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The Business of Sports: Heat's James Jones joins the fight against home foreclosures

By Sarah Talalay

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Last month, Heat guard Dwyane Wade and retired Heat center Alonzo Mourning helped bring attention to the problem of home foreclosures joining the Hope Now Alliance's "Bringing Hope Home" bus tour of Miami. The pair was drafted to meet with needy residents and join a roundtable discussion about the problem.

Today, another Heat player stepped up to help fight foreclosures and assist local residents in buying homes. Heat forward James Jones, a Miami native, joined the Opa-Locka Community Development Corp. (OLCDC) and AT&T to launch the South Florida version of a national program known as the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Through the program, the OLCDC will acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed homes and then sell them to low- to moderate-income families in Opa-Locka and Miami Gardens. The OLCDC also plans to counsel needy residents, who wish to buy homes.

AT&T presented \$50,000 to the OLCDC. James, meanwhile, said he would help families with house down payments and closing costs and committed to donate up to \$5,000 per homebuyer.

"As a Miami native I've seen the good and bad parts of our community," Jones said in a statement. "However, in order to make it a better place we all have to come together. Miami is my home and as such, I hope to continue to provide support and work with community organizations that are interested in building up our community and uplifting the residents who live here."