



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Blue Ridge Mountain Sports Sponsors 1st Annual Fauquier Hike for Habitat Day

Popular, successful fundraiser comes to Fauquier community

Warrenton, Va. – Fauquier Habitat For Humanity has teamed up with sponsor Blue Ridge Mountain Sports to offer Fauquier’s first-annual Hike For Habitat Day on Saturday, April 16, bringing a popular program and successful fundraising effort to the local community.

Hikers have a choice of four hikes, each one led by a Blue Ridge Mountain Sports professional. The hikes, each between two and three miles, are set on and around the Appalachian Trail. Lunch will be provided.

“Blue Ridge Mountain Sports approached us with this offer to sponsor this fundraiser, and we gladly accepted,” said Fauquier Habitat For Humanity Executive Director Brenda Drerenberger. “Hikers will have experienced hike leaders from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports taking them through great hiking areas in the Shenandoah National Park and Whitney State Forest. Our hope is that this fundraiser will grow as it did with other affiliates, enabling us to offer many different hikes and even kayaking or canoeing trips in the future.”

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, which has 12 stores in Virginia, Tennessee, and New Jersey, has sponsored a Charlottesville-area Hike For Habitat for 18 years, growing the annual event to eight hikes and a river paddle. Blue Ridge Mountain Sports representatives said bringing the event to the Fauquier community was an easy decision.

“The event is a win-win for the hikers and the community,” said Blue Ridge Mountain Sports Charlottesville store manager John Holden. “Participants get a great and unique hike with lunch and a guide, and they know the money being raised by the event is going toward one of their community’s most immediate and significant needs: providing affordable shelter for local families.”

Added Blue Ridge Mountain Sports Warrenton store manager Josh Warner: “When you think about what can be done to encourage people to get outside and help a community organization at the same time, Habitat for Humanity comes to mind. If we can get people to enjoy the natural, beautiful surroundings here in the Blue Ridge, and raise money to build homes in our local community at the same time, that’s a great combination.”

Each hiker will make a donation of \$50 to participate in the event. (Children will hike for \$30.) The funds raised will go towards funding Fauquier Habitat For Humanity’s local building projects. Registration is available online at www.fauquierhabitat.org/hike-for-habitat.

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“Fauquier County still has great need of affordable housing for many of our residents,” Drerenberger noted. “With help from sponsors like Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, we are achieving our mission of being able to offer decent, affordable homes to low-income families that could not qualify to purchase a home in other programs.”

For more information on Hike for Habitat or Fauquier Habitat For Humanity, visit www.fauquierhabitat.org or call 540-341-4952.

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About Fauquier Habitat For Humanity: Celebrating its 20th year, Fauquier Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with the Fauquier and Rappahannock County communities to eliminate the blight of poverty housing. Since 1991, it has built 40 homes and rehabilitated several others for deserving, low-income families that need a hand up. Like all Habitat for Humanity recipients, Fauquier Habitat For Humanity families pass a detailed qualification process, participate in a continuing education program, and invest hundreds of hours of their own labor into building their Habitat houses. Once they move in, they make regular mortgage payments and remain engaged in Habitat For Humanity’s ongoing education program as well as their community. Fauquier Habitat For Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International.