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Thursday, January 31, 2008

Habitat CEO lauds Wichita

Wichita Business Journal - by [Pat Sangimino](#)

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The president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity International said Thursday that the relationship between Wichita's corporate sector and its nonprofit organizations should serve as a lesson for other communities.

"I am very impressed with it," says Jonathan Reckford, who was in town to serve as the keynote speaker for the Nonprofit Chamber of Service's annual meeting and luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Wichita. "The private sector has a strong sense of wanting to be involved in the community to make it stronger."

Reckford says that Wichita's business leaders understand the importance of contributing to the community.

"They get it," he says. "They know if you don't have a strong community to live in, it impacts a company's ability to attract people."

Habitat for Humanity, founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, recently completed building the 150,000th home worldwide and push for communities to continue the effort.

The organization was helped greatly in 1984, when former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn began a Habitat project in New York City. Their involvement in Habitat's ministry brought the organization national visibility and sparked interest across the nation. It caused a dramatic increase in the number of new affiliates around the country.

Wichita was no exception. It will complete one of the nation's first Habitat for Humanity communities in 2010. The south Wichita subdivision will feature Habitat-built 42 houses.

"I am so proud of the work being done here -- and everywhere," Reckford says.

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