

*Remarks for the
Habitat for Humanity Press Conference
January 10, 2002*

Good morning. It is great to be here today, to help promote one of the greatest initiatives ever undertaken.

Since its inception 25 years ago, Habitat for Humanity has made a difference in the lives of people around the world. Here in Jackson, we are working together – statewide elected officials and members of the Legislature – to build two new homes for families in Jackson.

These houses that are under construction represent much more than just new shelter for the families to be living in them. They represent a place for these families to come together – a place to truly call “home.”

It is exciting to have Millard Fuller here with us today. In 1976, he and his wife, Linda, built on a concept of “partnership housing.” What they built has changed the way millions of people think and act toward others in their communities.

I had the opportunity to work on a house last year. Working side-by-side with the owners of the home, helping them bring their house – their home – to reality, is a great experience.

Millard, I want to thank you for your leadership in helping so many share the same feelings I experienced last year. It is really an exciting thing.

Mother Teresa once said, “if you can’t feed a hundred people, feed just one.”

Here in Jackson, if we can't build a hundred houses, let's build just one. Elected officials are building one house; the legislature is building one house. Across our country and around our world, houses are being built one at a time.

The simple fact is this – every house we build makes a tremendous difference in the lives of a family.

It is exciting to see the difference being made.

I'm proud to be a small part of the Habitat for Humanity effort, and I'm proud of what's happening here with these families.

We may not always be able to have happiness, but it's always within our power to help share happiness. It's great to be able to share a little happiness here today.

Thank you.