

Habitat Happenings



Family Selection Begins for our Waldwick Site

The process of building will begin very soon on our Waldwick site. But before any building can begin we need the most important part of these new homes... we need our families! All selected families must complete 400 hours of sweat equity before moving into their new Habitat Homes. The process of picking these very worthy families can get a little intense so on three separate dates in November we held family selection meetings on the campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University. Approximately 250 people came out to hear what the family selection process entailed.

The search for our four new families begins by each interested family filling out an extensive application. All applications are reviewed in the Habitat office to make sure all paperwork is handed in and all information is accounted for. When an application is complete it is sent to the Family Selection Committee who will look over the applications to make sure all information is correct and that the applicant meets all Habitat requirements. Once the applicant meets the requirements, the Family Selection Committee will consider a home visit. After hearing the stories and seeing the need for a safer, affordable home first hand, it makes a person wish we were able to build a home for every deserving family in Bergen County. When all of these steps are completed the applications are turned over to the New Jersey Housing Affordability Service (HAS) for a lottery drawing where the four lucky families will be selected.

We wish all of our applicants the best of luck and can not wait to meet the newest members of the Habitat Family.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE 2010

Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County is gearing up for a two-week Corporate Challenge event. Corporations from all over Bergen County send volunteers to our worksites to help build and raise funds for material needed to build affordable housing. The concept is simple... Each corporation sends a team of volunteers to help build during the two week fundraiser. This is one of the few times that we ask volunteers to help us with our fundraising needs. Your corporation will help us purchase the needed material to build safe and affordable homes for low and moderate income families.

We ask corporations to donate \$125 per volunteer and become part of the team building experience.

How is a Corporate Challenge beneficial to your corporation? You will receive recognition in all media coverage, Habitat's Annual Report, your company logo on all Corporate Challenge signage, the opportunity to win the Golden Hammer Award at our Annual Builder of the Year Dinner, employees get a great teambuilding experience and the satisfaction of knowing that you and your employees helped changed the life of a family in need.

If you would like the opportunity to get involved with Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County and become part of our Corporate Challenge 2010, please contact the Habitat office at 201-457-1020 for more information.

WINTER 2010

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Those who can,
do. Those who can
do more, volunteer.
--unknown

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they're priceless. --Sherry Anderson

"If every American donated five hours a week, it would equal the labor of twenty million full-time volunteers." --Whoopi Goldberg

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?' " --Rev. Martin Luther King

In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it. --Marianne Williamson

Quotes like this can go on forever. But everyone of them speaks the truth. They say it takes a very special person to make the time in their life to help others. We think every person has that little bit of "special" in them. There is a feeling you get from knowing that you have made a difference in someone's life. That because of something you did, someone else will benefit. That feeling cannot be described; it is something that is felt. If you have not had the joy of experiencing that feeling in your life, now is the time. Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County is getting ready start building affordable homes for four great families in Waldwick as well as renovating a building in Garfield for Zoe's Place, a home for teenage girls and their babies. You can volunteer your time to help others and help yourself experience a joy like never before. Please contact Wendy Parker at 201-457-1020 to find out how you can help make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Greetings from the President of the Board of Directors...

Dear Friends:

It is an exciting time at Habitat Humanity of Bergen County. We are ready to build in Waldwick and Garfield and Oradell is not far behind. Four families are being selected for home in Waldwick and they will begin to put in their 400 hours sweat equity as soon as the selection is final. As you can imagine, the level of anticipation is very high for everyone.

We are struck by the continuing pain of the victims in Haiti and the ongoing pressures of so many families in our own country. Our Affiliate Tithe is dedicated for the work of Haiti Affiliate

and we understand that they are beginning to put together the planning necessary to build many homes. It will be some time before we can send volunteers to work closely with the Haitian Affiliate and families to construct the new homes required to rebuild that country.

Closer to home, we can help many—particularly those four families who will build their own home in Waldwick and the teen mothers and their babies who will have a new place to live in Garfield.

We hope you will help us by going to our website to make an additional dona-

tion in support of our work or by sending a check to us at the address below. In God's love,

Marcy Steele
Interim Executive Director



Each year as the new year begins, millions of people make resolutions. Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County has a resolution of their own. Our goal in 2010 is to raise the \$1,000,000.00 needed to build Habitat homes in Waldwick, Garfield and Oradell. You can help us by supporting us in the following ways:

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

- Sponsor a home @ \$100,000
- Build a kitchen & Bathroom @ \$50,000
- Sponsor the flooring @ \$25,000
- Build four front doors with frames @ \$2,000
- Install windows @ \$1,000
- Install vanities @ \$500
- Lumber for one room @ \$150
- 50 lbs of nails @ \$50

Any donation in any amount will assist a family in need.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff and our homeowners, we wish you a healthy and happy New Year!

WOMEN BUILD

Habitat Bergen is still planning on conducting a Women Build project in 2010. We are recruiting volunteers and supporters from a number of Women's Groups throughout the state. The site of the Women Build will be Waldwick. We 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.

OUR FIRST ANNUAL SUNDAY FUN DAY WAS A ROAR....

If you were at the Ross Dock Boat Basin on September 20th you were able to hear the roar of the motorcycles ... the march of the feet... the sounds of happy children everywhere as Habitat Bergen held its first annual Sunday Fun Day Motorcycle Run/Walkathon/Family Fun Day! A great time was had by all who joined us for this great event. The motorcyclists went for a 90 mile run through the Seven Lakes and back to the Boat Basin, the walkers took a 4 mile walk along the Hudson River and the kids enjoyed all the great carnival games supplied by Youth United, the bouncy house and especially the dunk tank! Everyone enjoyed the great food and drinks while rockin' out with DJ Scott Redden! Some of our lucky winners won overnight stays in Lake George, New York, a flat screen television, a woman's leather jacket from Bergen County Harley or a gift certificate to Flemings Steakhouse in Edgewater.

We would like to thank OritaniBank Charitable Foundation, Bogota Savings Bank, Lakeland Bank, Wilenta Carting, Bergen County Harley Davidson, Inserra Supermarkets, Spencer Savings Bank, United Water, PSE&G, Whole Foods, Flemings, DMR Architects, MTM Resources and CM Photos. Without the support of these great sponsors this event would not have happened.

We hope you all come out and join us next year for another great Sunday Fun Day!



WHAT A PERFECT DAY!!! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



Some of our lucky raffle winners along with Susan Safire and David Van Grouw board president



Our great volunteers getting ready to feed all those hungry people!



Thank you from the Habitat Family

Hammers and Nails by Bob Preis

Hi Everyone!

Bob Preis here, Director of Construction for Habitat Bergen. The last time we were together the foundation was poured, and thankfully, it passed inspection with out any problems.

So now it's on to framing. Framing must be done perfectly because it is obviously one of the most important components to building a home. One can compare it to a skeleton, the bones of a house are just as important as the bones in a body. If you were to break your leg you would fall down. If your frame is broken, well, the last thing we want is any walls to fall down!

You must start with straight pieces of lumber, any curved or crooked pieces would make the frame untrue. After the safe lumber is picked out we can then nail 2x10's together to create headers for all the doors and window openings. Building frames is what most volunteers want to do, because it is such an important aspect of building, and really is the body and soul of a home. Most volunteers feel that doing the framing makes them part of the home, that they have actually "built" a Habitat Home.

After the headers are complete and all the studs are in place its time to raise the wall... but we will have to save that for next time. There is nothing better then watching a group of people raise a wall for a Habitat Home.

Bob the Builder

ON THE HORIZON

Watch for upcoming Waldwick Events
Live Band Karaoke, February 26, 2010
Women's Build, May 2010
Builder of the Year Dinner, June 2, 2010
Corporate Challenge, August, 2010

BOB'S TIP OF THE DAY: REMEMBER - nails fly when hammering—don't forget your goggles.

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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