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VERMONT REALTORS® TO RAISE FUNDS FOR GULF COAST REBUILDING

The Vermont Association of REALTORS® will donate the proceeds of a June 1 event at Stratton Mountain Resort toward the building of a Habitat for Humanity house in the Gulf Coast region. The event called *Together, Building a Better Community* consists of a golf tournament and Good Neighbor Awards dinner, with special guest Secretary of State, Deborah Markowitz. All proceeds of the day will be presented to **Operation Home Delivery**, a project of the National Association of REALTORS® to build a total of 54 homes in the hurricane devastated area, one by each state and US territory.

“Although we are nine months away from the hurricanes’ destruction, we have seen how great the need still is,” observed 2007 Regional Vice President Ken Libby, of Stowe, who is spearheading the drive. “With tens of thousands still homeless, this will only make a small dent in the suffering, but at least we can say we have done our best to help a family start to pull their lives back together.”

Normally the annual event is designed to highlight what REALTORS® are doing in their community and state to strengthen the neighborhoods where they live and work. With the challenge of the national project, the association decided it would be appropriate to pledge the proceeds of the event to help rebuild a struggling community.

Any one can nominate a Good Neighbor, such as a broker, a colleague, a spouse, or a representative of a local charity or real estate board. However the nominee must be a current REALTOR® member in good standing. Secretary of State Deborah Markowitz will present the awards.

Nationally, Vermont Good Neighbor nominees will compete for five winning spots that will be announced in the November issue of REALTOR® Magazine and at the National Association of REALTORS® Conference and Expo in New Orleans. The winners will receive a \$10,000 grant for their community cause plus travel expenses to the convention. Five additional honorable mentions will receive a \$1500 grant each. Last year’s winners were selected from over 300 entries.

The Honor Society is designed for both new members as well as long standing members to reward those who are actively participating in the Association. To maintain membership, Honor Society members must re-qualify each year by obtaining the necessary points. Forms can also be found on the VAR website.

The Vermont Association of REALTORS® serves nearly 1,900 members in 14 local boards throughout the State.