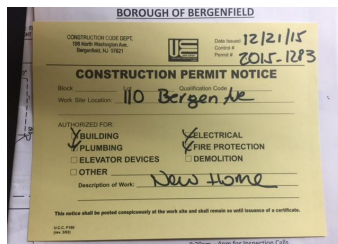




Habitat Happenings
January 12, 2016



Beginning with Bergenfield
 By Nicole Murray

The New Year is already off to an exciting start! On January 9th, Habitat Bergen celebrated the groundbreaking of its Bergenfield project, a single-family home located at 110 Bergen Avenue in Bergenfield, with 20 guests in attendance. The property for the affiliate's new construction project was donated by the Jose Garcia Foundation and is being funded by an anonymous local donor.

The 1,900 square foot home will contain three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, a kitchen, living room, and one-car garage. The home is being built to the latest environmental and energy-efficiency standards while aiming to achieve Energy Star Certification. These standards include the installation of solar panels which allow the affiliate to provide the homeowner with utility cost-saving opportunities.

The Bergenfield project is the 25th new construction project for Habitat Bergen and will promote sustainable building through a grant provided by Samsung Electronics America. The grant will fund training by Habitat for Humanity International sustainable building experts to improve Habitat Bergen's construction techniques through use of green products and training construction staff to build and repair homes in a way that is more environmentally friendly.



To date, a silt fence has been installed to circumvent soil erosion and the property has been staked out so that construction crews can begin digging for the foundation. Within the next few months, the affiliate will begin to recruit volunteers to work on the job site.

Read more about the Bergenfield Groundbreaking Ceremony in the [Record](#) and [Daily Voice](#).



Habitat Bergen and Lowe's Invite Women to Volunteer with Women Build

By Nicole Murray

From now through May, Habitat Bergen will host Women Build volunteer days on its construction sites as well as many other women-focused advocacy and fundraising events. The mission of the Women Build program is to empower women to take action against poverty housing conditions. Women Build is opening new windows of opportunity through various events designed to address and eliminate the 'intimidation factor' surrounding construction with a focus on broader issues of women's empowerment. Visit the event [calendar](#) to register for a FREE Lowe's How-to Clinic, a [Self Defense Workshop](#) or a [Cooking Demo](#) at Chef Central. Keep your eye out for more events such as a Financial Literacy Workshop, Car Maintenance/Repair 101, YWCA EmpowerU STEM Mentor Day, and Jumpstart Your Career with a Hole-in-One!

The affiliate is proud to announce that Lorien Barlow, Director and Producer of [Hard Hatted Woman](#), the first feature-length documentary about women breaking down gender barriers in blue-collar construction trades, will be the keynote speaker at Habitat Bergen's National Women Build Week (NWBW) Media Day on May 7th in Bergenfield. NWBW Media Day, which will be hosted in partnership with Lowe's and the SUEZ Women's Leadership Network, will also feature inspirational speeches from [Assemblywomen Valerie Vainieri Huttle](#) and [Marlene Caride](#). Interested in scheduling a Women Build for your team or [sponsoring](#) Habitat Bergen's Women Build program? Contact [Angela King](#). Stay tuned for updates as we get closer to NWBW Media Day.



Julia (left) at the Bloomingdale's In-Store Fundraiser with Gina and Chelsea.

My Habitat Bergen Internship

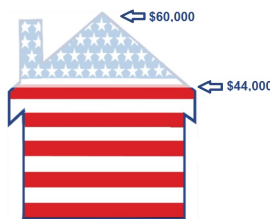
By Julia Mills

As a senior at Bergen County Academies, I have the wonderful opportunity to work as an intern each Wednesday. When I began my search for an internship, I knew I wanted to work for an organization whose primary purpose was to serve the community. I was optimistic about my options, however, I never thought I'd find an internship as fitting for my interests as Habitat Bergen!

One of the first things I learned on my first day was how broad and spontaneous my list of tasks would be. Our team is "small but mighty", which means that everyone helps each other out. This instantly excited me, because I knew that I would not be limited to one type of work. I love this aspect of my internship, in particular, because it allows me to explore my interests, and further identify what I want in a career.

Primarily, my internship at Habitat Bergen is important to me because I know everything I do is contributed to a worthy cause. It's inspiring to hear the stories of how Habitat Bergen has aided people in our community. I love being able to help such a great organization take action and change lives.

Overall, interning at Habitat Bergen has been an immensely valuable experience. Not only do I feel extremely welcomed by all of the staff members, I also have the chance to learn constantly. I've already picked up so much, and I still have a long way to go.



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