

Habitat Happenings



Oops! How Could We Have Made Such An Error?

Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County is very fortunate to receive funding from many corporations, some of which are our financial institutions. One of our biggest supporters is OritaniBank Charitable Foundation. The support of this organization, both financial and through volunteer efforts is outstanding. We could not ask for a better partner in supporting affordable housing than Oritani.



So when we published our Winter 2008 Newsletter we made a terrible mistake of incorrectly naming the President of the OritaniBank Foundation and Chairman, President and CEO of Oritani Bank. The correct President is **Kevin Lynch** and not Kevin Burke as previously written. We sincerely apologize for this error and hope that Mr. Lynch will forgive us.

Oritani was not the only error we made... Bogota Savings Bank, another major supporter of affordable housing, was left out of our Winter 2008 Newsletter as well! Bogota was a sponsor of our 2008 Dream Builder Walk. Whenever we have a need for support, Bogota Savings Bank is always there for us and we are so greatly appreciative.

ANOTHER FLEMING'S SUCCESS!

On March 23, 2009 well over 100 people attended a Wine and Tasting event sponsored by Flemings Steak House in Edgewater. This event, the third annual, was hosted by Buddy Chick, Operating Partner with all proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County. It was a great evening where Executive Chef Scott Kroener presented four wines and food pairings that guests enjoyed throughout the evening.

Once again, in addition to hosting the event Fleming's donated wine, wine glasses and dining gift certificates as great prizes. A 50/50 raffle was held and the winner received over \$700.00 and generously donated \$200.00 back to Habitat.



Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County Board of Directors: Steven Singer, Kurt Breitenstein, Bernard Fasciano, David Van Grouw, Peter Malamas, Neal Klausner, Phil Wyks and Peggy Telgheder



Steve Singer and Susan Safire getting ready to pick another lucky winner!!



SPRING 2009

VOLUNTEER CORNER

By: Jaymie Kerr, Marketing Manager

OUR GREYHEADS



When Margaret Cook-Levy founded Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County in 1994 and began construction of a firehouse in Teaneck, word spread fast that she was in need of construction volunteers. Several of those volunteers became "regulars". Those "regulars" were retired and looking for a rewarding volunteer experience. As time went by the same group would show up every Wednesday. As they got to know each other, they decided they needed a group name and adopted the name "Greyheads".

Since 1994, the Greyheads have grown to a dedicated group of 29 volunteers who are on site every Wednesday. They have become an integral part of our building efforts because of their construction experience, willingness to volunteer and their leadership in teaching others. Several Greyheads have gone outside of the Bergen County borders and have traveled to Poland, Alaska, Uganda and Siberia with Habitat International's Global Village and to Louisiana to help build one of Habitat Bergen's Homes-In-A-Box as part of Operation Home Delivery when Katrina struck.

Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

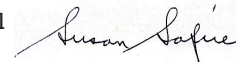
Spring is a time for flowers, the great smell of a freshly mowed lawn, and the sights and sounds of families at a barbeque. But not everyone can enjoy these wonderful spring happenings. Some children have only the hard surface of concrete for their playground, and some have never been to a family barbeque. We at Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County are trying to change that for future families. We are building homes for families that might never have had the opportunity of owning a home with a back yard, a porch, and

separate bedrooms if it were not for Habitat! This is a mission that we are proud to achieve and it is thanks to you, our partners that we are able to continue to provide affordable housing in this otherwise wealthy county.

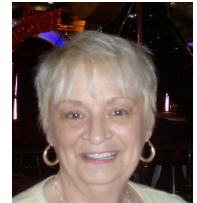
Today, as the economy reaches a global impact, we come to you again to ask for your continued support so that we can help those who need us most. For many people reaching into our pockets is difficult today. But if we don't continue to support non-profits, I fear what might become of our country. The USA is the most philanthropic country in the world

and we **must** stay true to our beliefs. I believe in you and depend on you for your continued support.

I wish you joy this spring and thank you for all you do.



Sincerely,
Susan Safire
Executive Director



Our 15th Year of Service will be celebrated at the Builder of the Year Dinner



On June 3, 2009 our Annual Builder of the Year Dinner will take place at The Estate of Florentine Gardens in River Vale. We will be celebrating 15 years of services for families in need in Bergen County. This is a truly exciting time in the history of Habitat Bergen as never before in our 15 years have we had so many projects on the horizon at one time. What a way to begin the 16th year!

Last year the Builder of the Year (BOY) Dinner generated over \$180,000 in support of affordable housing. We have high hopes of increasing that amount during the 2009 BOY event. Chairing the event this year is Neal Klausner of the law firm Davis and Gilbert LLP. We are thrilled to be honoring John Elias of the prestigious law firm Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal as well as Nordstrom, an exclusive department store that has been extremely generous to Habitat over the last few years. Accepting the Golden Hammer Award will be NBC/Universal for having the most volunteers this past year working on a Habitat build.

Entertainment will be The Reminiscent of the Jersey City Arts High School. This group of very talented high school students will soon be representing the United States at the International Youth Culture Festival in Oberhavel, Germany. In addition a silent and live auction will take place during the dinner with many exciting and special items up for auction.

WOMEN BUILD

Habitat Bergen is still planning on conducting a Women Build project this spring or summer 2009. We are recruiting volunteers and supporters from a number of Women's Groups throughout the state. Although we have not firmed up the site for this build as yet, we still would like to hear from you if you are interested in getting involved with the Women Build Team. Please call Jaymie Kerr at 201-457-1020 for additional information. Together we can make a difference!



Youth United

The Youth United Program has grown tremendously thanks to the hard work of our Youth United Coordinator, Denise Marcos. Many more schools are participating in this program and the Steering Committee is planning additional events throughout the year. We have been blessed with a grant from State Farm in the amount of \$5,000 which will be matched by various events the committee has planned. To date this program has raised over \$55,000.00 towards the cost of building a Youth United home.

If you would like additional information about the Youth United program, please contact Denise Marcos at 201-457-1020 or denisem@habitatbergen.org.



Hammers and Nails by Bob Preis

Hi Everyone!

Bob Preis here, Director of Construction for Habitat Bergen. Our topic this time will be the first in a four part series of the steps of New Habitat Home Construction process.

After necessary permits on a new building site, we begin excavating the property. The Excavator pulls up to the site, unloads "the big machine" to clean up the parcel, and grades the land. He uses his excavator to knock down any trees that are in the way. All the workers yell "timber" and down it goes. He then chops up the tree into logs and stacks them so anyone on the project or neighbors can take for firewood. He then digs a series of four foot holes so we can get samples of soil to have inspected for contamination. After the holes are filled back in, he starts digging the actual four foot footing for the foundation. After the "hole" is dug as they say in the trade, we are ready for the mason to prepare the hole for the actual formed footing for the house. He assembles a series of Re-bar so the footing concrete doesn't crack. The steel Re-bar adds a lot of strength to the footings.

Watch for the next "Hammers and Nails" addition for the next steps.

And, remember keep on swingin' those hammers!

Bob the Builder

Financial Support... In-kind Support... Volunteer Support... It's all needed!

So many corporations, foundations and individuals have been supporting Habitat Bergen over the years and we are so appreciative of this needed support. Over 6,000 volunteers work on build sites over the years and keep coming back year after year. It gives us great pleasure to acknowledge some of our volunteers: The Greyheads; Donna Pagliaro; John Pagliaro; David Theil; Dennis Steele; Jim Brandon; John Dubois; Betsy Kreippen; Denise Marcos, Helen Wright; Mercedes-Benz; General Electric; Nordstroms; United Water; Transworld Marketing; KPMG; Seimens Hearing; Allied Building Supplies; Reckitt Benckiser; Doherty Enterprises; DNV Company; All of our High Schools, Colleges and Universities; and houses of worship.

We could not sell or build our homes if it were not for those companies that donate their goods or services to Habitat Bergen. We want to take this opportunity of thanking the following companies for their continued support: Alvaro Stairs LLC; American Banknote Corporation; Artistic Tile; ArZee Supply; Bergen County Overhead Doors; Bergen Plumbing and Heating Supply Company; Blue Moon Mexican Café; Bonanomi & Bennett Architects; Boswell Engineering; Canac Kitchens; Captains House Inn; Chart House Restaurant; Classic Remodeling; Clinton Inn; Complete Remodeling; Dourado Concrete; Englewood Garden Club; Fleming's Steakhouse and Wine Bar; GAF; General Reproduction Products; Houston's; Hunter Douglas; Jamar Construction; Krell Lighting; Matsushima; MTM Resources; New Jersey Nets; Outback Steakhouse; Parker Hardware; Pella Windows & Doors; PF Chang's; Romac Electric; S&L Glass; Severino; Smartvent; Soltys Construction; Steven & Rebecca Singer; Stevens Mechanical; United Water; Valspar; Weidener Construction; Whirlpool Corporation; Whole Foods; and Yale Lock Company.



EXTRA, EXTRA ... READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!

Garfield is now ready to schedule volunteers! We need your help in refurbishing an existing building that when completed will house teenage mothers and their babies for the not-for-profit ZOE's Place. Please contact the Habitat office at 201-457-1020 to schedule your dates!!

BOB'S TIP OF THE DAY: After the excavation is complete, we must, be real careful walking the grounds. There are voids in the grounds because the soil isn't settled yet and you could twist an ankle. Plus it is real muddy so take your shoes off at the door so you don't get yelled out!



Community Alliance Program

Habitat Bergen has partnered with Boiling Springs to earn additional dollars for affordable housing. Existing Boiling Springs account holders can contact the bank to designate Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County as a Community Alliance participant. For new accounts, designate Habitat Bergen when you open the account. We will accrue Community Alliance Rewards and the bank will donate to Habitat Bergen based on the balances in all of our Alliance accounts. For more information, visit www.bssbank.com or stop into your local branch.



Have your cake and donate too! Giftback offers high quality gift baskets, gourmet gifts, flowers and special occasion gifts. Habitat Bergen will receive 10% of the purchase price from Giftback. Visit them online at www.giftback.com and see the wonderful items they offer.



GivingExpress

Donations to Habitat Bergen on your American Express Card can be made in dollars or Membership Rewards® points through the GivingExpress Program. You can set up a recurring donation and you can earn Membership Rewards points for donations. Earn double points for donations made in October and November, Visit www.americanexpress.com/give.

ON THE HORIZON

Youth United Bowl-a-thon

April 18th, 4:30—6:30, Bowler City, Hackensack, NJ

Builder of the year 2009

June 3rd, Estate of Florentine Gardens, Rivervale

Motorcycle Run/Walk-a-thon

September 20th, Edgewater Boat Basin

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Our build sites are open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00am—4:00pm and we need volunteers to help us build! No construction experience necessary but you must be 16 years or older to swing a hammer. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Robin Culvert at the Habitat office at 201-457-1020 or via email at robinc@habitatbergen.org.

Board of Directors

Steve Singer—President
David Van Grouw—Vice President
Phil Wyks—Treasurer
Marcy Steele—Secretary
Richard Bennett
Kurt Breitenstein
Jack Drakeford
Bernard Fasciano
Edward Gibney
Joseph Grillo
Tricia Jansen
Neal Klausner
Merlyn LaPaix
Peter Malamas
Anna Monforth
Peggy Telgheder

STAFF

Susan Safire, Executive Director
Bob Preis, Director of Construction
Jaymie Kerr, Marketing Manager
Robin Culvert, Volunteer Coordinator

www.habitatbergen.org

Fax (201) 457-1066

Phone (201) 457-1020

Hackensack, NJ 07601

• 10 Banta Place • Suite 105
Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County

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