

Habitat Happenings



Habitat Bergen Honors Builders of the Year

SPRING 2007

On May 10th, over 200 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 event was chaired by Steven Singer, President and CEO of American Banknote Corporation. Builder of the Year Awards were presented to Marv Hopkins, President and CEO of Hunter Douglas; David Sidman, President and CEO of Pella Windows and Doors and Thomas Toronto, President of Bergen County's United Way. The Builder of the Year Award honors the contributions of these individuals and their organizations to Habitat Bergen.

Hunter Douglas provides custom-made window blinds for the privacy rooms in all new and rehab Habitat homes. "The home is one of the critical anchors that helps stabilize and hold our society together," stated Marv Hopkins.

Pella's partnership with Habitat provides windows for Habitat homes and as David Sidman explained, "Habitat removes obstacles and as a result, dreams come true."

United Way and Habitat share a common goal of providing affordable housing in Bergen County. Thomas Toronto pledged to "...do more in partnership with Habitat to change lives...family by family...house by house."

In addition, WACHOVIA was honored with the Golden Hammer Award for providing almost 100 volunteers during this year's Corporate Challenge.

"Partnering with Habitat for Humanity is consistent with our commitment to building strong and sustainable neighborhoods," stated Michele Calise, Senior Vice President at Wachovia.

During the evening, guests heard from future Habitat homeowner Pauline Stafford and were entertained by the Ebenezer Baptist Church Choir.

We are happy to say that the event raised over \$100,000 that will help us continue our mission to provide decent, affordable housing in Bergen County.



Builder of the Year Honorees David Sidman, Thomas Toronto and Marv Hopkins



Habitat Board Member Charlie Vieni; Kris Vieni, Assistant VP for Wachovia; Michele Calise, Sr. VP for Wachovia; Susan Safire, Habitat Bergen Executive Director

Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Habitat Friends,

We at Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County have been truly blessed this year with so many new friends and friends who have been with us through thick and thin! Without their financial support, product support and volunteerism, we would not be building some of the most beautiful homes in the Habitat International network. And, we're not finished yet.

This week, we will be breaking ground for the next two units on Third Street in Englewood, bringing the total so far to six

new homes for hard working, deserving families. We hope that you will join us and the Mayor of Englewood on July 22nd at 2:30 when we will dedicate these new homes to the families who will own them.

Our future projects will include sites in Garfield and Oradell. We may be a young Habitat affiliate, but watch us grow!

This year, we were approved to receive a matching grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the Oritani Savings Bank Charitable Foundation. It is my pleasure to announce that through the generosity of many, we have matched Oritani's

grant and now an additional \$100,000 is earmarked for the Third Street Redevelopment Project.

On a personal note, as I get ready to celebrate my first full year as Executive Director, I want to take this opportunity to thank the most wonderful Board of Directors and staff for being there with me every step of the way.

Remember, we work to **Build Hope...Build Homes**

Sincerely,

Susan Safire
Executive Director



Habitat Families to Move into Their New Homes

The long-awaited moving day is almost here! The Anderson Family, the Darbouze Family, the Stafford Family and the Taha Family will be handed the keys to their new Habitat home at a Home Dedication Ceremony on July 22nd on Third Street in Englewood.

These four hard-working families have completed their sweat equity hours by working alongside volunteers as they build their dream homes. Eventually, nine Habitat families will call Third Street their home.

“These homes and these families are the foundation of a new neighborhood,” said Susan Safire, Executive Director. “Each and every homeowner has spent time and energy to make their dream of homeownership a reality and we are thrilled to work alongside them.”

When these four families move in, the new community on Third Street will be home to 6 adults and 15 children.

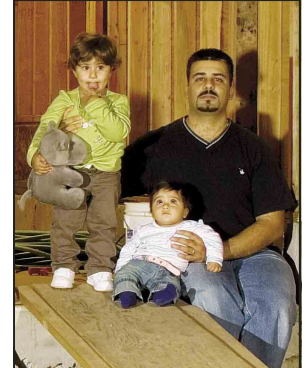
After thousands of hours of sweat equity and volunteer labor, there’s just one thing left to say...

WELCOME HOME!

Habitat Homeowner Pauline Stafford; her granddaughter, Shaliah Nicolas; Habitat homeowner, Monique Anderson; Ms. Stafford’s grandsons, Liahshea and Latief Nicolas.



Habitat Homeowners Nina and Gerald Darbouze in front of their new home. The Darbouzes have five children.



Habitat Homeowners Atef and Sandra Taha will move into their new home with their four children.

Two More Families Chosen for Third Street

We would like to welcome our two newest Habitat families to Third Street in Englewood. Just last month, the Guzman and Ferreira families received the news that they will be the proud new homeowners of a Habitat home on Third Street in Englewood.



Jaime, Mercedes, James and Ivanson Guzman; Bob Preis, Director of Construction; Jorge, Ramona, Jasmine and Jennifer Ferreira

Youth United’s Act!Speak!Build! Week

Youth United is Habitat Bergen’s program for youth ages 5-25 designed to involve children of all ages in the Habitat mission. Lori Acquattrota 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.

The week of April 16th was Bergen County Youth United’s Act!Speak!Build! Week. During this week, Youth United members organized advocacy events to raise awareness of poverty housing in Bergen County. The first event was a Hunger Banquet which took place at Fairleigh Dickenson University’s Teaneck Campus. Each attendee was randomly assigned an income bracket and received a plate of food consistent with that income level. Lisa Pitz, from the Community Food Bank, spoke to the attendees about poverty in Bergen County.

The second event was a Sleep Out at Fairleigh Dickenson University where students

built shacks out of cardboard and slept in them overnight to get a symbolic experience of homelessness.

The final event was held at Paramus Park Mall where shoppers visited a Habitat booth to get information about our mission to eliminate poverty housing in Bergen County. During the day, shoppers joined hands throughout the mall as a symbol of awareness and support of Habitat.

Many thanks to the volunteers who provided their time and talent to make this week a success! Margaret Cook-Levy, Wendy Tinkoff, Claudia Erardy, Kerry



Youth United Coordinator Lori Acquattrota with Youth United members at the Fairleigh Dickenson Sleep Out.

Curreri, Tish Oates, PJ Juliano and President Containers, Inc.

What does Habitat Bergen have in common with the US Post Office?

The Post Office has a motto that reads "Neither rain nor hail nor sleet nor snow nor heat of day nor dark of night shall keep this carrier from the swift completion of his appointed rounds."

Well on March 16th we had the blizzard of the year but that did not stop us from building a "Home in a Box" with the NBA and the New Jersey Nets!

Our 4th Home In A Box was built and shipped to Mississippi this past March in conjunction with the National Basketball Association's "NBA Cares" Program. The NBA is building 10 homes with 10 different affiliates throughout the country for Gulf Coast families.

Forty-five volunteers from Habitat Bergen, Habitat International and the NBA worked side-by-side with players like Jason Kidd, Jason Collins and Vince Carter to build this home. NJ Nets President and General Manager, Rod Thorn, NBA Legend, Bob Lanier and the Nets mascot, Sly, lent their helping hands (and paws) as the walls were raised.



Habitat Bergen Partners with Paramus Park Mall



Paramus Park Mall and its parent company, General Growth Properties, have partnered with Habitat for Humanity to help raise awareness and resources for Habitat's mission throughout the nation.

Paramus Park will engage employees and customers to help build homes, participate in fundraising events and other public awareness initiatives to reinforce Paramus Park's commitment to community and betterment of families in need.

"We are proud to be part of Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County's life-changing mission of helping families in need experi-

ence a better quality of life," said Madinah Grier, Marketing Manager of Paramus Park.

On April 21st, Paramus Park kicked off this partnership with "Hands Across The Mall" where shoppers took a few moments to join hands in a show of support for Habitat's mission to provide decent, affordable housing to Bergen County residents.

We look forward to a successful partnership with our newest Habitat friends at Paramus Park!

M'mm M'mm Good!

On March 5, 2007 Fleming's Steakhouse and Wine Bar of Edgewater hosted a Wine and Food Tasting event at their Edgewater location to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County.

The event was attended by almost 100 people who enjoyed four sumptuous wine and food pairings prepared by Executive Chef Scott Kroener and Wine Director Christopher Kuhn. The evening was a wonderful success, raising thousands of dollars to assist Habitat Bergen in their mission to eliminate poverty housing in Bergen County.

"We were truly touched by the generosity of Fleming's in hosting this event and by the support of those individuals who attended," said Amy Sigona, Board Vice President for Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County.

In addition to hosting the event, Fleming's donated bottles of wine and dining gift certificates as raffle items. Thank you to our friends at Fleming's for making the evening a special night of awareness and camaraderie.



Habitat Bergen Board Vice President, Amy Sigona; Fleming's Managing Partner, Buddy Chick; Susan Safire, Executive Director, Habitat Bergen.

Volunteers Make It Happen!

As our first four families get ready to move into their new homes on Third Street, we are reminded of the tireless generosity of the thousands of volunteers who have hammered, framed, painted, scraped, spackled, insulated and shared their time and talents with Habitat Bergen. We are so grateful for the individuals and organizations that have given so much to our families and our mission.



Volunteers from the Teaneck Fire Department were on site at Third Street to lend a helping hand.

WE THANK YOU!

Thanks to the following donors of labor and materials for our Englewood Site.

Alvaro Stairs LLC	Hunter Douglas
Artistic Tile	Jamar Construction
ArZee Supply	Parker Hardware
Bonanomi & Bennett	Pella
Bergen County	S&L Glass
Overhead Doors	Soltys Construction
Canac Kitchens	Stevens Mechanical
Dourado Concrete	Swift Electrical Supply
Englewood Garden Club	United Water
GAF	Valspar
General Reproduction Products	Van Natta Mechanical
Hoffman Floor & Home	Weidener Construction
	Whirlpool Corporation
	Yale Lock Company

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.

Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County Staff

Susan Safire—Executive Director
Bob Preis—Director of Construction
Lori Acquavotta—Coordinator, Volunteers/Youth United
Wendy Worden—Marketing Manager
Bob Botsford—Site Supervisor

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