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Habitat Bergen Youth United receives State Farm® grant

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By Press Release Monday, August 31 2015 @ 06:31 PM EDT



ORADELL, NJ, August 31, 2015 – Members from Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County’s (Habitat Bergen) Youth United club and State Farm came together this summer for a recognition event and check presentation. Habitat Bergen’s Youth United Club was one of ten Habitat affiliates fortunate enough to be awarded a \$5,000 grant. These funds will enable Habitat Bergen to purchase the building materials needed to continue Superstorm Sandy

critical home repairs.

Throughout the 2014-2015 school year Youth United members were required to raise \$4,000 through various advocacy and fundraising events as part of the grant requirement.

Member from Habitat Bergen’s Youth United club and State Farm came together on the jobsite this July for a recognition event and



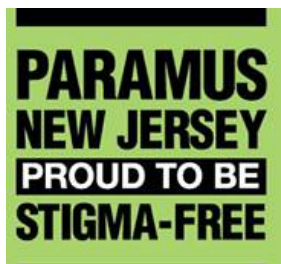
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check presentation. Blu Frankel, Youth United President, accepted the check from State Farm



representative Jennifer Young Farm and Anita DaSilva. Amongst those who showed support for Youth United at the presentation were NJ Assembly man Gary Schaer and Moonachie Mayor Dennis Vaccaro. Both Habitat Bergen and State Farm received honorable citations from Senator Paul Sarlo, Assemblywoman Marlene Caride and Assemblyman Gary Schaer, for rebuilding from the devastation of Superstorm Sandy.

Youth United mobilizes youth to fully fund and build a house with their local Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Students learn leadership and teamwork skills and gain a better understanding of their communities and the need for simple, decent and affordable housing. All students are engaged in fundraising, education and advocacy activities, while those over 16 help with actual home construction.

"We're really appreciative of this grant because the money will contribute to the funding of an affordable housing project in Bergen County," said Blu Frankel, Habitat Bergen Youth United President.

"State Farm's support of Habitat Bergen's youth programs provides our local youth with invaluable leadership opportunities where they learn firsthand how to mobilize over 100 students in the community to develop and execute fundraising strategies, coordinate volunteer and advocacy events, and achieve measurable goals," said Angela King, Habitat Bergen Director of Volunteers. "As these students further our mission to provide affordable housing in Bergen County, they are simultaneously developing the leadership tools they will need to set and realize their own dreams."

The Youth United program is one of the many programs Habitat International has to engage youth in Habitat's work. In addition to the ongoing support State Farm offices provide to local Habitat affiliates across the United States, State Farm has served as the national corporate sponsor of Habitat for Humanity's youth programs since 2007. State Farm recently renewed its long term partnership with Habitat for Humanity and is committing \$800,000 to involve youth in home construction, neighborhood revitalization and disaster recovery activities. The funding will be used to support more than 25 projects that will either require youth groups to raise matching funds or directly benefit recovery efforts.

For more information about Bergen Youth United, contact Angela King at AngelaK@habitatbergen.org or visit <http://www.bergenouthunited.com>.

About Bergen County Youth United

Bergen County Youth United is a youth-led volunteer program that mobilizes youth and high school students for Habitat for Humanity to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness. In addition to engaging the community with education, advocacy, fundraising and building, Youth United creates a sustainable volunteer base through

are in for a big surprise.. [\[continued here\]](#)



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development of youth leaders who are advocates of decent, affordable housing. Youth United also provides opportunities for leadership including participation in strategy sessions, sharing committees and serving on the Steering Committee. Members meet twice per month to plan recruitment strategies, advocacy events, and fundraisers. Volunteers ages 16 and older also have the ability to do hands on construction on our build sites. <http://www.bergenyouthunited.com>.

About State Farm

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