

# Habitat Happenings



**Habitat  
for Humanity®**  
of Bergen County

## Habitat Bergen Begins Building in Englewood

FALL 2006

On July 27, 2006 at 12:07 pm, the first nail was hammered into the first frame of the first house Habitat is building on Third Street in Englewood! Now volunteers are ever present on site and the work is incredible! Walls are framed, plywood is installed and four partner families will soon realize their dreams of owning a home.

Ultimately, our Third Street Redevelopment Project will include 9 new homes. We plan to work with existing homeowners on Third Street to revitalize the Fourth Ward in Englewood. We hope that while we build houses, our Habitat homeowners will build a community that takes pride in its neighborhood.

We have received an outpouring of support from corporations such as Disney/ABC and the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, as well as many local houses of worship. In the coming months, volunteers from True Vine Christian Center, Wachovia Bank, First Presbyterian Church of Englewood, St. Luke's Baptist Church in Paterson, Valley National

Bank and Commerce Bank will all provide helping hands.

Our new homeowners have been on-site daily working their sweat equity hours and meeting and working alongside volunteers. These men and women have shown how hard they can work and how thankful they are for this opportunity. One future homeowner, Mrs. Pauline Stafford said, "I'm so blessed and I'm so grateful."

Habitat Bergen is also grateful to

you, our supporters...for your generosity and the many hours of hard work that have helped make this project a success!



Bob Preis, Director of Construction with Habitat Partner family member Monique and her son Kyle and volunteers from Federal Home Loan Bank of New York.

### Thank You for Your Generous Donations to Our Englewood Build!

Eagle Paint & Wallpaper  
General Reproduction  
Products  
Kindergan Landscaping  
GAF

Complete Remodeling  
Systems (CRS)  
ProSource  
Smartvent  
Weidener Construction

Canac Kitchens  
Arzee Supply  
Artistic Tile  
Home Depot  
Pella Windows

## Susan Safire Joins Habitat Bergen as New Executive Director

Dear Habitat Friends,

I am thrilled to join the Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County family. The work that Habitat is accomplishing throughout the world has indeed made a difference in the lives of so many.

Right here in Bergen County, we have made tremendous strides in building homes for hard working families. Currently in Englewood construction is underway on four homes and we hope to begin construction for the next set of four homes within

the year. In addition, we have the pleasure of partnering with another non-profit organization in Edgewater where we are refurbishing 18 apartments that will be sold as affordable condos. This is a very exciting time for Habitat Bergen and an exciting time for me as its new Executive Director.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the kindness of our supporters. We are looking forward to developing new partnerships as well as maintaining our relationships with our current partners. I hope to have the opportunity to

meet each of you in person. I truly believe that by working together, we can continue to **Build Hope...Build Homes.**

Sincerely,

Susan Safire  
Executive Director



## Habitat Bergen and AHOME Partner Up to Provide Affordable Housing

With our non-profit partner, AHOME (Affordable Housing of Metropolitan Edgewater), Habitat Bergen will refurbish 18 apartments on Undercliff Avenue in Edgewater during the next year. Each apartment will be sold to qualified homeowners at prices that meet affordability guidelines.

Habitat volunteers began the demolition and construction process on the first unit this past April. As each apartment becomes vacant, volunteers will remodel it. We hope that some of the current tenants will opt to become homeowners, as well.

“This kind of revitalization is desperately needed in Edgewater, because of

the land constraints there,” said Susan Safire, Executive Director of Habitat Bergen. “Edgewater is only 0.85 square miles, so instead of building new, we can refurbish the old and provide affordable housing for Edgewater residents.”

As President of AHOME, Lois Fein worked diligently to get funding and approval for this project. Her efforts were recognized in June, when she received Habitat Bergen’s Builder of the Year Award at our annual dinner.

Habitat’s partnership provides the volunteer labor necessary to make this project a success. The Greyheads and Youth United volunteers have worked



Construction Supervisor Bob Botsford and Volunteer Coordinator Lori Acquotta with Youth United volunteers.

non-stop throughout the summer. It’s amazing what happens when people come together with a common goal in mind!

## Youth United Takes Charge!

Youth United is Habitat Bergen’s program for youth ages 5-25 designed to involve children of all ages in the Habitat mission. Lori Acquotta is the Youth United Coordinator for Habitat Bergen. We currently have over 250 members who work diligently to raise awareness and funds in the spirit of eliminating poverty housing in Bergen County.



Youth United members spent the entire day on April 8th at the Garden State Plaza talking to shoppers and handing out literature on poverty housing.



In an on-going project, Youth United has been assisting senior citizens with their garden in the Bronx. This project has consisted of re-building a gazebo and creating new walkways and garden boxes. (Pictured above are Ben Eshel and Jarett Sena).



### Family Fun Day

September 17th  
Mackay Park, Englewood  
12:00—3:00pm

### Walk-A-Thon

September 30th  
Farleigh Dickinson, Teaneck  
9:00am—12:00pm

### Hospitality Tent Grand Opening

October 21st  
Third Street, Englewood



Caitlyn Acquotta, Diana Won, Meghan McNulty, and Marija Mircevski give a presentation on poverty housing to Bergen County Executives at the Hackensack Civic Center on April 5th.

*Youth United of Bergen County was awarded the Argosy Grant of \$5,000 from Habitat International.*

*A job well done by our Youth United leaders!*

## Builder of the Year Another Successful Event for Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County



Habitat Bergen Builder of the Year honorees Mayor Michael Wildes and Lois Fein.



On June 15th, friends and supporters of Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County joined together for a special evening of celebration at the Marriott Glenpointe in Teaneck. The evening was highlighted by several awards presented by Board President, Janine Getler. This year's Builder of the Year honorees were Mayor Michael Wildes of Englewood and Lois Fein of Edgewater. Both were presented with a plaque in recognition of their efforts on behalf of Habitat Bergen. Mayor Wildes has been instrumental in making the Third Street Redevelopment Project a reality and Ms. Fein has played an important role in partnering with AHOME to provide affordable condominiums for Edgewater residents.

In addition to building in Englewood and Edgewater, Habitat Bergen was truly blessed this year to receive an amazing outpouring of support in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. We built three "Homes-In-A-Box" that were sponsored by Bergen County individuals and organizations who each received a Golden Hammer Award from Habitat Bergen. This year's honorees are the Presbytery of the

Palisades, Peter and Tracy Salerno, the Rutherford Junior Women's Club, Bob & MaryAnn Dill, the Park Ridge Rotary, Youth United and the Ramsey Artist's Guild. Pictured below are the Golden Hammer recipients with Board President Janine Getler and Rutherford Councilwomen Botti and Keyes.



### Thank You to Our Silent Auction Donors!

Bergen PAC, Cookies by Design, Elaine's Spa, Fleming's Steakhouse, Frank's Restaurant, Matsushima, Hunter Douglas, Marriott Glenpointe, Matisse Chocolatier, Nehme Brothers, Noni's Bistro, Rebecca's Restaurant, River Palm Terrace, The Gym and Vespa's

## Message from the President

This is my last article as President of Habitat of Bergen and I am thrilled to report that our affiliate is stronger than ever. Our big news in 2006 is that we are building in Englewood and Edgewater. By 2007, we will be well on our way in the construction of 27 units of affordable housing in Bergen County. I am extremely proud to have helped with this contribution to our community. I am also so incredibly grateful to our wonderful Habitat Board, our very generous donors and volunteers and the Office Staff, all for their amazing dedication to our work.

As I give the president's gavel to Anna Monforth, I know I leave the Board in good and strong hands. Anna has been a board member for the past 3 years and has been an effective leader of our Family Support Committee. Our Fundraising and Communication Committee is planning future events at which donors

and our partner families can come together. The Site Selection Committee is working hard at finding new building opportunities throughout the County. The Family Selection and Family Support Committees are preparing to interview new partner families for our Englewood site and assist our existing partner families with the work of completing their sweat equity hours.

Of course, our work could never be done without the help of our donors and our volunteers. I had the honor of traveling to Louisiana this year to work on a Katrina Relief build in Lafayette. The houses that Habitat Bergen sent to Louisiana were possible because of our unbelievable donor support. We called for help and boy, did we get it! And then, once there, with the hard work of our "Greyhead" team, a displaced family has a new home. It was an incredible effort and I am thankful for the continuing contributions of our Greyheads.

Finally, many thanks to our wonderful office staff who work long hours and show their endless drive to support Habitat, in so many ways. We are very fortunate to have a staff that goes above and beyond every day. It has been a pleasure to work with each of them. I have been very glad for the opportunities that the Presidency of this affiliate have given to me. As my board role evolves now, I look forward to our continued partnership to serve the goal of housing those in need. Thank you for your help as we reach that goal in Bergen County.

Sincerely,

Janine A. Getler



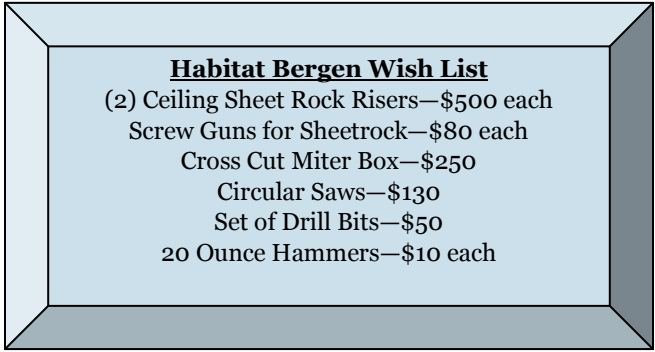


**MISSION STATEMENT**

Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County is a not-for-profit organization with the goal of eliminating poverty housing and homelessness from the face of the earth by working in partnership with people in need. Using volunteer labor and donated funds and materials, Habitat builds or rehabilitates simple, decent houses and sells them to low-income families at cost, with no interest added.

**ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS!**

We are looking for corporations to take part in our Corporate Challenge. If you are interested in getting a group from your business to volunteer, please contact Lori Acquaotta at 201-457-1020.



As you think about your long-term financial needs, please consider Habitat for Humanity in your planning. Leaving a bequest in your will to Habitat will help us to continue providing affordable housing for families in need. A Charitable Gift Annuity or a Charitable Remainder Trust may provide income to you for life while helping to insure the future of Habitat of Bergen. Please discuss these options with your financial planner or call the Habitat office at 201-457-1020 for further information.



**Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County**  
10 Banta Place • Suite 105  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
Phone (201) 457-1020  
Fax (201) 457-1066  
[www.habitatbergen.org](http://www.habitatbergen.org)

Non Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 150  
S. Hackensack, NJ

