



COMINGHOME

Building Homes, Building Hope, Building Community

Family Stories



The Kinyanjui-Njenga Family

Like many of our partner families, James and Hannah juggle school and work and raising a family—in their case, they manage three full-time jobs, two full-time college courses in nursing and two small children. Working with Habitat required them to complete 150 hours of sweaty equity—no easy feat when there are so few hours left. Still, James and Hannah prevailed. They became our first official Penn Villa homeowner family when they purchased their home in October, quickly moving from their small apartment. At their Home Dedication in early November (see page 2), James said, "This is such an achievement. We are thankful to all and to God. I want to remember everyone who has helped us on this journey....We are honored by your dedication, for everything you have done for us."



The Yurkanin Family

A loving mom; a welcoming personality; a marine corps vet; a volunteer firefighter; a happy friendly child—Penn Villa is getting all of this in one household with the Yurkanin family. Amanda and Andrew have been working toward their new home only since June. In late October, they became happy homeowners who are now paying \$333 less for their home than they were paying in rent. "I feel very privileged to be a part of this wonderful community; I'm very thankful," Amanda said at Dedication. "With a baby on the way, it's just...it's overwhelming to see everybody here, and I feel very blessed." Their son added, "I like my new house!"



The Egoavil-Anguiano Family

Mechelle and Said also started their Habitat partnership in June, and like their new neighbors, have actively pursued their sweat equity hours. They purchased their home just before Thanksgiving, moving from an older, two-bedroom co-op to their brand-new, Energy Star rated, three-bedroom home. Their new home will provide room for their boys to run and play as kids should...it also provides room for the family to grow in number as well. "Thank you to everyone for this great journey. I think we started this without the knowledge that this would come true, and just to be here is a dream come true," Mechelle said. "Thank you to everyone."

Houses 99, 100, 101

Thanks to the generous donation of two properties from Bank of America and a lot in Croydon from First Federal of Bucks County, we have three upcoming, single-family home projects!

In December we will begin the full rehabilitation of a home in Bristol Borough, house #99. Then in mid 2014—at the start of our 25th year—construction will begin on the 100th home for our affiliate! This Cape Cod home will be in the Highland Park neighborhood of Levittown, followed by a two-story colonial home in Croydon.

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

Home Sweet Homes!



*Muthoni with her sons,
Clinton, Joseph and Kaumu*

The Key to Life, Family, Future

Grey skies broke to bright sunshine as Father Stephen Gitonga of Our Lady of Hope Church blessed Muthoni Nduthu's new house on October 12 at the Home Dedication for Watson Avenue, Bristol.

Ron Davis of Parx Casino presented Muthoni and her sons with the key to their new home. "This is not only the key to your home, but to your life—your family, your future," he said.

Several Habitat volunteers joined with Muthoni and her family and friends in celebrating. Muthoni shared her gratitude for the opportunity, and spoke about the hard work, "This is not a giveaway program. You have to work so hard, and I hope that everyone realizes the work that Habitat does and what it means to so many people."

This home was built with the financial and physical support of Parx Casino, St. Mary Medical Center, Wells Fargo, ADP, The Bucks County Foundation, First Federal of Bucks County, William Penn Bank, Waste Gas Fabricating, Bucks-Mont NARI, Women Build, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Yardley, Pennsbury High School Habitat Club, and many individuals. Thank you!



Penn Villa: A Community GROWS

At the Penn Villa Home Dedication for our first cluster of townhouses in the Sellersville community, five families celebrated their achievements in making their dreams come true while bright skies surrounded them.



*The Gebremichael-Zefferu
family on their front porch*

Friends and family shared the rising joy with the new homeowner families: Huertas, Yurkanin, Kinyanjui-Njenga, Gebremichael-Zefferu and Egoavil-Anguiano.

"When we first applied to this, to get a home with Habitat, I never thought it was going to happen. I never did," Tsegai Gebremichael shared. "And then, something came to my mind, which said, America is the country of dreams, where dreams can come true. [Habitat] knows it comes true."

New homeowner, Ligia Huertas said, "We're so happy to be here today, dedicating our own home. We were never alone. We always had people by our side to encourage us."

With our new families, we share our gratitude for all of our Penn Villa supporters, especially Univest, ADP Foundation, Ally Financial, Bergey's Auto Group, Dumack Engineering, First Niagara Bank, First Savings, Lemus Construction, Prudential Insurance, The Longacre Charitable Foundation, and The Silverman Group. Thanks so very much!



*The Huertas with their church family,
outside their new home*

A Brush with Kindness



Can we help your home?

Three more families will have a warmer winter as we complete our November, 2013, **A Brush with Kindness** projects. Door and window repairs will make each of these homes more secure and energy-efficient.

A Brush with Kindness is entering its third year of exterior home repair including handicap ramps, porch and deck repairs, siding and painting.

Know someone who needs help?

Please contact John Kolanko for more information at 215.822.2812 x 304 or jkolanko@habitatbucks.org.

Build Tomorrow, Today!

Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets

Do you have money saved in an employee retirement plan, IRA or tax-sheltered annuity? Each of these retirement plan assets contains income that has yet to be taxed. Your beneficiaries will owe the income tax at your death, totaling up to 35 percent, which may be reason enough to consider giving your loved ones less heavily taxed assets and leaving your retirement plan assets to charity instead.

You can help build tomorrow, today, by including Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County in your estate planning.

Volunteer News



Three of our wonderful office volunteers: Allison, Monica, and Ginny

We often talk about construction and ReStore volunteers. There is yet another group of unsung heroes that we wish to recognize.

Our office volunteers give hundreds of hours monthly compiling mailings, working on fundraising efforts, doing data entry and assisting with special event preparation. Our gratitude is endless for the generous donation of time and energy that all of our wonderful volunteers offer us.

Thank you one and all!

Hard Hats & High Heels 2013



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Penn Villa Cluster Two

In late summer, we broke ground on the second cluster of townhomes. Executives from local companies, Advertising Specialty Institute, Boucher & James, Citizens Bank, First Savings, Grand View Hospital, The Lomax Cos., Precision Solutions, and Univest along with Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick and PA Representative Paul Clymer, began framing the walls one hot day in August—and framing will continue through the winter months!

This cluster will include **The House That Faith Built**, a home that will be financially supported by houses of faith from all over our County. Members of these congregations will get the chance to build on site, too!

Also in this cluster is The **House That Valor Built**. The future homeowner, Jeff Garber, was awarded two Purple Hearts for his service. Veteran groups and others, including the Travis Manion Foundation, have pledged their support to complete this home.



Jeff Garber, House of Valor homebuyer & USMC veteran

ReStore Clinics

From Used to New!

Our first FREE clinic at the Restore was a great success! On November 9th, Concept 2 Design Interiors led attendees through the process of turning their old, existing cabinets into beautiful, refinished ones that makes them look like new.



Upcoming Clinics in 2014 (clinics run from 1 pm to 3 pm):

Jan. 18: *Trash to Treasure* by Concept 2 Design Interiors

Feb.15: *Upholstering Made Easy* by Leigh Fillman

Mar. 15: *Repurposing & Refinishing Furniture* by Gacek Design Group

Apr. 19: *Personal Shopper* by TS Design Studio

For more info: www.habitatbucks.org/restore/

Donating? Free Pickup!

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in the ReStore

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Beautiful Music!!

Thank you to all the musicians and
supporters who joined to support
The House That Faith Built with
recent concerts!

Stir Fry Music Festival

Point Pleasant Baptist Church

2nd Baptist Church of Doylestown

Follow progress on our
construction sites



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build sites!

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ReStore Staff: Dianna Curran, Manager; Robin Davis; Cody Clemens; Mike Fallon, Jr.; Rodney Fritz; Keith Lyall; Annie Meyers; Krystal Oliver.



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