

COMINGHOME

Building Homes, Building Hope, Building Community



ICF Foundations set at Penn Villa, October 2012.



Univest volunteers raise wall, December 2012.



Framing and roofing continue at Penn Villa, March 2013.

Penn Villa News

As work on the foundations began on the Penn Villa townhomes in Sellersville, one of the volunteers commented, *"This is like playing with Legos,"* as they snapped the Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs) into place. Construction Director Mike Fallon said, "Using ICFs is a very safe, volunteer-friendly, efficient process for laying our foundations." These blocks, made from 97 percent recycled materials, are environmentally friendly and strong. Off to a great start in October, work has been progressing smoothly through the winter on the first five houses, with framing and roofing nearing completion. Construction will continue through the summer with a fall dedication planned for these homes.

Volunteers, thank you for all the great work you have done this winter, on some very cold days, to keep things moving along on the townhomes!

Future homeowners, Ligia and Eduardo Huertas, have been working alongside volunteers in raising walls. "[Partnering with Habitat] means we are more busy, tired and ready for challenges," Ligia shared. "And, it means we are going to be equal to everybody...and be homeowners, too."

Our sincere thanks also goes out to our generous sponsors: **Univest, First Niagara, First Savings, and Ally Bank.** Our partnerships go beyond the check presentation, as was so beautifully expressed by this Univest volunteer: *"I feel blessed to work for a company that truly supports its communities. Thanks to Univest, I volunteered for Habitat and worked with a great team to frame the exterior of a home. The experience was one of the most rewarding and fulfilling days in my career. By early afternoon, I was ready for a Tide commercial with all the mud, but I loved every minute of it and can't wait to do it again,"* Susan Sutherland, Assistant Vice President and Skippack Financial Service Center Manager for Univest Bank and Trust Co.

Bristol Update

Final permits have been issued and plans are underway to break ground on our second home on Watson Avenue, Bristol, in early May, 2013. Check the website for details: www.habitatbucks.org/currently-building/.

Our mission: To build affordable homes, better lives, stronger families and safer, revitalized communities through partnerships with people and organizations throughout Bucks County.

Stitchery Update

The *Stitchery* condos in Perkasio will be brimming with homeowners in April. Amanda Levy and Joe White are very eager to move out of their tiny, one bedroom apartment in Doylestown. Future neighbor, Paul Georgulis, is looking forward to an affordable home with his fiancée, Elise Mullin, who will join him after their summer wedding. Home Dedication for the final three families in *The Stitchery* will be held in early April. **Please join us!** Check the website for date and time: www.habitatbucks.org.



Britta Roman, proudly displayed the key to her new home in January (left), while future neighbors Elise Mullin, Paul Georgulis, Amanda Levy and Joe White, gather in Paul and Elise's future kitchen at *The Stitchery* (right).

Spotlight on Success

Building a Stronger Community

- 22** years of building homes
- 88** families now homeowners in Bucks County
- 318** people in secure, affordable housing
- 178** children now enjoying stability in their homes
- 12** homes repaired through *A Brush with Kindness*
- 32** people helped through repair projects

What we do is so much more than numbers, as some of our partner families shared recently. "When I started working with Habitat, I first felt like I became one of the Habitat family," said Lucy Njoroge. "And I still feel the same." Joe White and Amanda Levy said, "Owning a home gives a person a sense of pride and joy in life...a different kind of happiness than the one they already have."



Emerald Hollow (Trumbauersville Borough/Milford Township) homeowners gathered for a group photo.

A Brush with Kindness News

Carol and her five foster children are now snug and warm thanks to the new storm door recently installed as part of our latest **A Brush with Kindness** project. Repairs made to the sun porch windows and weather stripping throughout the house will help make this home more energy-efficient as well. Helping families stay safe and independent in their own homes by offering affordable home repairs is the goal of **A Brush with Kindness**.

Habitat Bucks has been doing **A Brush with Kindness** since July, 2011 and has successfully completed 12 projects including a handicap ramp, porch repairs, siding and painting.

If you know someone who needs our help, please have them contact:

John Kolanko at
215.822.2812 x304 or
j.kolanko@habitatbucks.org.



Newly installed storm door on latest *A Brush with Kindness* project.

Thank you Donors!

We can build affordable homes because of you!

A special thanks goes out to our sponsors for the first cluster at Penn Villa: **Univest, First Niagara, First Savings, and Ally**. To the sponsors of our next build in Bristol: **Wells Fargo, First Federal of Bucks County, St. Mary Medical Center, Bucks County Foundation, Waste Gas Fabricating**—thank you! We also want to acknowledge the **W.W. Smith Foundation** and **The United Way** for their generous support of *A Brush with Kindness*, and the **Patricia Kind Foundation** and **Janssen** for their grants in support of Women Build. To **84 Lumber** for funds to purchase construction supplies: we thank you!



Executive Director Florence Kawoczka with William North and Danielle Brown of First Niagara

To all of our donors: you make it possible for us to provide decent, safe and affordable housing in Bucks County.

Thank you!

Women Build News

On Monday, February 11, 2013, 75 women gathered to learn more about the *Women Build* program. Highlights of the evening included hearing from Ligia Huertas, future Habitat homeowner, as well as enjoying the skit performed by the "Women Build Players."



Women Builders Mary Pat Holeywinski and Susan Rooke on the build site.

2nd Annual Spring Boutique

Saturday, April 27, 2013
10 am—3 pm Chalfont UMC
11 Meadowbrook Lane,
Chalfont. Enjoy 50 vendors,
food, WB clinics in the parking
lot and more...

Women Build Week

May 9-11 on the construction
site. All women welcome;
must register in advance.

www.habitatbucks.org/get-involved/women-build/

Volunteer News



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

"I would encourage anyone to volunteer! It was a great experience and definitely feels good to help others in the community." Construction volunteer

In 2012, **902** volunteers contributed over **13,500** hours for Habitat Bucks; that included **3,000** hours

on the construction site and **9,000** hours in the ReStore!

"The ReStore recharges my batteries! The work is routine but often provides opportunities to help a customer, wonder about a curious object, or create an attractive display. There is always a need for help and the hours are very flexible." ReStore volunteer

If you would like to volunteer please contact Lynnda Coleman at l.coleman@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x302.

ReStore News

Planting the Right Tree—in the Right Place!

ReStore Clinic

Saturday, April 20, 2013—10am

Free—open to the public!

Presented by Pennsylvania Horticultural Society,
Certified Arborist, Casey Combs.

31 Oak Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914

For store donation policy, hours and phone number visit— www.habitatbucks.org/restore/.

The House that Valor Built

Valor — courage to face danger with bravery.

Our men and women in uniform exhibit true valor. In honor of those who have served and sacrificed for our freedom, we've launched "The House that Valor Built." We welcome support for this project from individuals, businesses and groups who wish to honor our military and veteran community. The Habitat homebuyer is a Marine veteran of two tours in Iraq, recipient of the Purple Heart, and lifelong resident of Bucks County. We wish to thank the **Travis Manion Foundation** for their support of this endeavor. If you would like more information, contact: Debbie Lynch, 215.822.2812 x316 or d.lynch@habitatbucks.org.



Resource Development Director Debbie Lynch, Executive Director Florence Kawoczka, Iraq Veteran and future Habitat homeowner, Jeff Garber, with James Brobyn and Rob Bender of The Travis Manion Foundation.

The House that Faith Built

Invite your faith community:

One of the homes in the second cluster at Penn Villa has been designated as "The House that Faith Built."

We are inviting faith groups to help fundraise and volunteer to help bring this home to completion.

Work will begin in Fall, 2013. For more information, contact Debbie Lynch, 215.822.2812 x316 or d.lynch@habitatbucks.org.

Some of the current participants have come up with great ideas! **Family of God Lutheran Church** in Buckingham is having their Vacation Bible School students decorate 2x4's which will be used in the construction; **Second Baptist Church of Doylestown** is planning a benefit concert. What great ideas do you have?

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain. Psalm 127:1*

Donating? Free Pickup!

215.822.2708

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of Bucks County

ReStore

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31 Oak Avenue, Suite 100
Chalfont, PA 18914

Building Homes and Hope...
Thanks to You!

Ways You Can Help

Check out our website

Sign up for our e-newsletter
Share Habitat news with your friends

Volunteer

Help out on the Construction Site or
in the ReStore

Join our networks

Find us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter
Pin us on Pinterest

Invite us to speak at your:

House of Worship
Civic Group
Business

Make a Financial Donation

Make a gift by check or via our website
Become a Monthly Donor
Make a gift in honor/memory of someone
Ask your employer to match your gift
Include Habitat Bucks in your will
Donate stocks or other securities

Follow progress on our construction sites



Scan this code to
check out the latest
photos from our
build sites!

Board of Directors: Ed Hughes, President; Brian Bittmann; Nancy Buckner; Heath Dumack; Rev. Robert Hamlin; Ben Hershberger;
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Debbie Lynch, Development Director; Stefanie Clark and John Kolanko, Family Program Directors; Sam Martin, Office Manager; Lynnda Coleman, Volunteer
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