



Serving All of Bergen County September 2015 E-Newsletter



Construction Corner

Sandy Restoration:

It is hard to believe we are approaching the 3rd anniversary of SuperStorm Sandy. The affiliate's Sandy Restoration Program, which began over two and a half years ago, will be coming to a close this December. We are proud to have served the Bergen County community, hit hard by SuperStorm Sandy and thank our partner families for the privilege of getting to know them. Thanks to the hard work done by our volunteers, the affiliate is proud to announce we have completed 54 critical home repairs and are currently completing twelve more, making the total repairs 64, which is 10 more than our grant obligation.

The capital mobilized for SuperStorm Sandy from February 2013 to date is \$1,290,930. 2,243 volunteers donated 18,000 hours on our job site since the program's inception.



Bergenfield:

Habitat Bergen has obtained approvals to construct a single family home and has applied to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the required stream encroachment permit waiver. Construction is projected to begin late fall of 2015.

Washington Township:

The Township has approved the transfer of the former Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) building to Habitat Bergen for the purpose of providing low affordable income homes housing for veterans and seniors. In collaboration with the Township, Habitat Bergen plans to construct two houses, with four units available for sale to low/moderate income veterans and seniors of Bergen County. The project is still in the early planning stages, and we anticipate construction to begin in 2016.

Achievements in Armenia

Did you know? Habitat Bergen donates 10% of its annual donations to Habitat for Humanity of Armenia as part of Habitat for Humanity's Tithing Program. Learn more about how Habitat Bergen's dollars are making an impact on substandard housing in Armenia [here](#).

Hail Thee Farewell

Join us in thanking Janine Getler, Esq. for her continued service to the affiliate as her term of service on the Board of Directors has ended and she takes her required time off from serving. Her leadership on the Board of Directors has helped the affiliate grow and



strengthen its ability to serve more families. Janine has been involved with the affiliate since 1994, and has served on the governance, site selection and family support committees as well as providing pro bono legal counsel to the affiliate.

You will always find Janine, and often times her family and friends at our annual events and programs. She is a trusted advisor, with a willingness to help and be of service. Thanks to Janine's presence and support, Habitat Bergen continues to accomplish great things. Thank you for your tremendous heart for our mission. It seems only fitting that you are joining the affiliate's first Global Village service trip to Taos, NM next month!

New Beginnings

Join us in giving a warm welcome to Brian Marchese from CohnReznick and Lou Weiss from WFM Project and Construction as our newest board members.

Brian brings the kind of creativity, energy and commitment that Habitat Bergen needs to build on what the Board has accomplished together over the last 20 years. With his background in philanthropy, business and finance, Brian will use his experience and knowledge to help guide the Finance Committee as the Committee Chair.

Lou has over 30 years of construction experience that will aid the affiliate in future construction projects. His philanthropic experience serving on non-profit boards has provided him with many positive connections to the local community, local officials and inspectors which will prove to be an invaluable resource in guiding the affiliate to future successes.



Brian Marchese

Lou Weiss

"Bankers Build" in the wake of Superstorm Sandy

The New Jersey Bankers Association (NJBankers) and their associate members are trading their calculators for hammers to assist Superstorm Sandy-struck victims throughout Little Ferry, Moonachie and Hackensack with Habitat Bergen. Throughout the summer and fall, NJ bankers are proudly partnering with Habitat Bergen through a series of a dozen "Bankers Builds."

It is thanks to the recommendation from Boiling Springs Savings Bank that Habitat Bergen has been fortunate enough to build a partnership with the New Jersey Bankers Association (NJBankers). NJBankers have a history of working with Habitat affiliates throughout New Jersey on homes that were devastated by Superstorm Sandy.

The "Bankers Build" program kicked off with Boiling Springs Savings Bank on June 9th and they enjoyed their experience so much their Senior Leadership Team and Board of Directors decided to join us for the day in August. For the third year in a row, the NJBankers could be found on a Habitat worksite, continuing to help repair damaged homes. This year, Jim McWeeney, President and CEO of NJBankers, and his senior management team joined forces with Lusitania Savings Bank for a one-day build.

Habitat Bergen has also since welcomed Mariner's Bank, Community Bank of Bergen County, Columbia Bank, Investors Bank and Lakeland Bank. Photos of their team builds are posted [here](#).

When we reflect back on this summer, our memories will be flooded with NJBankers Build teams. These partnerships become the cornerstone of an organization's success and ability to make an impact in a community and we are looking forward to the last few banks that will join our worksite in the upcoming month.



Chelsea's Corner: AmeriCorps VISTA

VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) is a national service program that was envisioned by President Kennedy and later executed by President Johnson during his 1965 "War on Poverty" campaign. VISTAs are primarily responsible for the development and implementation of sustainable policies that build organizational capacity. In other words, VISTAs develop programs for nonprofits to implement that will help alleviate poverty on a long-term basis.



I have been fortunate enough to serve my first year of service with Habitat Bergen. I was born and raised in Bergen County and my ties to this area are strong, so I jumped at the chance to help address poverty housing in my neighborhood. It is also important to note that building homes is in my blood. I come from three generations of home builders, and I have witnessed the value and happiness that owning your own home can bring. Everyone deserves the opportunity to be awarded that same feeling, a feeling that Habitat Bergen has been helping Bergen County families achieve for over twenty years.

I am six months into my service year and I could not have asked for a better assignment. My position focuses on ReStore Development. A Habitat ReStore is *a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center that sells new and gently used furniture, home accessories, building materials, and appliances to the public at a fraction of the retail price.* All proceeds generated by the ReStore will enable Habitat Bergen to build more homes in Bergen County.

Over the past six months, I have been developing policies and procedures for the future ReStore, which includes the Operations Manual, Volunteer Manual, and creating a Marketing Guide. Every day I am motivated to work my hardest because I know that what I am developing will support Habitat Bergen's ReStore, which in turn will help more Bergen County families. I have learned so much thus far, and I look forward to what the next six months brings!

On 9/11 in honor of the Day of Service, AmeriCorps members were encouraged to volunteer with a nonprofit organization within their service community. I was grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with the Center for Food Action, where I started as volunteer 10 years ago.

We wish to recognize the following donors for their recent support of our organization

- Bogota Savings Bank \$20,000
- Englewood Presbyterian Church Grant \$2,500



- Genentech/HFHI \$10,000
- Inserra Supermarkets, Inc. \$5,000
- New Jersey Bankers Association Members \$13,000
- Samsung/HFHI \$32,000
- State Farm Youth United Grant \$5,000
- UPS Foundation \$5,000

Funds will be used to support the remaining Superstorm Sandy critical home repairs, upcoming new construction project of a single-family home in Bergenfield, general operations and program support.

Feeling Lucky?

Roll the dice with us at our annual **Casino Night** on **Tuesday, October 20, 2015** at **Seasons** in the **Township of Washington**.

[Tickets](#) in advance are \$60 perperson and include \$50 worth of gaming chips, cocktails, dinner, music and incredible prizes! Get your tarot cards and palm read by Holly Baker and Ashley White. Day-of ticket price is \$75.

[Sponsorship](#) opportunities are available and range from \$100 - \$2,000. To donate a Tricky Tray basket, contact Pamela Nall at Pamelan@habitatbergen.org.



Raise your voice in support of Bergen County families!

Habitat Bergen's ability to build more homes has been threatened by Congress this past June, after they proposed to cut 93% of HOME program funds. Why does this matter? No matter where you live - whether a brick home, a log cabin, a high-rise apartment or even a tree house - your home connects back to the land beneath it.

Unfortunately, few Americans are aware of something very serious underway in Washington, D.C. right now: Congress is threatening funding cuts so severe that they would mean the end of a program called the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). Since the early 1990s, Habitat for Humanity affiliates has served communities with the most needs using HOME funds.

In many cases, those funds cover the increasingly high cost of land. HOME funds enabled our affiliate to build four homes in Oradell.

We need your help! Please join us in addressing this important issue. [Use your voice](#) today by sending a message to your federal lawmakers, then encourage your friends and family to do the same. We need advocates like you to help Congress understand the importance of how HOME positively impacts Bergen County.

High School Students Looking for Volunteer Opportunities

Youth United is a youth-led volunteer program that mobilizes high school aged students to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness. Members meet twice per month to plan recruitment strategies, volunteer and advocacy events, and fundraisers. Members aged 16 and older have the ability to do hands on construction on Habitat Bergen's build sites.

Habitat Bergen's Youth United volunteers will kick off the new school year with a meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd, 7:30 pm at the Paramus Public Library. New members are welcome. For more information, visit Habitat Bergen's Youth United website at www.bergenyouthunited.com or contact Blu Frankel, Youth United President, at bergenyouthunited@gmail.com.

Greyheads Recognized for their Volunteerism

Habitat Bergen is proud of Joe Zanini and Bob Sandt, two loyal Greyheads, who were recognized in St. John the Baptist Church's monthly newsletter for their volunteer work with Habitat Bergen. Skip ahead to page 39 to read more about Joe and Bob and how they initially became involved with Habitat Bergen! Click [here](#) to read more.



Special thanks to St. John the Baptist Church for highlighting these dedicated volunteers for all that they do.

A New Way to Celebrate the Good Times

A contribution to Habitat Bergen in someone's honor is a wonderful way to commemorate their special day, whether it is a birthday, graduation, retirement or another significant milestone.

Stay connected with us online!



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