

Coming Home

HABITAT HAPPENINGS FOR OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS

in this issue

Family Spotlight	2
Welcome Home!	3
Collegiate Challenge	3
Director's Corner	4
Women Build	5
Volunteer Spotlight	6
New Employees	6
Upcoming Events	7
Thank You Notes	8
Lowe's No. 1 With Us	9
Act! Give! Share!	9
Tribute Listings	10
Neighbor to Neighbor	11

We're on the Move So You Can Donate! Volunteer! Shop!

As of July, the Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County offices have a new home in Chalfont, PA. In addition to providing the affiliate with room for expansion, the new 18,000 square foot facility allows us to open the doors to a brand new ReStore! Based on our successful ReSale events, the ReStore is open to the public to sell donated, new and gently used construction materials and home furnishings.

Habitat for Humanity ReStores are retail outlets where quality used and surplus building materials and home items are sold at a fraction of normal prices. Proceeds from ReStores help affiliates fund the construction of Habitat houses within the community. Many affiliates across the United States and Canada operate successful ReStores—some of which raise enough funds to build an additional 10 or more houses per year! Materials sold by Habitat ReStores are usually donated from building supply stores, contractors, demolition crews or from individuals who wish to show their support for Habitat. In addition to raising funds, ReStores help the environment by re-channeling good, usable materials into use.

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County's ReStore offers discounted home improvement and home renovation supplies, including new and gently used appliances, building materials, sinks, lighting fixtures, furniture and much, much more. All funds raised by the ReStore support the operations of Habitat for Humanity right here in Bucks County!

There are three ways that you can get involved in this exciting new venture: donate, volunteer and shop!

Donate!

Think you have items to donate? Habitat for Humanity can start accepting your donations of materials now. Additionally, there are specific items that the store needs to keep up and running:

- Flat bed carts and shopping carts
- Scoops for hardware bins, assorted sizes
- Gas/electric pressure washer (at least 1300 p.s.i.)
- Any type of shelves (commercial grade, any size)



Restore staff from left to right: Stephen "Bear" Mott, Walt Schweizer, MaryAnn Fink, Richard Cunningham, Jesse Raphial

- Any type of bins for hardware, assorted sizes
- Garden hose and nozzle (40 feet)
- Safe or large lock box

And, here is a list of items that we can accept as donations for stocking the store:

- building, plumbing, electrical, roofing, landscaping and masonry materials
- appliances (in working condition and less than seven years old)
- furniture
- tools
- vehicles
- home décor items

Please be aware that they are unable to accept:

- Bed frames and mattresses, box springs, head boards or foot boards
- We can only take computers that are newer with XP or Pentium 4 processors. The computer must be whole with monitor, keyboard and wiring/mouse.

All the news you can use!

Get all the latest and greatest Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County news you need delivered right to your email inbox each month. These E-news Updates include information about our upcoming events, newest homebuilding locations and plans, staff and committee changes, volunteer opportunities and much, much more. Don't miss out. Contact Mikaela at 215.822.2812 x306 or m.martin@habitatbucks.org to get on the list today!



Habitat for Humanity
of Bucks County
ReStore

Donate! Volunteer! Shop! continued from front page

- We do not take any fabric items, such as clothing, blankets, pillows, etc.
- Anything that is rusty, broken, missing parts or is very used
- Toys and books
- Blinds, shades and unframed mirrors
- Paint it must be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full, no rust on can, with the top dabbed with the color of paint inside.
- Remember everything is sold "as is" so it must be complete, resalable and in sanitary condition.

> **Contact Jesse 215.822.2812 x303 or j.raphial@habitatbucks.org to make a donation today!**

Volunteer!

With the ReStore has come lots of new volunteer opportunities! Tasks include unloading deliveries, cleaning and testing donations, stocking merchandise, and assisting customers. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old.

> **For more information about volunteering, please contact Laura at 215.822.2812 x302 or l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org.**

Shop!

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore has the best deals in town - be sure to come see for yourself!

- 25%-75% below retail prices
- New inventory arriving daily
- Special weekly sales in addition to our already low prices
- Proceeds stay local to build affordable housing
- New and used home improvement materials, antiques, unique architectural items, and many other cool home décor treasures!

> **Visit the ReStore at 31 Oak Avenue in Chalfont! Questions? Call 215.822.2708.**

USE THIS COUPON FOR

10% OFF

YOUR RESTORE PURCHASE

ReStore hours —

Wed: 10am-4pm; Thur and Fri: 8am-6pm;
Sat: 9am-6pm ph. **215.822.2708**



Above: The freshly-stocked ReStore awaits its first customers.

Top right: The ReStore truck awaits pick ups.

Bottom right: ReStore employees Wait and Richard stock donations of paint.



Family Spotlight

The Knieles

Mary Kniele, along with her sons, Joey and Richard, moved into their home in September 2006. Before that, it was a rough road for the three of them, as they didn't have the confidence of knowing where home would be for the long term. They were living in a two-bedroom apartment, and Mary could not afford to buy a home in Bucks County, where she works.

The family completed their sweat equity requirement in less than four months. Working together strengthened their connection as a family. When she could finally pinch herself after the settlement she knew she hadn't been dreaming. She worried that something would go wrong because she had been disappointed so many times before, but this time was different. She purchased a home and opened the door to stability for her family.

Homeownership has provided the basis for the family to pursue other goals. Mary earned state certification in dental radiology. Joey earned his GED and Richard registered for college courses.

"None of this would have happened if [getting a Habitat house] had fallen through," Mary said. "This is what the stability of homeownership has provided for us."



Partner family, the Knieles. Mary poses with her sons Richard (left) and Joe (right).

Collegiate Challenge



Spring break usually brings to mind sun, surf, and a tropical location, but for twenty Connecticut high school students spring break meant hard work building homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County. Students from Miss Porter's School and Avon Old Farms School decided to forgo a beach vacation to assist those in need of affordable housing as part of Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge program. The students traveled to Bucks County the week of March 10th and spent three days framing a cluster of townhomes in Habitat's Emerald Hollow development. They also had the opportunity to present a Habitat homeowner with the key to their new home at a house dedication ceremony on March 13.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Trumbauersville and Quakertown United Methodist Church provided lodging during the build week, and the Upper Bucks County YMCA allowed the students use of their shower facilities. Lunches were provided by students at Kutz Elementary School in Doylestown. The elementary school students had an opportunity to meet the Habitat volunteers when they traveled to Doylestown for lunch and recess one day.

2008 marks the fifth year that Miss Porter's School has participated in a Habitat build, and Avon Old Farms School volunteered for the third time. In addition to their hard work and energy, the students made a financial contribution to the affiliate.

Welcome Hooome!

We celebrated the March 13th dedication ceremony of six homes to six families who are now experiencing the reward that all of their hard work has produced—turning the key to their front door and walking into a home that they own.

Brian and Tarah Andrew, Jessica Allen, Lee Dorn, Brian and Melissa Staats, Kelly Lewis and Daniel Gicuki and Salome Thiga are the newest homeowners in the Habitat community at Emerald Hollow Estates in Milford Township. They completed a combined total of 1,296.25 hours of sweat equity toward their homes.

Individuals and groups who presented keys to the families at the dedication ceremony included Tom Ritter and Jim Walker from the Lowe's stores in Quakertown and Warrington, Sandi Stachelek representing Buffini and Company, Family Support Committee Members Pat Petersman, Brian Haigh and Susan Vincent, and representatives from Miss Porter's School and Avon Old Farms School. Welcome gifts for the families were provided by the Faith Relations Committee, Ed Neff, Buckingham Friends School, the Upper Bucks County

Thrivent Chapter and Carol's Scents n Soaps. Bibles were donated by Berean Christian Store, and Jill Sonlin provided delicious refreshments for the ceremony. Pastor Robert Mitman, from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Perkasio, offered the invocation and benediction.

Jessica Allen describes the feeling of owning her own home as, "It's mine, and it's a safe place for my daughter and I. And each time I open that door I know that this house is truly ours because we worked so hard for it, we poured sweat into that house; that makes it even more personal."

Brian and Melissa Staats describe owning a home as a wonderful feeling and a blessing. "As we walked into our house I looked at my wife and kept saying to her, 'Is this real; is this our home; can you believe it?'"

Lee Dorn said, "Turning the key in my brand new front door with my children was one the most exciting moments of my life. We all rang the doorbell and yelled excitedly, 'We're hoooooome!'"



Family Support Committee member Pat Petersman presents partner family Jessica Allen (holding daughter Lillian) with the key to her new home.



director's corner

By Linda Andrews, Executive Director

Giving has finally made it to network television. Oprah's newest venture, *The Big Give*, successfully demonstrated that giving is not just for the holidays. Giving should be a regular, lasting commitment that is life-altering for both the recipient and the giver.

You are likely well aware that Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County provides an opportunity for homeownership to low-income families in our community. In an area of high incomes and even higher home prices, this opportunity would not be available to many of our neighbors without our program. The benefits to these families are far-reaching; it's been shown that homeownership improves everything from health to success in school.

But do you know the value of giving to YOU, the giver? Many people take daily steps to stay healthy and live longer. Maybe you take vitamins, eat a nutritious diet or exercise; but, do you know that there's more you can do to improve your health? One of the best ways to improve your well-being is to give.

A study conducted by top universities, including Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Stanford and the University of Chicago, revealed that people who are giving see the benefits of delayed mortality, reduced depression and increased well-being and

good fortune. The report on the 50-year study found the following:

- Giving protects overall health twice as much as aspirin protects against heart disease
- Giving in high school predicts good physical and mental health in late adulthood
- Giving significantly reduces mortality in later life. The only act to have a higher affect is to stop smoking
- Generous behavior reduces adolescent depression and suicide risk
- Giving quells anxiety
- Giving to others helps to facilitate self-forgiveness
- Giving increases your longevity

Helping others reduces stress in the giver, improving both mental and physical health. It gives people a sense of belonging and of mattering. It increases happiness and decreases depression. Increasing positive emotions is good for the body, promoting cardiovascular health and boosting the immune system. The affects are so powerful that sometimes just thinking charitable thoughts helps us!

It doesn't matter whether the gift is in the form of emotional support that spouses exchange, the instrumental help one might provide to a neighbor, or financial support of a charity. They all have a significant impact on the giver. Like a resonant bell,

giving reverberates all the way through a lifetime.

Your support can help us change the lives of the more than 26,000 people in Bucks County who are in need of affordable housing. Along with realizing the dream of homeownership, it will improve their health and well-being. Here are some ways that everyone can give:

- Clean your house and donate unwanted items to our ReStore. You can clear your clutter and support a worthy cause!
- Volunteer your time. This provides an opportunity to share your passion with others and see the difference you make.
- Support us financially. Give a little or give a lot. It all matters.

Together, we can build a community where, if you work hard, you can afford a simple, decent place to raise your family; where every child has an opportunity to succeed in school and life; where no parent has to choose between paying rent and giving his or her child breakfast. The impact of your commitment extends far beyond helping a family to survive. When a family is living in crisis, our businesses, our neighborhoods, our schools, our entire community suffers.

So join us today—and get healthy!

Seven Things You Need to Know About Youth United

1. It's an annual house sponsored by youth ages 5-25 and built by youth ages 16-25.
2. Young people raise the money and do the work every year.
3. Participating affiliates recruit diverse groups of young people from different organizations, faiths, ages and backgrounds.
4. It provides a meaningful roles for homeowners' children.
5. It provides leadership roles for young people.
6. It give youth a chance to understand Habitat's mission and engage in its work in their own communities.
7. One additional house is built

annually for the affiliate.

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County is working to establish our very own Youth United program!



We're looking for teen leaders and adult mentors from schools, churches and other community organizations.

> Interested? Contact Beth Adams at 215.822.2812 x305 or b.adams@habitatbucks.org to find out more!



Women and their children are disproportionately affected by poverty and substandard housing, even here in Bucks County. Of the calls that Habitat Bucks receives inquiring about our homeownership program, more than 80% are made by women. Additionally, as of 2004, women made up 47% of the volunteer force at Habitat Bucks, but represented only 17% of our repeat

construction volunteers. Women Build was started to address both of these issues by

providing a comfortable, non-threatening atmosphere in which women can develop construction skills, while creating the opportunity for more women to achieve homeownership. Women Build is a year-long adventure featuring training clinics at local Lowe's stores, building projects and fundraising events and culminating with an inspiring week-long Build-a-thon, an event organized by Women Build volunteers.

Over the past year the Women Build program has held two successful Build-a-thon weeks, in October 2007 and June 2008. Sixty-five women participated in

Enters Fourth Year Stronger than Ever!

each Build-a-thon, contributing over 1800 hours of volunteer time and raising over \$26,000! Led by Women Build crew leaders, the volunteers laid block for foundations, framed garages, installed staircases and windows, planted trees, and more! Joined by inspirational speakers Amy Wynn Pastor of the DIY network, State Representative Marguerite Quinn, Bucks County Commissioner Diane-Ellis Marseglia, Tammy Schoonover of the Bucks County Opportunity Council, Jeanne Mantell of the Bucks County Women's Fund, Ifeoma Aduba of A Woman's Place and Reverend Amelie Sell of Pleasantville

United Church of Christ, the Women Build-a-thons helped bring fifteen families closer to realizing their dream of homeownership.

Since 2007, the Women Build has raised

approximately \$180,000 in much-needed funds to help support Habitat's mission, thanks in part to these Women Build sponsors:



2008 Sponsors

Legacy Builders (\$55,000)

Lowe's

Leadership Builders (\$10,000)

The Patricia Kind Foundation

Independence Builders (\$5000)

Claneil Foundation

Jones Apparel Group

First Savings Bank of Perkasio

2007 Sponsors

Leadership Builders (\$10,000)

Lowe's

The Patricia Kind Foundation

Independence Builders (\$5000)

BonTon Stores Foundation

Capmark Finance, Inc.

Connelly Foundation

Fourjay Foundation

Genaurdi Family Foundation

Jones Apparel Group

Makefield Women's Association



Women Build has the potential to ensure that years from now women and girls are given the opportunity to develop personal or career-oriented construction skills, to own their own homes and to see themselves as catalysts for change in their communities. Volunteers have the opportunity to help in all aspects of the program, from building to fundraising to advocacy. Get involved today!

> **Contact Laura McClellan at**
l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org or
215-822-2812 x302.

Volunteer Spotlight



Sara Bostancic

joined the Habitat crew in October 2005 after viewing a website posting seeking a fundraiser database coordinator.

Since then, Sara can be found in the office 2-3 mornings each week inputting donation information, organizing and updating the Fundraiser database, and creating and sending donor thank-you letters. According to Office Manager Sam Martin, one of the best assets Sara brings to Habitat is that "she needs virtually no guidance. She is able to suggest and implement improvements to the database and catch mistakes and make necessary adjustments." Sara enjoys the challenge of learning the database system, and sometimes employs the assistance of her sons, Brian and Steve, in solving problems she encounters. Sara and her husband, Mike, have also created welcome baskets to present to partner families at dedication ceremonies. In addition to her invaluable contributions toward Habitat's mission, Sara's easygoing attitude and positive outlook make working with her a joy for the Habitat staff. As well as volunteering with Habitat, Sara utilizes her talents to create quilts, over 45 so far, for a Yardley-based nonprofit organization, Quilts for Kids, whose volunteers use discontinued fabrics to create quilts for children who are the victims of abuse or have life-threatening illnesses. They have also sent quilts to children displaced by Hurricane Katrina and create quilts for each Habitat Bucks child.

w e l c o m e

Beth Adams, a long time volunteer at Habitat for Humanity, joined the staff as our Outreach Director last fall. Beth really hit the ground running in her new position and has since covered the county several times identifying and establishing partnerships with many corporations and organizations. Her enthusiasm and dedication to the Habitat for Humanity mission has been infectious and energizing for all who've had the chance to work with her. Here's to another great year, Beth!

> **Drop Beth a line at b.adams@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x305.**



We are very excited to introduce a new member of our staff, **Jesse Raphial**. Jesse started with us in April as our ReStore Manager. He brings with him many years of retail experience, most recently as the manager of a Goodwill Store. As you can read in our feature article, Jesse has been working hard getting us started! We all feel very blessed to have Jesse as part of the Habitat Bucks team!

> **Send Jesse a welcome message at j.raphial@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x303.**



Newtown residents and soccer buddies, Katie Leininger and Delaney Smith, recently visited the Habitat offices in order to deliver a contribution of \$605. Though the pair both attend the same school, playing soccer together is what makes them close. So close in fact, that they decided to hold a joint birthday party and, at the inspiration of Katie's brother, Alex, the young women asked guests to bring donations for Habitat in lieu of gifts. Five years ago, Alex made a contribution of \$300; Katie and Delaney were thrilled to beat his score!

Order your holiday cards today!

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County celebrates the 18th Annual Holiday Card Contest with this winning design by Peggy Eschenburg. Since 1990, Habitat For Humanity has featured the donated work of a Bucks County artist on a holiday card, which is sold as a fundraiser for the affiliate.



> **Get yours today by visiting www.habitatbucks.org or calling Sam at 215.822.2812**

Recycle for Habitat

Instead of tossing your used cell phone or printer cartridges, bring them to us. We are partnering with the Funding Factory Recycling Program to generate income for the Family Program Department. According to Funding Factory, an estimated 350 million inkjet and laser cartridges and used cell phones will be thrown away this year alone. Help decrease this number and support Habitat while you're at it!

> **Contact Sam at 215.822.2812 x 310 or s.martin@habitatbucks.org for more information.**

Celebrate Someone Special!

We sell **handcrafted pins** in wonderful designs that brighten any woman's day. In addition to making a beautiful and fashionable gift, 50% of the proceeds from the sale of these pins go to support the Habitat mission! Pins are \$15 each or \$20 with a gift box and are great sellers at community events like alternative gift fairs.

Make a **donation in your loved one's honor** for a special and unique gift. For your contribution, we'll send a personalized note for you to sign, along with a "golden hammer" pin and a Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County window sticker for you to share.

> **Show the special people in your life how much you care with these unique and meaningful gifts! Contact Beth Adams at b.adams@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x305.**

Next Project/Green Building

Habitat's next endeavor will be twofold; not only will we be moving our homebuilding efforts to Bristol Township, but we will also begin our journey into the world of "Green Building." Thanks to the leadership of Project Manager, Mike Fallon, Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County is committed to joining local and national green building communities. In addition to meeting ENERGY STAR® standards, homes will be built to receive the Keystone Green Building Initiative™ (KGBI) Silver rating, with ambition to achieve the coveted Gold rating. These certifications mean that future homeowners will not only be purchasing a safe, decent and affordable home, but also an energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly one. Families' utility bills will be greatly reduced by Habitat for Humanity's green building, with projections of a 25 to 40% savings.

> **Do you have a specific skill or trade experience that might be valuable as we move forward with these exciting projects? If so, please contact Mike Fallon at 215.822.8212 x312 or m.fallon@habitatbucks.org.**

Cars for Homes

Through Habitat for Humanity International's Cars for Homes program (www.habitat.org/carsforhomes/), Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County received \$10,952 in 2007! Car donations help affiliates in the locality of the donor. It's quick and easy to donate a car, truck, boat, RV, motorcycle or construction equipment. Vehicle donations may be eligible tax deductible.

> **Think you have a vehicle to donate? Call Cars for Homes toll free at 877.277.4344 or www.habitat.org/carsforhomes/.**



The after-Thanksgiving tradition continues thanks to the incredible leadership of event coordinator and Habitat board member, Bill Tuszynski. The Seventh Annual Habitat 5K will take place at Quakertown United Methodist Church, co-sponsor of the event with 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. 29; 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
- **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 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 Sam Martin at s.martin@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.8212 x310!**

THANK YOU NOTES

While Stefanie Clark was on maternity leave, **SUSAN VINCENT** filled in as Family Program Assistant. Susan has been a volunteer on the Family Selection and Support committees. She has graciously agreed to step into this part-time position while continuing to serve on the committees. Thank you, Susan!



Habitat's Project Manager Mike Fallon accepts a check from UGI Utilities' Marie Maly.

UGI UTILITIES, the gas provider for Emerald Hollow, has committed to supplying grants on all remaining homes in the development! These grants are for upgrades made during construction to make our homes energy efficient. Habitat for Humanity is being credited for the installation of 90-92% efficient gas furnaces, 2 x 6 exterior wall framing with R19 insulation, ENERGY STAR®-rated appliances and ENERGY STAR®-rated windows and doors. In total, the affiliate will receive \$3,500 per mid-unit and \$3,800 per end-unit for 22 homes. Thank you to UGI for this wonderful program!

A big thanks to the **WOMEN BUILD CREW LEADERS** for doing an amazing job facilitating the Lowe's clinics and leading the Build-a-Thon. We couldn't have done it without you!

DAY SPONSORS ACT! GIVE! SHARE! by raising funds to sponsor a day of building at the Habitat for Humanity construction site and sharing our mission with their clients, friends and employees. From November 2007 through August 2008, we were fortunate to partner with day sponsors GE Infrastructure, Shelly's Lumber, Abington Friends School, Physician's Endoscopy, Gilmore & Associates and NextGen Healthcare Information Systems, Inc., Merck/Schering Plough, Goldman Sachs, Wells Fargo Home mortgage, Doyestown Rotary Club and Cowan and Associates.

Thank you for your support of Habitat Bucks!

PALISADES HIGH SCHOOL sponsored Habitat Bucks for the third year with the Palisades Film Festival, held in December. Students present short films of their own making which are judged by the audience.

Thank you to **CENTRAL BUCKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** for the \$1,500 Business Cares grant, which provided \$25 gift cards for homeowner and partner families. We appreciate your continued generosity!

Thank you to our **FAITH PARTNERS**, who make a difference through alternative gift markets, providing lunch on site and hosting events. Special thanks to the following and their fundraising efforts:

- Blooming Glen Mennonite Church (\$5,000)
- Doylestown Presbyterian Church (\$3,896)
- Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church (\$1,000)
- Pleasantville United Church of Christ (\$2,093)
- Presbyterian Church of Deep Run (\$4,000)
- St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church (\$5,500)
- Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church (\$7,254)
- Saint Paul's Lutheran Church (\$2,020)

The **CLARK FAMILY FOUNDATION** has been supporting the work of our affiliate since 2000, donating nearly \$12,000 in seven years—surely we consider them one of our oldest and dearest friends! They are true partners in the fight against substandard housing in our communities and we're grateful for their dedication to, and continued support of, Habitat for Humanity's mission. Thank you, Clark Family Foundation!

Thank you to all who participated in our annual WRAP FEST this winter! Attendees wrapped 73 gifts for the Habitat kids (ages 12 and younger). A fun time was enjoyed by all!



Staff members from Physician's Endoscopy worked hard at the site.

Thanks also to the elves and carolers who made the Emerald Hollow gift delivery a great event by joining our very special Santa, Wally Dolan, and his number one holiday elf, Jean Dolan, in spreading holiday joy.

For **DON ROBERTS, ALTHEA KIEFFER AND THE REST OF THE CREW AT DOYLESTOWN TRANSFER & ABSTRACT**, who prepare the paperwork for our settlements. We appreciate your care and concern for each transaction, and we thank you for being part of the Habitat family. And for Peter Thompson, attorney at law, and Judy Benson, his right-hand woman, who prepare all of the mortgage documents for each family. This has become quite a lengthy process over the years, and we thank you for your dedication to our organization and the families we serve.



Habitat Executive Director Linda Andrews (center) accepts a check from IFDA members Eileen Devine (left) and Ellen Cohen (right).

The **INTERNATIONAL FURNISHINGS AND DESIGN ASSOCIATION**, understanding our mission for affordable housing, reached out to Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County with a check for \$3,500 to insure we can continue with our efforts. We look forward to growing this partnership for years to come.

Youth can make a difference! Thank you to the students of **BUCKINGHAM FRIENDS SCHOOL** for their MLK day of service and donations of snacks for Habitat for Humanity volunteers, and overwhelming supply of first aid items. Thanks also to students from John Barclay Elementary School who built tool kits and colored thank you cards for our volunteers. Your efforts are welcome by all our Habitat partner families!

Thank you to the **ANN C. FUNK CHARITABLE TRUST** for their annual contribution! This year, we received \$5,720 from the trust who has been partnering with us since 2000.

Lowe's is #1 With Us

Lowe's, national underwriter of the Women Build program, has provided outstanding support to Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County with not only a commitment to a national partnership, but also to a very local and personal relationship with our affiliate. Lowe's stores in Quakertown and

Warrington have been outstanding in all the ways they dedicate their time, materials, funds and community service to Habitat for Humanity.

Since 2005, nearly 250 women have received training in basic construction skills through attending free Women Build clinics organized and facili-

tated by Lowe's employees. These clinic always receive rave reviews from Women Build participants; a special thanks to Tom Ritter at Quakertown and Jim Walker at Warrington for running them! In addition to training our volunteers, Lowe's has donated \$85,000 toward the Women Build program since its inception. Lowe's has also sponsored booths at two Chamber of Commerce events to promote the Women Build program and

Lowe's partnership. Store employees have participated in several Habitat Bucks build days including one during National Women Build Week, and this spring, they joined Habitat Bucks' home dedication ceremony (story on page 3) to present a family with

the key to their 2007 Women Build-sponsored home. Year after year, we appreciate how generous the staff at Lowe's has been with

their time, talents, collaborative efforts and genuinely friendly attitude. It is truly a pleasure to partner with Lowe's!



Jim Walker helps a building clinic participant at the Warrington Lowe's.



Women Build clinic participants at the Quakertown Lowe's.

Act! Give! Share!

Challenged by a personal enrichment class to make a difference in the community, Nick Van Valkenburgh did just that, spreading

the word about the mission of Habitat Bucks, raising funds to support the organization, and planning a group build day. After fundraising to support the cost of building materials and tools, Nick and a group of 15 friends, family, and community members came together to volunteer at Emerald Hollow where they spent the day framing walls and installing joists, among other construction tasks. Their contributions of finances and time, as well as their enthusiasm, went a long way towards helping Habitat accomplish its mission to provide affordable housing.



Gratitude for Gracious Living

Living in the true Christmas spirit, Melinda Kuehne, owner of Gracious Living Interiors, donated 100% of the proceeds from a December silent auction at her store in Lahaska to Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County. Melinda used this event to not only fundraise \$5,000 for our affiliate, but also to advocate and share the mission of Habitat for Humanity with her customers. Our partnership continues to grow with Gracious Living hosting a Women Build Project Day this spring, with Melinda and her son Nick joining in the building efforts. We appreciate Melinda's hands-on support!

Tribute Gifts Given in Memory and Honor of Loved Ones

Thank you for your generosity!

IN MEMORY OF...

Mom, Dad and Tom
Lisa Kirner

Tony and Ron
Ruby Moore

Ernest Alderfer
Gloria Delp

Dominick Arcari
Mr. and Mrs. Bernardino Albence

Jeffrey Broxterman
Kathryn Rambo

Rev. "Doc" Buckley
Mr. and Mrs. David Hatch

Gordon Crozier
Mr. and Mrs. David Ives

Ralph T. Davy
Mr. and Mrs. James Copeland

Robert Delp
Mary Alderfer
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Alderfer
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baumunk
Lynne Bennett
Grace Bissey
Mr. and Mrs. John Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bryde
Eleanor Buehner
John Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Delp
Dr. and Ms. George Gaugler
Anna Godshall
Eleanor Hillegas
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hohenstein
Elise Jones
Mr. and Mrs. S. Duane Kauffman
Mr. and Mrs. John Knisley
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Landis
Evelyn Meyers
Barbara O'Brien
Irene Pavlica and Janet Davis
Mildred Rosenberger
A. Ruth Simpson
Styer Associates, PC
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Styer
Thelma Swartzendruber
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Vincent
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Wenhold
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Neighbor to Neighbor: Partners for Affordable Housing in Bucks County

The Bucks County Association of REALTORS (BCAR) has partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County to create the unique Neighbor to Neighbor program to help Habitat with our mission to provide affordable housing. BCAR members understand the needs of first-time homeowners and the struggles to find affordable housing in Bucks County. BCAR's Affordable Housing Committee, recognizing the priority of this issue first-hand, made the commitment to one deserving Bucks County family to fundraise, volunteer and advocate for the resources to build one home.

We are proud of our Neighbor to Neighbor REALTORS, as they've fulfilled their commitment to Act! Give! Share! They've dedicated numerous hours volunteering their time building and planning fundraising events, and have met their goal to raise \$100,000 to sponsor the building of the home of Mary Beth and Corey Fisher and their two children. Lastly, they have helped advocate and share the message of Habitat for Humanity with their clients, colleagues and friends. People throughout the county have been touched by the Neighbor to Neighbor program!

Special thanks to the tremendous support of Wells Fargo Housing Foundation, the local office of Wells Fargo Mortgage and US Inspect for supporting our efforts towards this goal and to the Neighbor to Neighbor REALTORS who have helped make it

possible for the Fishers to own their first home (for a listing of current Neighbor to Neighbor members, please visit www.habitatbucks.org).

Thank you also to the outstanding efforts of Maggie Pollich of the Affordable Housing Committee and Kelly Wenhold of BCAR, whose behind-the-scenes work guaranteed the success of this partnership.

> Check out our website, <http://www.habitatbucks.org/neighbor.asp>, or contact Beth Adams at b.adams@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x305 to learn more about Neighbor to Neighbor.



Homeowner family Mary Beth Fisher chooses a raffle winner at a Neighbor to Neighbor event.

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 homeownership 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:

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

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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 this address:

Complete and mail to Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County, 31 Oak Avenue, Suite 100, Chalfont, PA 18914

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

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