

in this issue

Women Build News	2
Hands of Hope Blitz	3
Building a Legacy	4
From the Director	4
Thank You Notes	5
ReStore	7
Volunteer Spotlight	8
Neighbor to Neighbor Update	9

upcoming events

SEPTEMBER 8 + 22

A **ReSale** will be held at our big red barn at 1733 Creamery Road in Quakertown from 8am-noon. Contact Trish at t.schoor@habitatbucks.org or 215.348.2204 x303 for details.

SEPTEMBER 10

BCAR's Golf Outing to support the Neighbor to Neighbor program starts at 11am at the Yardley Country Club. See page 9 for details!

OCTOBER 6 + NOVEMBER 10

The last **ReSales** of the season will be held at our barn, 1733 Creamery Road, Quakertown from 8am - noon. Contact Trish at t.schoor@habitatbucks.org or 215.348.2204 x303 for details.

OCTOBER 11

The **2nd Annual American Idol REALTOR® Talent Show and Affiliate Expo** to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor. Don't miss this ridiculously fun event! See page 9 for details.

OCTOBER 13

Shop for a Cause will be held at all Macy's locations. 100% of proceeds from shopping passes will go to Habitat. See page 7.

OCTOBER 13 - 20

Women Build-a-thon Week 2007 will be held at Emerald Hollow. Your participation in this event will allow you to volunteer, donate and advocate for affordable housing, all at once! See page 2 for details.

NOVEMBER 24

The tradition continues this year with the **6th Annual Habitat 5K Race** in Quakertown. See page 7 for more information.

DECEMBER

Stay tuned to our online calendar at www.habitatbucks.org/calendar.php for details about our **December Home Dedication**.

Home Dedications... The Heart of Habitat

Dedicating homes and handing families their keys is arguably the best part of the Habitat mission. On July 12 at the 7pm dedication ceremony, we welcomed four families into the Emerald Hollow community, and what a warm welcome they received! Including the public who attended the event and their new neighbors—some of whom visited with the new homeowners after the sun had set and all of the chairs had been put away—more than 100 attended this celebration.

The ceremony didn't follow a script, and neither did the families. Everyone spoke from their hearts about their gratefulness for the opportunity to own a home. They thanked God for blessing them so generously.

For these four families, the thread is their root in Africa. In their native country of Kenya, James Ndungu and Margaret Mungai, Stephen Maina and Mary Kamau, Stephen Ngaruiya and Mercy Mwangi, lived in villages where people are so connected and important to one another. The native-born Kenyans say that the country is a safe haven for their neighbors because it is so peaceful. Joseph Deng, who lived in a refugee camp in Kenya after he fled Sudan as a six-year-old, experienced this directly.

Some of the new neighbors had met before they moved in, either in their previous apartment buildings, or on the Habitat construction site while they worked to fulfill their sweat equity requirement. Others met for the first time at the ceremony. They are joining a community-in-progress at Emerald Hollow, one that is diverse, where some of the homeowners have grown up in Bucks County; others have moved to the area from surrounding states; while others have moved here from Kenya, Sudan, Egypt, Germany, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Panama, Honduras, Pakistan, Brazil and Ukraine.

Despite their diversity, there are some core requirements all families must meet. Habitat Bucks families have lived or worked in Bucks County for at least one year before they are accepted into the homeownership program. They also are willing to partner with Habitat Bucks in fulfilling sweat equity hours and participating



Stephen Ngaruiya, Mercy Mwangi and their children, Tabitha, and Brian, check out the key to their new home!

in media coverage. Finally, their income is between 45 and 80 percent of the county median income.

"Owning a home is the pride of every parent who wants to provide their children with a peaceful, safe and unpolarized environment to retreat to," Stephen Maina said. "To us, we think our ability to achieve our full potentials and goals in life, had more barriers than opportunity in our country. It would require more than double the effort there than here in the United States."

Stephen Ngaruiya echoed this. "Although we had college education, it was so hard to succeed due to limited opportunities. But here in the U.S.A. there are numerous opportunities for us and our children. There are challenges, but if one stays focused, there is hope for success."

For Joseph Deng, homeownership means that his family will be able to join him in the United States. He said goodbye to them at a refugee camp in Kenya in 1995, leaving them with the hope that he would help them change their lives from Sudanese refugees to Sudanese-Americans.

Joseph, along with 20,000 boys who escaped attacks from northern Sudan, is one of the Lost Boys who arrived at refugee camps without parents during the now 21-year-old second civil war.

continued from page 1

The elders in Kenya told the Lost Boys that they are the future of Sudan. They told them to get an education, work hard, make sure they help others, and not to forget where they came from.

Joseph graduated from Souderton High School in 2002, and has been working as a computer technician since then. He is now specialized as a networking technician.

For Joseph, being a part of Habitat means that he doesn't have to move again. "I'm here and I'm at home. I didn't see it coming, a long time ago, but now I'm here."



top: Legacy Circle members, Janet and Paul Landes present Joseph with his key.

bottom: James, hugging Susie, and Margaret, holding Winnie Ndungu-Mungai just moments before receiving their key.

note: Maina-Kamau family pictured on page 4.

"In the end, it all comes down to this: People reaching out in a singleness of purpose to help other people in need."

--Brian Buffini, Buffini & Company

Everything You Need to Know About...



Women Builders take a break from building the tables and stepstools that will be sold to benefit this year's program.

Since its launch in 2005, 350 women have contributed more than 6000 hours through Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County's Women Build program and have raised \$150,000. Of those women, 155 have been trained in construction and 13 became crew leaders (one even became a staff member!). Most of this training is thanks to an ongoing partnership with Lowe's. Two area stores, the Quakertown and Warrington locations, offer free training clinics on a variety of relevant topics multiple times throughout the year. All of the training and planning culminates in an annual women-only week on the construction site. During Women Build-a-thon Week 2006, 71 women raised nearly \$16,000 and contributed more than 900 hours building on nine homes at Emerald Hollow!

That's quite a history and the program continues to be a success as Women Build 2007 got off to a great start. Five sponsors have committed support; Capmark Finance and Jones Apparel are both returning as sponsors for the third year, while Genuardi's, Patricia Kind Family and Fourjay Foundations are new to the program. Additionally, Women Build was chosen as a beneficiary for the Makefield Women's Association raffle, and the Women Build crew leaders are constructing handcrafted wooden flower pot stepstools and folding barbecue tables for sale. This year's \$100,000 goal draws ever closer!

Preparations for Build-a-thon Week 2007, being held October 13-20, are already underway. This very special week, dedicated solely to women on our construction site, incorporates the three facets

of our mission—volunteers, funds and advocacy. Participants gather pledges from family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc., to sponsor them to build. In doing so, they are also spreading the word about the mission of Women Build and Habitat for Humanity. Build-a-thon Week 2006 raised nearly \$16,000, and we think we can do even better in 2007! Our goal is to collect 2000 hours (equivalent to one house) and \$30,000 (seven days of building) during Build-a-thon Week 2007.

Women Build empowers women, through various training and building opportunities, to enter the realm of construction. By doing so, it also creates much-needed affordable housing options for families in need, a group largely composed of women and their children. Volunteers organize all aspects of the program, inviting women to enter non-construction leadership roles as well.

Women Build is a way for women to begin seeing themselves in a new light while creating meaningful, positive change in our community. Please join us! For more information about Women Build, to receive registration materials for Build-a-thon Week 2007 or to purchase a Women-built barbecue table or stepstool, contact Laura at l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org or 215.348.2204 x302.

“Our mission: to impact and improve the lives of others. Our goal: significance.”

That is the motto of **Buffini & Company**, and so it was, at the Emerald Hollow community for one week in June, as a group of nearly 70 volunteers from Buffini and Fox & Roach Charities participated in a home sponsorship and blitz build.

The build was part of Buffini & Company’s Hands of Hope 2007 campaign during which they will sponsor and build 12 Habitat for Humanity homes throughout the United States. Fox & Roach Charities participated in the Bucks County build. The corporations provided Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County with a \$75,000 sponsorship and volunteers who braved the 90 degree weather to assist with home construction. The blitz build focused on a five-unit cluster of homes, and by the end of the week, two foundations were complete while framing was in progress on the other three homes.

Despite the heat and hard work, this group of fun and caring volunteers managed to make their time at the Bucks affiliate unique. Coming from California, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Colorado, as well as local places, each volunteer was responsible for her/his own travel and lodging expenses. Buffini paid for t-shirts, supplies and lunches, but it was the volunteers who added a spice of energy to the lunch tables.

The group purchased a barbecue grill for use during their stay, and then donated it to a partner family with whom they worked during the week.

“The Buffini volunteers were just so much fun to work with. During the planning and scheduling process, it became apparent that their biggest concern was having the opportunity to actually work side-by-side with family members. They wanted to get out on site and really connect with the mission of Habitat—and they did!” says Habitat’s Volunteer Associate, Laura McClellan.

Brian Buffini sums up the Hands of Hope campaign, “In the end, it all comes down to this: people reaching out in a singleness of purpose to help other people in need. It’s not about you, but rather your neighbor. To volunteer or donate is a chance to give back, because you realize you’ve been given so much.”

The week culminated in a closing ceremony at which Habitat Executive Director Linda Andrews thanked all the participants for sharing hope with families in Bucks County. Partner family Kelly Lewis and daughter Ivonna were also on hand to thank Buffini & Company and Corporate Giving Manager Christine Wiersema, who coordinated the entire Hands of Hope campaign.

**Ring!
Ring!**

It’s savings for you—and a donation to Habitat!

National Communications Group (NCG) has joined Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County in an Affinity Program to raise funds for affordable housing. For every customer gained through this effort, Habitat for Humanity will receive a percentage of the profit to help further our mission!

In order to participate, simply contact NCG and request a free audit of your current telecommunications and internet services. Because NCG specializes in finding the best communications services and products at the best rates, companies can often save money and feel better knowing that they are participating in a program that supports a healthy community. To get started, contact Brooke at 610.287.7787 x302 or bmartin@4ncg.com.



National Communications Group

.....People Are Talking



left: Buffini and Prudential Fox & Roach raise the wall.

top right: Buffini and Prudential Fox & Roach volunteers at the end of their blitz building week with partner family Kelly Lewis and her daughter.

bottom center: Drew, construction manager for the Hands of Hope, fires up the grill for a BBQ lunch.

bottom right: Volunteer Kassie Augst from Prudential Fox & Roach lays the hammer down during the blitz.

director's corner

Linda Andrews, Executive Director

As we look towards our last year of construction at Emerald Hollow—our largest and most innovative homebuilding program to date—I am compelled to think of Habitat's great success in Bucks County. Since breaking ground in November 2001, 56 families have bought a home in Emerald Hollow. Add to that, 14 families who earned homeownership through our affiliate during previous building projects, and that's 70 Bucks County families who achieved dreams to own a safe and affordable house because of Habitat's work. Thank you to each of our supporters, volunteers, families and staff members for being a part of that success!

As we all look toward the future, we see that in order to continue to make an impact on the affordable housing crisis in our neighborhoods, we must build or rehabilitate homes at even higher rates. And in order to do that, we must increase our funding, secure a volunteer force and cultivate affordable housing cheerleaders. It's a simple solution: more funds, volunteers and advocacy will create more homes.

Unfortunately, despite the wealth and activism in Bucks County, Habitat for Humanity has experienced a 64% decrease in donations since 2002. Considering that over 90,000 volunteer hours have been logged at Emerald Hollow, surely this drop in donations is not an indication of lack of support for Habitat's work!

Habitat does not sustain itself on government grants, but depends strictly on the generosity and commitment of neighbors and partner families to provide the necessary resources to make safe, affordable housing a matter of conscience and action in our community. It relies on the citizens of Bucks County to take action, give funds and spread the word about the housing crunch in our affluent neighborhoods. With an estimated 26,000 Bucks County residents living in substandard housing, we must rally together the money and action needed to sustain the mission of Habitat.

We need your voice and action to build homes—and homeowners! If you've not yet made a donation to Habitat for Humanity this year, please do so today (you may mail a check or visit our website at habitatbucks.org/donate.asp). In addition to making a donation, I have a special request: Would you share our urgent message with those in your life? Just a simple phone call to our office to let us know that your company, congregation or neighbors would like to hear more about becoming a sponsor could lead to a significant impact on our ability to continue to operate in Bucks County. Here are some ideas to help get you started:

- Encourage your workplace to sponsor a house. We'll be happy to come and speak about the many sponsorship opportunities!
- Gather your friends for a fun day on site as a day sponsor.
- Advocate and fundraise all at once by participating in one of our Build-a-Thons.
- Let us make a presentation to your congregation's mission committee.

Now, more than ever, we need you! Please remember that every dollar and every conversation helps.

In partnership,




Building a Legacy

At our most recent home dedication, partner families were handed the keys to their homes by members of our Legacy Circle, David and Kathleen Creamer and Paul and Janet Landes. The Legacy Circle is a special group of partners, consisting of any individual or family who has made lifetime financial contributions totaling \$10,000 or more to the mission of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County.

Contributions made by Legacy Circle members have come in the form of cash or stock, have been made in honor and in memory of loved ones, and have arrived through planned giving vehicles such as trusts and endowments. The reasons for giving have been just as varied and are always unique.

Paul and Janet support Habitat because our homeownership program provides a hand up, rather than a handout. Richard

and Anetta Good give because they have "witnessed the positive effect homeownership has had on people's lives, and we are thankful we have been able to be a part of it."

No matter what the reason for giving, each member of this group has achieved the same success. They have built a legacy here at Habitat for Humanity!

Thank you to all of our Legacy Circle members, it takes a special kind of person to make such a significant contribution to the community:

*David and Kathleen Creamer
Cameron and Diane Fowler
Richard and Anetta Good
Paul and Janet Landes
Maggy and Joe Robinson*

Of course, we are always delighted to welcome new members to this special group! Please contact Trish at t.schoor@habitatbucks.org or x303 for more information.



top: David and Kathy Creamer present Stephen Maina and his daughter Saritah (mom, Mary Kamau is not pictured) with the key to their home at Habitat's July 2007 dedication.

left: Janet and Paul Landes at a recognition program at Emerald Hollow in December 2003.

THANK YOU NOTES

The **WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION ON** behalf of **WELLS FARGO MORTGAGE** awarded Habitat Humanity of Bucks County a grant for \$15,000 toward the Bucks County Association of Realtors' (BCAR) Neighbor to Neighbor campaign. BCAR has raised over \$40,000 to date toward its goal of raising \$100,000 and sponsorship of one home at Emerald Hollow! (see pg. 9 for a complete Neighbor to Neighbor update).

The **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEEP RUN** recently made a gift of more than \$5,000 to Habitat Bucks from their mission fund. A long-time partner, Deep Run continues to increase their involvement and recently invited members of our Faith Relations Committee for a presentation on additional giving opportunities. Deep thanks to Deep Run for their generous and continued support!

Thank you to **LISA FISH**, who created and facilitated a customer satisfaction survey for our homeowner and partner families, and to all of the homeowners who responded! Feedback is vitally important, as results will help improve our homeownership and family programs.

Thank you, **JAMES AND MARIE JOHNSTON** who recently made a donation of \$2,500 to our affiliate!

NESHAMINY MALL has selected Habitat Bucks as their charitable partner for the next three years and will be holding several fundraising events to benefit us throughout the year. We are very excited about the future of this partnership!



A volunteer at the recent Neshaminy Mall/Habitat kick off event.



Wendy Beaman and Theresa Sheehan are all smiles at the Strawberry Festival.

DOYLESTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH continues to be a wonderful supporter of the Habitat for Humanity mission. They made a donation of more than \$5,000 from the proceeds of their Peach Festival and have come out for several build days on site. Thanks, DUMC!

MAKEFIELD WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION raised nearly \$2,500 selling raffle tickets and merchandise at this year's Peddler's Village Strawberry Festival. Thanks to Theresa Sheehan for organizing the booth and to everyone who helped to make this event a success!

MIKE JARRELL, a student from Quakertown High School, recently scored a hole-in-one for Habitat when he raised over \$1000 for the affiliate during a golf outing as part of his graduation project. Congratulations and thanks, Mike!

Thanks to Board member **BILL TUSZYNSKI** who increased his pledge by \$2,000 dollars this year. Way to raise the bar, Bill!

Eugenia Salazar from Latin America and Caribbean Area Habitat for Humanity (located in San José, Costa Rica) and Connie Ledesma from Habitat Argentina visited our office and site earlier this year so we could exchange stories about affiliate operations. Thanks so much for making the long trip, guys!

Thank you to **CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** of Fairless Hills, **HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOOL AND CHURCH** of Levittown and **NEIL ARMSTRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL** of Fairless Hills for your partnership and participation in the HabiTabs program, and to volunteer Donna Puchino for her dedication to coordinating their efforts. We appreciate your continued support!



Through the recommendation of Sara and Michael Bostancic, Habitat received an anonymous \$5,000 grant. Sara, who is a member of our volunteer staff as a database coordinator, also facilitated a partnership with Habitat and Quilt for Kids. She continues to be an incredible example of our Act! Give! Share! philosophy, by volunteering, donating and advocating. Thank you for all that you do, Sara!

Thrivent Builds Homes with Habitat for Humanity

In 2006, Habitat Bucks received funding through Thrivent Builds Homes with Habitat for Humanity. This capacity-building program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans encourages Thrivent Financial chapters and Lutheran congregations to partner with their local Habitat affiliates.

Habitat Bucks was granted funding for two homes. Thrivent Financial provided \$165,000 while local congregations committed to raising \$23,600 and providing volunteers to build on the homes. On April 1, a groundbreaking ceremony was held and thereafter construction began on the cluster containing the sponsored homes. Over the course of the year, members of 14 area congregations provided support: 122 volunteers contributed more than 1200 hours, \$19,623 were raised, lunches were provided five days and a variety of assistance was supplied for the dedication of the Kaufman and Ngorimo homes on December 14. Trinity Lutheran Church of Lansdale deserves special recognition for their incredible contributions to this program. In addition to a donation of \$10,000, Trinity also provided 75 volunteers, who worked 844 hours at Emerald Hollow, as well as a significant amount of support for the dedication ceremony!

The Thrivent Builds program allowed us to house two additional families in 2006 while strengthening our relationships with the Lutheran community. We truly hope that those bonds will continue to grow in 2007. Thank you to the following congregations for making this partnership such a success:

*Ascension Lutheran Church
Hope Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Peace Lutheran Church
Redeemer Lutheran Church
St. John's Lutheran Church of Richlandtown
St. John's Lutheran Church of Sellersville
St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Dublin
St. Matthew's Kellar Lutheran Church
St. Michael's Lutheran Church of Sellersville*



Kenneth Finger, Paul Pinther, Dayle Malloy, Larry Guenzel (all from Trinity Lutheran), Dave Kratz (a member of Trinity Lutheran and Financial Associate of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans), Pastor Terry Jobst (from Grace Lutheran).

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Doylestown
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Trinity Lutheran Church of Lansdale
Trinity Lutheran Church of Perkasio*

Although the Thrivent Builds Homes 2006 partnership has officially drawn to a close, the opportunity for members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to continue to support Habitat Bucks remains. Thrivent Builds giving is a matching funds program, by which Thrivent will contribute \$1 for every \$2 donated by one of its members. If you are a Thrivent member and are considering becoming a Habitat Bucks donor, this is an excellent way to maximize your contribution. For more information, check out the Thrivent Builds website www.thriventbuilds.com/giving/buildsgiving/index.html.

Collegiate Challenge Recap

Despite ending a day early due to the winter weather, Collegiate Challenge week was a success! Eleven students from Miss Porter's School and nine from Avon Old Farms School, both high schools in Connecticut, spent their spring break building with Habitat Bucks. Volunteers spent two sunny 70 degree days framing, loading roofing trusses, and preparing to dig foundations at Emerald Hollow before being forced to leave early due to a winter storm. Students at Kutz Elementary School provided lunches and motivational cards for the Collegiate Challenge volunteers, who were able to join the Kutz students for recess one day. The volunteers stayed at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Trumbauersville and Quakertown United Methodist Church, and shower facilities were provided by the Upper Bucks YMCA. Members of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church coordinated a delicious lasagna dinner to welcome the students to Bucks County. Thank you to Miss Porter's School for joining us for their fourth year, and to Avon Old Farms School for building with Habitat Bucks for their second year!

Have an Affinity for Commerce Bank?

Just because you have a Commerce Bank account, Habitat for Humanity can get a donation!

Commerce will make an annual donation based on the average balance in all members' accounts. Checking, Savings, Money Market, CD and retirement accounts are all included in the program. If you're already a Commerce customer, visit any Commerce location and ask to have your balances included as part of Habitat Bucks' Affinity Membership Program. Not a Commerce customer yet? Get one today and let your rep know that you want to take part in our Affinity Program. We need at least 50 Commerce customers to benefit from this program, so please sign up today!

Habitat Makes New Friends

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County has spent the past several months getting to know some caring people and making great new friends at Buckingham Friends School.

In January, nearly 75 volunteers, 50 of them under the age of 18, gathered at the school for the Habitat Bucks Martin Luther King Day project. This year the project was four-fold: creating "welcome home" dedication baskets for partner families, assembling "thank you snack packs" for volunteers on the construction site, decorating house-shaped thank you cards for families to use and building birdhouses to raise funds.

Everyone involved, both volunteers from the school and those that participated through Central Bucks Cares (who organized county-wide MLK Day activities), really stepped up. There was so much participation in fact, that the Habitat office has lost use of their small conference room. It's filled with energy-giving snack packs and unique dedication baskets! Our families and volunteers will be well-cared for in the coming months.

More recently, an amazingly thoughtful and inquisitive group of students from the school visited Emerald Hollow for a tour and provided lunch for our construction crew and volunteers. The group included representatives from each grade, as well as some budding journalists who plan to do a recap of the excursion for the school newsletter.



Young people from Buckingham Friends School design thank you cards during an MLK day project earlier this year.

Lace Up Those Sneaks!

Our after-Thanksgiving tradition continues thanks to the incredible leadership of event coordinator and Habitat board member, Bill Tuszynski. It will take place at Quakertown United Methodist Church and is co-sponsored by the Quakertown Rotary Club. Quality long-sleeve t-shirts will be given to all pre-registered runners and while supplies last on race day. Post-race raffle prizes include gift certificates, merchandise and, of course, homemade pies! All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 24; registration at 8:30am, 3/4 mile kid's fun run at 9:40 am, race at 10am, awards at 11am.

WHERE: Quakertown United Methodist Church, 1875 Frier Road, Quakertown

Register: Download the registration form from Habitat's website, www.habitatbucks.org or register on-line at www.active.com. Contact Bill at 267-374-1631 before 10pm or wtuszynski@comcast.net for information about the race. You can be a race sponsor and have your business logo on the race shirt by contacting Trish at t.schoor@habitatbucks.org or 215.378.2204 x303!



A Habitat for Humanity ReStore Seed is Planted... Maybe You Can Help it Grow?

A \$35,000 grant for start-up costs of a Habitat for Humanity ReStore has been secured from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), thanks to the support of Pennsylvania State Representative Paul Clymer and State Senator Rob Wonderling. A ReStore will expand our bi-monthly Habitat ReSale event into its own retail operation, the proceeds of which will support the operations of our affiliate. We would love to receive a donation of a retail space and could use some experienced retail management-type volunteers on our ReStore committee. Think you have something to offer? Contact Trish at t.schoor@habitatbucks.org or 215.378.2204 x303!

Teambuilding + Homebuilding = Fun!

What do the Bucks County Association of Realtors, Careerbuilder.com, Cowan & Associates, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, GE Water & Process Technologies, Gilmore & Associates and Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products have in common? They've each sponsored a build day at Emerald Hollow this year! Consider a teambuilding day at the Habitat for Humanity site where you'll love the opportunity to fraternize, learn building skills and feel good by helping families in Bucks County, all at once! No construction experience is necessary, just a willingness to make a difference and to be part of a team. Contact Trish Schoor for more details; t.schoor@habitatbucks.org or 215.348.2204 x303.

Shop 'Til You Drop!

As part of our continued partnership with **Neshaminy Valley Mall**, Habitat for Humanity is selling shopping passes for the **Macy's Shop for a Cause fundraiser taking place on October 13**. By purchasing a shopping pass for \$5, good at **all** Macy's locations, you'll have access to exclusive deals including: 20% off regular sale and clearance women's, men's and kid's apparel and accessories, fine, bridge and fashion jewelry, bed and bath items, housewares, frames, luggage, china, crystal and silver; and 10% off regular, sale and clearance furniture, mattresses, rugs, kitchen and personal care electrics and technology items (some exclusions apply). Meanwhile, Habitat will receive **100%** of the funds raised by the sale of shopping passes! Get your Macy's Shop for a Cause pass today by visiting www.habitatbucks.org or by contact Trish at t.schoor@habitatbucks.org or 215.348.2204 x303.

Volunteer Spotlight



Jaclyn Donahue

Villanova University alumna **Jaclyn Donahue** first heard about Habitat for Humanity through her school's alternative spring break program. She immediately signed up to spend her school breaks building homes in South Carolina and Mississippi. She also became involved locally in her school's Habitat chapter, organizing volunteer groups for building projects in Chester County.

Jaclyn enjoyed her experiences building with Habitat so much that she decided to learn more about the behind-the-scenes work of the organization. To achieve this, she spent her 2005 summer break working with Habitat Bucks as a Youth Development Intern with the goal of expanding and improving Habitat's youth programs. Her accomplishments include starting a youth newsletter aimed at keeping area schools and organizations updated on youth involvement and opportunities at the affiliate, laying the framework to significantly expand Habitat's internship program, leading

groups in Birdhouse Blitz Builds and planning youth activities for the annual volunteer appreciation picnic. According to Kelly Hile, outreach director, "With minimal supervision, Jaclyn was able to create some amazing programs that we had wanted to develop for a long time."

Jaclyn's involvement with Habitat has extended past the term of her internship. She jokes that "Habitat is ingrained in me now." In January 2006 she organized a group of Villanova students to assist Habitat with re-building homes in Slidell, Louisiana, an area that experienced severe damage from Hurricane Katrina, and then returned to the area in July with her family to continue their efforts.

Jaclyn says that her volunteer work with Habitat has "helped me define and focus my life goals. I hope to do purposeful work that benefits people. I find working for a good mission very rewarding."

Tribute Gifts

Thank you all for your generous support and contributions.

IN MEMORY OF...

Lou Herring's Mother
Nancy Diehl
Bill Aquilino
Myrtle Aquilino
Jerry Doyle
Mr. and Mrs. John Lawlor
Trish Lawlor
Jim Hockman
Michael O'Shea
Bill Killenny
Mr. and Mrs. David Ives
Paul Kliebe
Mr. and Mrs. John Lawlor
Campbell McComas
Maria McComas
Mary B. Moss
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Severin
Frank Pagenkemper
Janet Pagenkemper
Carl S. Reid
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bushnell
Mr. and Mrs. James Friedrich
Scott Gowdy
Linda Hering
William Maeglin and Christiana Kane

Donald Plump
Gilbert, Wilson and Hunter LLP
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Chitwood
Mr. and Mrs. Hughbert Green
Grandpa Reiher
Mr. and Mrs. David Ives
Clio Schoor
Debra Pawluch
Mr. and Mrs. David Woglom
John A. Waters
John Waters
Janet Weed
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Weaver

IN HONOR OF...

The May Family
Rev. and Rev. Timothy Taylor
Keith Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Tinsman
Dawn Blessing
Jean Sizemore
Mike and Sara Bostancic
Mr. and Mrs. Gerard O'Keefe
Harold Slagter
Sara Bostancic
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bostancic

Joan Bradbury
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bradbury
Jim and Sue Cross
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Payton
Josephine Fletcher
Mr. and Mrs. Philip A. Verruto
Steve Fortner
Medspan Healthcare Market Research
Inc.
Justin Guarini
Sharon Menicucci
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nelson
Ann Hadfield
Sandra Fickes
Kelly Hile
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Mantell
Jim and Robin Hipple
Carl Witzigman
Ken and Kathy Kugel
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Payton
Jim and Harriet Leech
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Payton
Jeanne Leslie-Hughes
Ginger Stalcup

Bob and Colleen Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Payton
Debi Miller
Kathleen Brown
Paul and Nan Payton
Amy Leslie
Emily Pelc
Mr. and Mrs. James Pelc
Amy Priest
Todd Miernicki
Nancy Reinhoel
Rob Ginieczki
Rodrigo and Kelly Rodriguez
Deborah Dotters
Julia Schatz
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Swartley
Alice Schlenger
Newton Richards and Ann Paice
Douglas A. Smith
Anne Hennigar-Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Snyder
Jean Sizemore
Bob and Alice Vernon
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Vernon
Craig and Susan Waldron
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Payton

From Neighbor to Neighbor to You

The Bucks County Association of Realtors' (BCAR) Neighbor to Neighbor program has raised \$41,131 to date! AnnaMarie Loretan has taken over the administration of the program with the help of Kelly Wenhold and the Affordable Housing Committee at BCAR. Maggie Pollich is serving as co-chair of the committee with the departure of Ken Krauter earlier this year.

The Neighbor to Neighbor members have been hard at work planning fundraising events for this year:

Once again, lunch, dinner, fabulous prizes and a good time are all included in their **Neighbor to Neighbor Golf Outing event**. Last year, the event raised \$13,110 and this year, the crew plans on beating that amount! The event will be held on **September 10 beginning at 11am at the Yardley Country Club**. Download a registration form on the Neighbor to Neighbor webpage, <http://habitatbucks.org/neighbor.asp>, below the News and Notes section. For more information, please contact Tim Udinski (Golf Outing Committee Chairman) at 215-262-0737 or Kelly Wenhold, (Director of BCAR Member Services) at 215-956-9176.

Mark your calendars for the **Second Annual American Idol REALTOR® Talent Show and Affiliate Expo** to be held on **Thursday, October 11 at the Radisson Hotel in Trevoze**. The

schedule includes the Affiliate Expo (and pasta station) from 4-6pm, dinner from 6-7:30pm and the American REALTOR® Talent Show and prize drawing from 7:30-9:30pm. Tickets are \$40; ten tickets will reserve you a table! Download the American REALTOR® event ticket form at <http://habitatbucks.org/neighbor.asp>. For more information, please contact Kelly Wenhold, (Director of BCAR Member Services) at 215-956-9176.

Also, be sure to check out the newly updated **Member Spotlight feature on our website**, <http://habitatbucks.org/neighbor.asp>, where BCAR's Affordable Housing Committee co-chair and Neighbor to Neighbor advocate, Maggie Pollich, is the first featured member.

Neighbor to Neighbor is a partnership established in 2005 between Habitat, BCAR and its members to build homes for deserving families in Bucks County. The goal of the program is to raise \$100,000 with the help of local REALTOR® agents. In addition to a financial commitment, the program encourages participants to use their voices to promote the mission of Habitat Bucks to make safe, affordable housing a matter of conscience and action in Bucks County. For more information and to get involved, please contact Trish at t.schoor@habitatbucks.org or 215-348-2204 x303.

Staff Listing

Professional Staff

- Linda Andrews, *Executive Director*
- Steve Argue, *Construction/Safety Coordinator*
- Laura Blair, *Finance Director*
- Stefanie Clark, *Family Program Director*
- Bev Cupo, *Construction Coordinator*
- Vince Cipriano, *Construction Coordinator*
- Mike Fallon, *Project Manager*
- Kelly A. Hile, *Outreach Director*
- Ray Luszczak, *Construction Director*
- Mikaela Martin, *Marketing + Public Relations Director*
- Sam Martin, *Office Manager*
- Laura McClellan, *Volunteer Associate*
- Nancy O'Connor, *Family Program Director*
- Trish Schoor, *Resource Development Director*

Volunteer Staff

- Pete Bonacum, *IT Support Coordinator*
- Sara Bostancic, *Fundraiser Database Coordinator*
- Sue Elrath, *Media Monitoring Coordinator*
- Sue Graff, *Data Entry Coordinator*
- Diana Kayes, *Resource Development Assistant*
- Rick Ottinger, *ReSale Coordinator*
- Janet Pagenkemper, *Volunteer Database Coordinator*
- Kim White, *Activities + Product Sales Coordinator*
- Thelma Williams, *Receipt Coordinator*

This newsletter has a circulation of about 9,000 readers. What if each used this reply card right now to mail \$10? Or even \$25 or \$50? Imagine the difference your gift would make when combined with so many others from across the county. Just \$25 from each reader would help two families enter into our homeowner-ship program. And, through our tithe, that donation would also help build several homes elsewhere in the world!

Though Bucks County's housing need is immense, so is our resolve to meet it. Your gift can make a real difference both here and abroad. Won't you consider sending a gift today?

YES! I wish to participate in Habitat's \$25-per-reader campaign or increase my gift as indicated below.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I would like to make a

one-time monthly donation of:

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other: _____

(All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.)

Please charge my donation to:

Check enclosed (made payable to HFHBC)

Visa MasterCard

Card number: _____

Security code: _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____

We all have special people who have touched our lives. Who has inspired you? You may use your donation to honor him or her:

My gift is in memory honor of:

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Complete and mail to Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County, 215 Matthews Ave., New Britain, PA 18901

Three Cheers for Lowe's!

Lowe's store #1667 in Quakertown has been an extraordinary Habitat Bucks partner from the start. The attitude of every employee is "how can we help you?" —words that have been music to our ears.

We approached the store in late 2004 while planning our first Women Build program. In addition to being extremely receptive to hosting training clinics (created through the national partnership between Lowe's and Habitat for Humanity), they were willing to help however else they could. In 2005 and 2006, they ran the clinics multiple times and also offered advanced clinics to women interested in training to become crew leaders. Each year, the clinics have received rave reviews from Women Build participants, thanks to Tom Ritter in Commercial Sales and his associates.

Melissa Harris, the store's Installed Sales Coordinator, has been a driving force behind the store's participation. Her enthusiasm for our mission and commitment to doing everything in her power to help has made her indispensable. In 2005, she took on the task of organizing a region-wide build day at Emerald Hollow. Employees of area stores came together to build and had such a great time, they did it again in 2006!

The store has also chosen to support us through their Lowe's Heroes program. In 2005, that took the form of bringing a gift of tools and materials in tow to their build day at Emerald Hollow. In 2006, they purchased and donated a play set kit to our Women Builders, who built it as a training and awareness-raising activity at a local shopping center and then

raffled it off to raise funds.

In December 2006, the store participated in the Homes for Holidays program, which raises customer awareness about Habitat by encouraging donations at the checkout. Lowe's of Quakertown was able to raise nearly \$2000 over the course of the program!

From researching landscaping materials to moving sheds and playhouses to donating materials to our ReSale events, the staff at Quakertown Lowe's has proven incredibly dedicated and generous. We simply cannot thank them enough for all that they do, but we can try...

Hip, hip, hooray for Lowe's!

NOTICES

It is the mission Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County to build affordable homes, better lives, stronger families and safer communities through partnerships with people and organizations throughout Bucks County.

Due to rising costs and decreasing funding, Habitat Bucks has had to raise the purchase prices of its homes. Mid-units, previously sold for \$107,750, will now be sold for \$115,000. End units, previously \$125,000, are now \$132,250. Prices will be in effect for any incoming families.

Coming Home is produced by Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County

Editor: Mikaela D. Martin

Assistant Editor: Stefanie F. Clark

Contributors: Kelly A. Hile, Laura McClellan, Nancy O'Connor

Design: Kelli Regan, The Lightbulb Lab, Inc.

Printing: Old York Road Printing Company

See page 9 for a staff listing

Advisory Board
Tom Bisko, Quakertown National Bank
John Davis, Borough of Doylestown
Mike G. Fitzpatrick, Begley, Carlin and Mandia, LLP
Duane Freed, T.H. Properties
Dan Kendra, Precision Solutions, Inc.
Hal Margolt, Drucker & Scacetti, P.C.
Andrew Swinney, Philadelphia Foundation
Peter S. Thompson, Attorney at Law

Board of Directors
Jim Dowling, President, Ethan Allen, Inc.
Paul Payton, Vice President, Faith Relations
Jennifer A. Stark, ALA, Secretary, Stark & Associates, P.C.
Julie Davis, Treasurer, Dunlap & Associates
Nancy Buckner, Family Selection, First Savings Bank of Perkasie
Ryan Henderson, St. John's United Church of Christ
Joel Stewart, Project Review
Bill Tuszyński, Board Development, Ivanhoe Industries

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

215 Matthews Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901
www.habitatbucks.org



NON PROF ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
No. 225
Warmminster,
PA