

Habitat Happenings



**Habitat
for Humanity®
of Bergen County**

The Momentum Continues in Englewood

WINTER 2007

After completing the first four homes on Third Street in Englewood last August, we are moving full steam ahead on the next duplex. The frame is up, the roof is on and volunteers have been on site since October framing and getting the worksite ready for the winter. Our two newest Habitat families, the Guzmanns and the Ferrieras, have been hard at work putting in their sweat equity hours. You can learn more about them on Page 3.

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and they have helped make the dream of homeownership a reality for our families. The first four homes in Englewood were built with over 3,000 volunteers and more than 20,000 volunteer hours! We are working to keep this momentum going for the other five homes that will eventually be built on Third Street. As always, we will continue to



Build Hope...Build Homes!

The newest duplex on Third Street in Englewood is ready for volunteers and partner families to keep on building!

Bergen County Corporations Rise to the Challenge

The week of October 29th was a week of volunteerism and community support as corporations from all over Bergen County lent their helping hands to our projects in Englewood and Edgewater during our 2007 Corporate Challenge.

“The support of corporations is crucial to the success of our mission,” said Susan Safire, Executive Director of Habitat Bergen. “We are so pleased that these businesses reached out to help us and help the families that we serve.”

We would like to thank the following companies for their support: Columbia Bank, Hudson City Savings Bank, Mariner's Bank, Paramus Park, Lexis Nexis, and Lakeland Bank.



**Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County • 10 Banta Place • Suite 105
Hackensack, NJ 07601**

Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

In this difficult time in the housing market, we at Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County are fortunate to be able to build homes for families who might never have the opportunity of owning their own home. As this newsletter goes to print, two more families are helping to build the home that they will move into sometime in 2008. Our two new families, the Guzmans and the

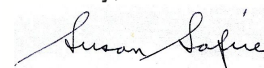
Ferreiras, will have a very affordable mortgage **with no interest**. When the Third Street Development Project is completed, nine hard-working families will own a home they can call their very own.

We are able to do this because of your generosity and the generosity of many who support the work of Habitat for Humanity. I want to take this opportunity to wish you a very healthy and

happy New Year. May all your dreams become a reality.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Susan Safire
Executive Director



Welcome On Board!

This past September, we welcomed four new members to our Board of Directors. We are very pleased to announce the appointment of **Buddy Chick, Bernard Fasciano, Tricia Jansen, and David Van Grouw**.

Buddy Chick is the Operating Partner of Fleming's Steakhouse and Wine Bar in Edgewater. He became involved with Habitat Bergen by hosting a fundraising event at Fleming's and has continued to support our building efforts through his generosity.

Bernard Fasciano is a Vice President, Wealth Advisor, Investment Consultant and Retirement Planning Specialist with Morgan Stanley in Paramus. He has over 17 years experience in the financial services industry and is a graduate of Rutgers University.

Tricia Jansen began as a construction volunteer with Habitat Bergen in January 2006 and quickly became an important and reliable part of our building efforts. Over the next 9 months, Tricia became increasingly involved with fundraising efforts. Tricia serves as an active volunteer with many school and community associations in her town and is a graduate of Ladycliff College.

David Van Grouw first became involved with Habitat Bergen as a member of the Family Selection Committee in 2007. He currently serves as Litigation Counsel for Lowenstein Sandler PC in Roseland and is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson and Seton Hall Law School.

WELCOME TO HABITAT!



2007-2008 Board of Directors

Anna Monforth—President
Steven Singer—Vice President
Phil Wyks—Treasurer
Marcy Steele—Secretary

Richard Bennett
Buddy Chick
Jack Drakeford
Bernard Fasciano
Janine Getler
Edward Gibney
Tricia Jansen
Mike Kadish
Merlyn La Paix
Peggy Telgheder
David Van Grouw

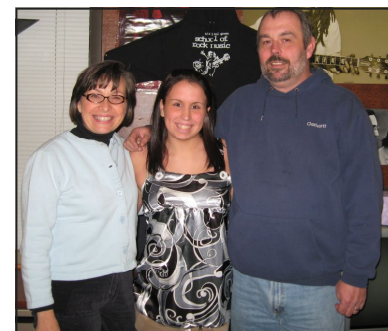
Youth United Rocks the House!

After three years of fundraising, Youth United is 1/3 of the way toward the goal of sponsoring a home at a cost of \$115,000. We are determined to raise the remaining funds necessary by the end of December 2008 so the Youth United build can be scheduled for 2009. Once the money is raised the home will be built by youth ages 16-25—the *Youth United Build*. To this end, Youth United members are implementing the following fundraising events for this winter.

- School of Rock Teen Benefit Concert
- Personal Letter Writing Campaign

- "Help Build It!" Penny Challenge
- Corporate Presentation Campaign
- Individual School Fundraisers

"I have worked closely with Bergen County teens for the past three years," said Lori Acquaotta, Youth United Coordinator. "I am continually amazed at the energy and enthusiasm with which these young men and women embrace the Habitat mission. All of us in this diverse county have reason to be proud of our youth."



Regina Romaine organized the School of Rock Benefit Concert this November and raised over \$1,000 for Habitat Bergen. Pictured above is Regina with her parents Ann and Pete.

Our Habitat Homeowner Family Keeps On Growing!

The next two Third Street homes are underway and two new families are on the way to owning their very first home! We welcome the Guzmans and the Ferrieras to our Habitat family!

Jamie and Mercedes Guzman live in a very small apartment in West New York with their two sons James, age 6 and Ivinson, age 10. The apartment has poor ventilation and is infested with cockroaches and mice. The children have little space indoors to play or read and no outdoor area to play safely. Even so, the Guzmans take pride in their apartment and aspire to own their own home.

Jorge and Ramona Ferriera have rented the same house in Clifton for 10 years with their two daughters Jennifer, age 5 and Jasmine, age 7. A flooding problem in the basement has created an unhealthy mold problem in their home. The girls bedroom is so small that their clothes are stored in a cabinet in their parents' bedroom. The one bathroom in the apartment is in disrepair and for anyone to use it, they have to walk through Jorge and Ramona's bedroom. The Ferriera's dream of owning a home where their children can grow up safe and comfortable is becoming a reality.



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

WE KEEP GROWING!

They May Be Greyheads, But Watch Them Swing a Hammer!

From the founding of our affiliate, we have been blessed to have a group of unwavering volunteers that have given wholeheartedly of their time, their talent and their good nature.

The Greyheads (as they named themselves) are a group of retired men and women who are on-site every Wednesday...ready, willing and able to build for Habitat Bergen. They were there for all of the Habitat homes that

we've built throughout Bergen County and we are constantly amazed at their generosity and commitment to helping to change the lives of families in need of affordable housing.

We would like to recognize the Greyheads for their tireless dedication and thank them for their hard work and dedication to Habitat Bergen's mission.



Pictured above are just some of the twenty-nine Habitat Bergen Greyheads.

Habitat Week at Paramus Park

Paramus Park Shopping Center hosted a week long awareness and fundraising event on August 13th through Saturday, August 18th in support of its partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County.

"Paramus Park continually strives to be a true community partner. We are proud to be part of Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County's life-changing mission of helping families in need experience a better quality of life," said Madinah Grier, Marketing Manager.

The week long event included many different activities that helped raise awareness and funds for Habitat Bergen's mission to provide affordable housing in Bergen County.



Paramus Park employees Ashley Pepsin, Madinah Grier, Robyn Tasman and Barbara Hyer help spread the word about Habitat's mission.

Thank You!

The Greyheads

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Mel Beer | John Healy |
| Don Bozzone | Paul Hurlbut |
| Jack Bruckman | Carl Jacobs |
| George Brueck | Rick Kait |
| Dom Casulli | Greg Kouletsis |
| John Cirillo | Bill Lewicky |
| Bill Comis | Gene Marsh |
| Ted Duggan | Bill Moncrieff |
| Pat Esterson | Ray Preston |
| Don Fleisch | Jules Reuter |
| Bernice Green | George Schult |
| George Gropper | Dennis Steele |
| Lou Guida | Jay Weitz |
| Claude Guillemain | Joe Zanini |
| Bob Gunza | |

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

A New Home for Shashamby

Shashamby Diaz and her family have moved into their brand new home in Slidell, Louisiana thanks to the generosity of Peter and Tracy Salerno and the Salerno's friends and family. In 2006, the Salernos sponsored a Home In A Box through Habitat Bergen. The home was pre-built in New Jersey, dismantled and shipped to the Diaz homesite in Slidell. Now she and her four children have a safe, comfortable, affordable home that they can call their own.



Habitat Bergen Executive Director, Susan Safire; Brianna Diaz; Virginia, Shashamby's mother; and Shashamby Diaz.

Our build sites in Englewood and Edgewater 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 Lori Acquaotta at the Habitat office at 201-457-1020 or via email at loria@habitatbergen.org.

- Individuals
- Businesses
- Civic Groups
- Faith Groups
- Schools
- Alumni Groups
- Families

MISSION STATEMENT

Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County is a not-for-profit organization working in partnership with God and people everywhere toward the goal of eliminating poverty housing and homelessness. Using volunteer labor and donated funds and materials, Habitat builds or rehabilitates simple, decent houses and sells them to families at cost, with no interest added, so that every person can experience God's love and live as God intends.

Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County Staff

- Susan Safire—Executive Director
- Bob Preis—Director of Construction
- Lori Acquaotta—Coordinator, Volunteers/Youth United
- Wendy Worden—Marketing Manager
- John Opitz—Site Supervisor



6:00-10:00PM
TEANECK, NEW JERSEY
MARIOTT GLENPOINTE
THURSDAY, MAY 8TH
DINNER
BUILDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

MISSION: POSSIBLE
SAVE THE DATE

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