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## *Set materials to help build Habitat houses*

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STAMFORD — The local movie industry is going green in its most inspirational story yet.

The Stamford-based Connecticut Film Center has joined forces with Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County to launch the Movies2Housing Recycling Program, through which production companies shooting films in the state recycle used movie sets for use in Habitat's homebuilding projects in the state.

"The movie industry in Connecticut is going green on affordable housing," film center President and founder Kevin

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## Houses

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Segalla said in a statement. "We are really thankful to movie production companies for agreeing to recycle their used sets to support Habitat's local Connecticut affordable housing initiatives. And we are thrilled to be working with an organization like Habitat, which has such a strong reputation for linking compassion and action to help those in need."

Normally, movie sets are discarded after a production spends as much as millions of dollars building them, Segalla said. Some of those materials, such as lumber, fixtures and other items can be recycled for use in building projects sponsored by Habitat, Segalla said. Sets are often built in the film center's Norwalk production studio, where the most recent production, Jerry Bruckheimer's "Confessions of a

Shopaholic," constructed the interior of a New York apartment, the interior of a New York office building and an elevator. Three truckloads of materials were donated, Segalla said.

Another production, "In Bloom," starring Uma Thurman, also donated materials.

Disney and 2929 Productions are the first companies to agree to participate, Segalla said. "As we go along, what we're going to do is convince each of these productions to do this," he said in an interview. "This is a great opportunity to take building products that would have been dumped in a landfill and recycle them for a good cause."

Segalla said he believes the program will be a hit as more people learn about it.

"It is a perfect fit: We help the environment, and we help people who need housing right here in Connecticut," Habitat's board chairman

Ken Paul said in a statement. "With safe, decent homes, families are healthier and children are more productive and successful. And that helps break the cycle of poverty for scores of families in our community. Also, green practices and recycling are in line with our vision for our construction projects and for our ReStore, which has been in operation since 2004."

Wendy Hryniewski, director of development for Habitat said all 17 of its building projects will benefit from the program. Most of the projects are in the Bridgeport area, but Habitat is planning to start build the first half of an eight-condominium project in Stamford by the year's end.

"We're very excited that this program is going on," Hryniewski said. "I think it's great. I think recycling is the way we need to be thinking in order to benefit all of us."