need.

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