

Habitat Happenings



SUMMER 2009

VOLUNTEER CORNER

By: Wendy Parker, Volunteer Coordinator

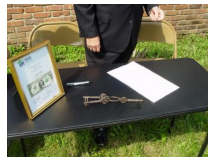
How can you say you retired in 1996 when you're always on the go! With dedication, David Thiel arrives on site every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday to help build affordable homes with Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County. A long time resident of Bergen County & growing up in the Bronx, David has been working with Habitat since 2008. David says "I owe Habitat for Humanity everything I know!" Cabinet making was a past time for many years & now with all the experience he has gained working with Habitat he's become a natural in framing, flooring, tiling, spackling, painting & all the small tasks in between.

David's favorite parts of working with Habitat is being able to help people in the community, getting out of the house & doing something creative. Habitat isn't the only place he goes when he leaves his home. An avid skier he belongs to a local Ski Club that frequents ski resorts in NY & VT. He has also visited British Columbia, Colorado & Utah ski towns. This past summer he's taken to the river & started rafting down Class 5 rivers such as the Colorado River in Arizona.

Having spent many years being a project manager for Simon Schuster, jumping in & being a team leader for Habitat he fits right in. We can't thank David enough for his hard work & loyalty he has to Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County.



Waldwick Presents the Keys to a Building that will be Home for Affordable Housing.



On a bright sunny day in Waldwick, Mayor Russell Litchult presented the keys to 101 Wyckoff Avenue to Habitat. Members of the press, the Habitat Board of Directors and staff along with members of the municipality and those who were influential in helping us obtain this property were all present to witness the signing of the deed over to Habitat Bergen. It was an exciting day for us and the rain held off until everyone had left the site.

We hope to begin construction sometime in October after all permits are obtained. The site will be the new home to four families in need of safe and affordable housing. We will renovate this existing 5,100 square foot building into two 2 bedroom suites; one 3 bedroom suite; and one 4 bedroom suite. We will begin the marketing process in order to select families as soon as possible.

Watch us as we continue to grow....



Standing: Greg Bossong, Esq. Waldwick Municipality Attorney; Bob Preis, Habitat Director of Construction; Susan Safire, Executive Director; David Van Grouw, President of Habitat Board; Bill Hamilton, Omland Engineer; Kurt Breitenstein, Habitat Board of Directors. Seated: Mayor Russell Litchult and Gary Kratz, Waldwick Borough Administrator.

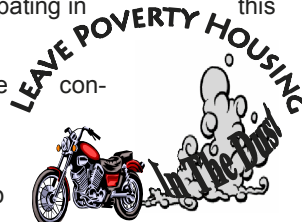


SUNDAY FUN DAY FOR ALL

Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County is pleased to announce a "Sunday Fun Day" event starting with our **First Annual Motorcycle Poker Run**, our annual **Dream-builder Walk-a-thon**, and culminating with all participants joining us for an afternoon of food, entertainment, and prizes. This great event will be held at the Ross Dock Recreation Boat Basin in Edgewater on Sunday, September 20th with registration for the motorcycle run starting at 9:30am, the walk at 10:00am. We plan to have over 100 motorcycle riders and more than 250 walkers participating in this event.

For more information or to register for either event please contact the Habitat office at 201-457-1020 or visit our website at www.Habitatbergen.org.

Come out and enjoy the festivities while helping to stomp



Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

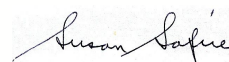
This is a very exciting time for Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County. For the very first time we are looking at building homes for families in need in three scattered sites in Bergen County. On July 28th on a sunny bright day, the Mayor of Waldwick turned over the keys to 101 Wyckoff Avenue to the Habitat Board of Directors. We hope to begin work shortly and turn this blighted building into four (4) beautiful homes. In addition to Waldwick, we will begin working on the renovation of an existing building in Garfield which, when completed, will be the new home of Zoe's Place, an organization dedicated to housing teenaged mothers and their babies. We also anticipate that

the back lot in Garfield will eventually be the site of affordable housing for families in need. Currently we are working with the municipality of Oradell where plans are underway to build four (4) units of housing in this very upscale community.

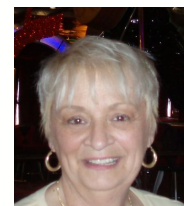
For families who might never have the opportunity of owning their very first home, Habitat is making dreams come true by building more homes in one year than ever before. But, as I often say, we can't do it alone. More than ever we need your support. Building homes, even with volunteer labor, is a costly project. Building costs can reach \$150,000 for each home built. Although we pray that our economic conditions will change, the outlook remains dismal

and funding has become harder to achieve.

We hope that you are enjoying your summer (in between the rain drops) and are looking forward to helping us build Habitat homes. The more volunteers we have, the more homes we can build. Thank you for being there for us over the last fifteen years in Bergen County.



Sincerely,
Susan Safire
Executive Director



The Oritanibank Charitable Foundation Supports Affordable Housing in Bergen County Again this Year!

Once again we have been blessed with the news that we are to receive a challenge grant from Oritanibank Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$50,000. This grant and all monies raised to match it will be restricted to the construction of either Waldwick, Oradell or Garfield. We now look to you, our supporters, to help us raise the additional \$50,000 needed to build homes for hard working families in need of safe and affordable housing.

We are forever grateful to Oritani for all that it continues to do in providing housing for low-moderate-income families.

Welcome on Board!

At our June 2009 Annual Meeting, we welcomed two new members to the Habitat Bergen Board of Directors. Join me in welcoming **James Kim and Lori Rushton-Hirak**.

James Kim

James is an attorney whose practice emphasizes complex commercial and corporate litigation in the federal and state courts.

Lori Rushton-Hirak

Lori is a major player in the world of real estate and runs Monogram First Real Estate Services.

In addition to our two newest Board members, we are thrilled to welcome back to the Board Janine Getler. Janine is a vital member of our organization and one we truly missed.

Welcoming new and returning Board members usually means we will sorely miss members whose terms on our Board has expired. We will miss both Anna Monforth, former President of the Board, Edward Gibney and Peggy Telgheder.

WOMEN BUILD

Habitat Bergen is still planning on conducting a Women Build project in 2009/2010. 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 \$62,500.00 towards the cost of building a Youth United home.

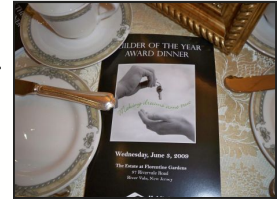
If you would like additional information about the Youth United program, please contact Denise Marcos at 201-457-1020 or denisem@habitatbergen.org.



BUILDER OF THE YEAR—THE BEST EVER!!!



At the beautiful facilities of The Estate at Florentine Gardens, the Annual Fundraising Builder of the Year Dinner was held on June 3, 2009. And what a great event it was. Two Hundred guests enjoyed great food and drink while being entertained by the fantastic Reminiscent of the Jersey City Arts High School. Honored that evening were John Elias of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal as well as Nordstrom the exclusive department store. Accepting the Golden Hammer Award for having the most volunteers on site was NBC/Universal.



Back Row: Habitat Board Members Ed Gibney, Joe Grillo, Tricia Jansen, Peggy Telgheder, Habitat Bergen founder Margret Cook-Levy and board members Neal Klausner, Peter Malamas and Kurt Breitenstein; Front Row: Phillip Wyks, board treasurer; Steven Singer, board president; Susan Safire, executive director; Marcy Steele, board secretary

BOY 09 HONOREES



Neal Klausner and Honoree John Elias



Miss New Jersey, Ashley Fairfield crowning a new winner, Steven Singer

LET THE FUN BEGIN



The Reminiscent of the Jersey City Arts High School performing a great Motown oldie



Grand Stand Sports starting the opening bids on the live auction



Rodney Wagner of Nordstrom and Susan Safire



Representatives of NBC/Universal

Hammers and Nails by Bob Preis

Hi Everyone!

Bob Preis here, Director of Construction for Habitat Bergen.

Last time we finished the house at the footings. After the footing inspection by the town, the work begins on erecting the forms for the poured concrete solid foundation. We use solid foundations rather than porous cinderblock foundations to insure no leakage. Plus, it's a must in a flood zone.

As soon as the forms are in place, the mason orders a concrete pump truck where a giant hose is worked around the tops of the forms and the concrete is poured. While the concrete is still wet in the forms, we insert a threaded rod in the center of the foundation to be able to bolt down the first piece of pressure treated 2 x 6 for the beginning of the wood framing.

Here comes the lumber truck loaded with dimensional lumber (2x4's, 2x6's, 2x8's and 2x10's) ready to be dropped off all at once in bundles. The lumber is shipped in the order to be used first. We are now ready to begin the perimeter framing. Since Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County is building as green as we possibly can, we use 2 x 6's instead of 2 x 4's in the perimeter framing so that we can use the thicker R-19 factor insulation. Once the inspection of the foundation is made by the town, we can begin framing the entire house. Next issue: Framing

And, remember, "Keep on swinging those hammers!"

Bob the Builder



ON THE HORIZON

Sunday Fun Day Motorcycle Run/Walk-a-thon

September 20th, Edgewater Boat Basin
Watch for upcoming Waldwick Events
Flemings Wine Tasting, March
Builder of the Year Dinner, June

BOB'S TIP OF THE DAY: On all new construction the grounds must be kept safe after hours because neighbors are going to investigate.

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 Wendy Parker at the Habitat office at 201-457-1020 or via email at wendyp@habitatbergen.org.

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- Phil Wyks—Treasurer
- Marcy Steele—Secretary
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- Kurt Breitenstein
- Jack Drakeford
- Bernard Fasciano
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- Lori Rushton-Hirak
- Tricia Jansen
- James Kim
- Merlyn LaPaix
- Peter Malamas
- Steve Singer

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- Bob Preis, Director of Construction
- Jaymie Kerr, Marketing Manager
- Wendy Parker, Volunteer Coordinator
- John DuBios, Site Supervisor
- John Pagliaro, Site Supervisor



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