

Bogota Savings Bank

Joe Eptsein Photography

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VIP Volunteers

Imagine having a volunteer who is always enthusiastic, willing to learn new things, bright and resourceful. This is every non-profit's dream. Well Habitat Bergen was doubly blessed. From January through May, identical twins Nicole and Colette DeGrexia were those dream volunteers for our organization. Completing their internships for their degrees in Children and Family Studies were the final steps towards graduation from Montclair State University.



Every Tuesday, despite snow, rain or bitter cold, they worked alongside other volunteers spackling, painting, laying floors, etc. The other four weekdays they were true Habitat ambassadors, speaking at schools and community events, creating awareness and excitement so others

Site Spotlight 58 Farnham Avenue, Garfield



Garfield and Bergen County officials, gathered and joined Habitat Bergen Board Members, Greyheads and Dedicated Volunteers in a special ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of Zoe's Place. The giant scissors used to cut the ribbon by Zoe's Place Board Members and founders was symbolic of the giant generous contributions of several major donors including the Bergen County Office of Community Development, Bergen County United Way, Home Depot Paramus and Bogota Savings Bank.

With the help of over 800 dedicated Habitat Bergen volunteers contributing over 6600 hours and trade partners, including Creative Design Construction and our very own Greyheads, Habitat Bergen oversaw construction acting as the construction manager for Zoe's Place.

Zoe's place is open for business and will serve homeless teenage mothers and their babies in a nurturing and supportive family living atmosphere. The day was evidence of what you need to accomplish giant feats... each and every one of you!

[Click here](#) to see the photo gallery of the days event.

Youth United Update

As my fifth year of working with Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County gradually comes to an

would join the team. If not on the road, Nicole and Colette could be found in the office performing various administrative tasks and researching fundraising ideas.

Though sad to see them move on, we are grateful for their countless hours of support and wish them much success in their future careers. The Habitat Bergen door will always be open for them!



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bittersweet end, I am conflicted to say that my volunteer experience has been unforgettable. Not only have I witnessed our fundraisers continually succeeding, but also our volunteer team growing closer as a family. We were able to analyze what would yield better results compared to last year's charity band event, which was our first year hosting such a fundraiser. This year we met and went beyond our goals to create a fun night for locals to help a great cause. As our most complex, yet rewarding fundraiser of the year, the band event was also my most favorite to coordinate. It was a phenomenal way to end the year and show what Youth United can do!

Sincerely,

Nicole Chen



Reggie Bars



Poetic Propaganda



Jam Face



Suburbia (formally Arsen)

[click here](#) to see the photo gallery from the days event.

Habitat International salutes Habitat Bergen's Youth United Fundraiser

Habitat Bergen's Youth United was spotlighted in the International Best Practices Bulletin featuring the fantastic fundraising job our Youth United club did during their 2nd annual Rock the House Band Event this April.

[Click here](#) to read about events coverage.

Fabulous Feedback
thoughts from our volunteers

"It's nice, it's rewarding you get a good feeling especially when you know that people need this. This is the type of project that you think of doing because it's such a great idea but you never do, SRVJCO gave me a door to try it."

- Elysa Levy

"It was a great day today finally the opening of the home for teenage moms. Great weather, nice crowd and some people I have not seen in a while. What a difference when you see the home furnished. Since we started working there 2 years and 9 months ago, i have always been impressed with the serenity of the place, I guess that is one of the reasons I always asked for the Garfield site when it was available."

- Joe Zanini



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