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For Immediate Release:

**Palm Desert Habitat for Humanity House
First Habitat Home to Receive Free Solar System Installation**

PALM DESERT, CA (December 28, 2010) - Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley (HFHCV), an organization committed to developing communities for those in need, touts the first Habitat for Humanity home to receive a solar system provided by Oakland-based nonprofit, GRID Alternatives; valued at \$34,000. The **Program** is one of the California Solar Initiative's two low income programs. The Habitat home now equipped with the solar system is located on El Cercado Drive in Palm Desert.

The **Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) Program** is uniquely designed to be a comprehensive low-income solar program. In addition to providing aggressive incentives, SASH is structured to promote or provide energy efficiency, workforce development and green jobs training opportunities, along with broad community engagement with low-income communities. There is no other low-income solar program in California that has such a diverse range of benefits for low-income communities. It is truly a first-of-its-kind solar program.

The SASH incentive provides low-income families with free or low-cost PV-solar systems significantly reduces household energy expenses and allows families to direct those savings toward other basic needs. GRID Alternatives' volunteer-based installation model has proven to be a highly efficient and low-cost model that makes solar even more affordable for low-income homeowners.

In addition to being the primary installer for SASH, GRID provides education on and access to energy efficiency programs which further reduces a household's energy consumption and expenses. In implementing the SASH Program, GRID Alternatives provides opportunities for local volunteers to assist with installations, to engage their communities, and to share their diverse experiences. Currently, GRID has over 9,000 volunteers statewide to help promote and install solar in low-income communities.

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Fred Bell, Habitat's Managing Director, said the local organization plans to work with GRID to put solar on all Habitat homes in Southern California Edison Territory - about 80 percent of its 30 valley homes.

"GRID installed a 2-kilowatt system on the Palm Desert Habitat home," said Bell - who went on to say, "the expanded energy efficiency will provide a savings for our Habitat home-owner families...that savings will be a big help, as they work toward financial independence."

A complete list of eligibility requirements can be found by visiting the HFHCV website at www.hfhcv.org or by calling 760-770-3723.

About Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley, Inc.:

Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley, Inc., is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate substandard housing. The organization is committed to helping low-income families finance and construct their own affordable homes. The affiliate has built or remodeled 30 homes to date.