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## Volunteer and Community Service Opportunities

- **Cookie Baking**

Using the special Habitat Bergen sugar cookie recipe and our special “house” cookie cutters, bake cookies, which will be used as favors at different Habitat Bergen events? Each cookie is individually wrapped in a plastic sleeve with the Habitat Bergen seal affixed on the front. To close the sleeve, a special address label is created, acknowledging the team or individual who prepared the cookies. All necessary ingredients are obtained through fundraising by the team or individual.

- **Planet Green Recycle Team**

Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County has joined the Planet Green Recycle Team on a mission to reduce waste and protect the environment by collecting small electronics, such as used cell phones, tablets, navigation systems, etc., to recycle. For every item shipped back to Planet Green on behalf of Habitat Bergen, we receive funds to support our housing projects. You can join our team too by following these three quick steps:

1. Gather used small electronics, filling a sturdy box with at least 20 items
2. Print the pre-paid shipping label, which can be downloaded here - <https://planetgreenrecycle.com/habitatbergen>
3. Hand it off to UPS to be shipped to Planet Green

By taking it a step further and partnering with us, you can set up a recycle bin anywhere – your school, company, faith-based community!

- **Annual Builder of the Year Gala Baskets**

Habitat Bergen needs your help to secure basket items for our Annual Builder of the Year Gala. Volunteers are asked to visit the stores in their towns and gather items to create a ‘town’ basket. Suggested items include – movie tickets / restaurant gift card / spa package / jewelry.

- **Gingerbread House Contest**

Competitions can be held with students from a single school or schools who then compete against one another. Habitat Bergen will assist, as needed, in scheduling a competition involving multiple schools, establishing judging criteria, etc. Students register to participate, usually 4 students per team. Registration packets include fundraising information – obtaining pledges from family, friends, etc., to support their project as well as the judging criteria and suggestions for house decorations. (Monies collected through the pledge campaign are the students’ donation to support Habitat Bergen’s building effort.)

- **Advocacy Events**

This involves speaking on behalf of Habitat Bergen at town-wide Community Day events, shopping centers, meetings, etc., presenting information about how to become a volunteer, types of projects, other donation methods: donating vehicles (cars, trucks, RVs, motorcycles), converting to “green energy”, etc.

- **Athletic Tournaments**

Organize a tournament (intramural or vs. another school), any sport where a competition/goal can be established. Students conduct a pledge campaign for supporters to pledge money for each run, goal, touchdown, etc. (Monies collected through the pledge campaign are the students’ donation to support Habitat Bergen’s building effort). Habitat Bergen banners is hung and materials are displayed to create awareness of the affiliate’s mission and current projects.

- **Battle of the Bands**

Schedule a group of bands to play at the school and sell tickets. (Proceeds from ticket sales are the students’ donation to support Habitat Bergen’s building effort.)

- **Restaurant Events**

Distribute flyers to family, friends, neighbors, etc., promoting restaurant “community night” where a portion of their sales will be donated to Habitat Bergen.

- **Hearts for Habitat**

Color your heart. Sell hearts for \$1 at school or ask your local supermarket to participate in Hearts for Habitat. All donations collected will support Habitat Bergen’s building effort. Contact us and we will supply the hearts to color.

- **Garage Sale**

Support the sale by prepping and pricing donations, or selling Habitat Bergen t-shirts, wristbands, etc. Assist with the setup and clean-up at the end of the sale.

- **Distribution of Promotional or Marketing Materials**

Members of groups can go door-to-door throughout targeted residential areas and distribute promotional items (for instance, Cars for Homes door hangers).

- **Project Storybook**

Support new Habitat Bergen homeowners by running book drives to benefit Habitat Bergen homeowner children. Collect basket of books to be distributed to homeowner children during key passing ceremony. [Read more about how Project Storybook was founded.](#)

Photos should be taken and submitted at completion of the project so credit can be given on the Habitat Bergen website and in different media outlets (newsletters, newspapers, Facebook, etc.).