

in this issue...

Staff Hellos and Goodbyes	4
Volunteer Spotlight	3
Thank You Notes	5
Director's Corner	5
NARI Blitz Build	2
Recognizing Excellent Volunteers	3
Genuardi's Receipt Program	4
Homeownership Opportunities	6

upcoming events...

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30

Join your friends and neighbors in Quakertown at the **Habitat for Humanity 5K Run** on Saturday, November 30 at 10am. See story pg. 2.

THIS FALL

The PBS series, *Visionaries*, will feature Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County. Stay tuned for more information at www.habitatbucks.org, or call Mikaela Martin, 215-348-2204 x306.

DECEMBER 7-8

The National Association of Remodelers, Inc. is joining us for a blitz build on Cluster Three. See story pg. 2.

JANUARY 2003

Winter Collegiate Challenge. Call Nancy Lewandoski for more information and sponsorship opportunities: 215-348-2204 x305.

WINTER 2003

Cluster Two dedication. Call Trish Kriger for more information: 215-348-2204, or visit www.habitatbucks.org.

First Emerald Hollow Families Move In

With the Cluster One dedication date approaching and a lot of work yet to do, Rick and Dorothy Chase worried that their children might not start the school year in the Quakertown Community School District. The incredible, committed Cluster One volunteers soon put their mind at ease. Businesses donated services and materials. The construction crew often worked past sundown to meet construction schedules and volunteers logged more than 11,000 hours of work on the first four townhomes! So, on August 31 the Habitat and Interfaith homes in Cluster One were dedicated.

On this special day, Executive Director, Jim Petruzzi, welcomed the dedication's 200 guests and thanked everyone for their efforts, enthusiasm and incredible commitment. A project that was just a dream months ago was becoming a reality!

Michael Fitzpatrick, Bucks County commissioner, commended those involved and praised the innovative design of this Habitat project. The Reverend Bernie Kelly of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church offered the invocation. And, the new homeowners (The Chases, Steve Mott and the Tusavitzes) were introduced, presented with a key to their new home and given a Bible (donated by Provident Bookstore). The Chase family was also presented with a quilt made by the members of Doylestown Presbyterian Church.

Each family gave thanks for the opportunity to move into the Emerald Hollow community and for the blessing of getting to know their neighbors while working alongside them during the many months of construction. Lorraine Tusavitz, original land owner with her husband Dan, said that when they decided to sell their land, she envisioned a close-knit community forming there. She is pleased that this new community appreciates the land as much as she does. The Tusavitzes razed the original home that stood near the entrance to Emerald Hollow, and bought the first public-sale home in Cluster One.

Dan and Lorraine moved into their home the first week in October. Steve Mott and the Chases moved into their new homes the first week in September. Construction Supervisor Vince Cipriano moved into



Cluster One dedication, August 31. Top left: The Chase Family. Top right: Dan and Lorraine Tusavitz. Bottom: Home, sweet homes—Cluster One homes.

his home the following week.

"Moving from a mobile home with no insulation to this home, which is so warm, makes us feel blessed beyond belief," Dorothy Chase said. "The people who came to honor us at the dedication were so kind. I welcomed everybody because they are the people who put work into our home."

The Chases are also thankful that their children won't have to switch schools later this fall. Their first morning of school was memorable—even for the site crew, who stopped working to watch Mark, Seth, Melanie and Moriah take their first walk to the Emerald Lane bus stop. "It was a precious sight," said Robin Fraser, of the site crew. "It was awesome," Molly Mattechek added. Now, each day as the crew shows up for work and the kids leave for school, their lives continue to intertwine. "We get to say good morning to them every day and see them having their friends over to play," Robin said.

>> continued on page 2

>>continued from front page

Thank you to our partners:

Quakertown National Bank • T.H. Properties • Bucks County Office of Community & Business Development HOME Program • Doylestown Presbyterian Church • Patricia Kind Foundation • Bucks County Community Development Block Grant • Delaware Valley Habitat for Humanity • GE Betz • First Savings Bank of Perkasie • PA Department of Community and Economic Development

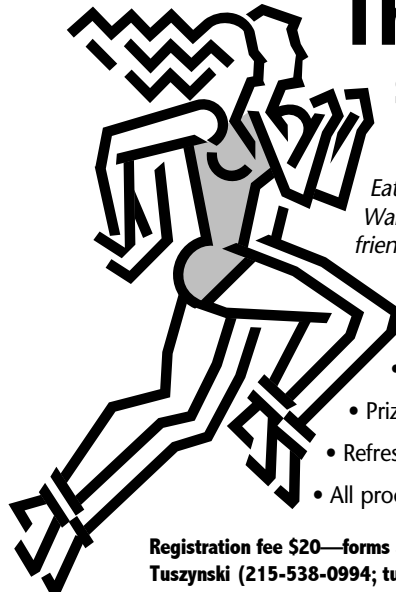
Thank you to our many volunteers and to these groups for helping us complete Cluster One:

Ad Infinitum: Staff shirts for dedication ceremony • *Alderfer Transport*: Transporting shingles from Certainteed to site • *Ascher family*: Emerald Hollow sign • *Assumption BVM of Feasterville Church*: Lunch • *Barbara Crabtree*: Food for volunteer appreciation picnic • *Blooming Glen Memmonite*: Lunch • *Buckingham Friends Meeting*: Chase's kitchen basket • *Bucks Country Gardens*: Landscaping • *Bucks Deanery Episcopal Church, Diocese of PA*: Collegiate Challenge lunch • *Central Bucks HS West Key Club*: Lunch • *Certainteed Corporation*: Shingles • *Clopay Door Products*: Monarch garage doors • *Comcast Cable*: Cable boxes • *David Hedges*: Two light fixtures, storm door • *Chris Carr*: Carpet installation • *Domino's Pizza*: Lunch monthly • *Doylestown Presbyterian Church*: Chase home sponsor • *Doylestown Transfer & Abstract*: Legal services • *Emmanuel Lutheran Church*: Lunch • *First Savings Bank of Perkasie*: Lunch • *Carl Fretz, Fretz Enterprises*: Trailer for site office • *Court Trimble, GMAC RFC*: Corporate grant • *G.A. Peak Excavating*: Excavation, basement & footings • *Gilmore & Associates*: Construction stake-out services • *Glen Nemath, Nemath Construction*: Work crew, equipment, plywood • *Hajoca Corporation*: Plumbing fixtures • *Heavener Supply, Inc.*: Stone masonry materials • *John Hunsberger*: Concrete • *Kathleen, Adriaansen & Donald Maloney*: 15 utility knives • *Kolodub family*: Lunch • *Land S. Stone, Inc.*: Stone front • *MAB Paints*: Discounted supplies • *Metes & Bounds Surveying*: Discount on professional surveying • *Millman Electric Company, Inc.*: Services and labor • *Milly & Robert Jacobs*: Five light fixtures • *Nancy Bunting*: Lunch • *Newcomers Club of Central Bucks*: Grant • *Penns Park United Methodist Church*: Lunch • *Precision Solutions, Inc.*: Weekly evening crews, PA system • *Provident Book Store*: Family Bibles • *Redeemer Lutheran Church of Jamison*: Lunch • *Roslyn Supply*: Siding • *Rustic Grandeur*: Construction supplies • *Sherwin Williams*: Discounted supplies • *St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital*: First Aid supply kit • *St. Paul's Church*: Cups, plates, bowls for lunch • *St. Paul's Sellersville*: Lunch • *T.H. Properties*: Visionaries funding • *Taylor Made Carpets*: Padding, Mott & Chase units • *Tom Hardy, Ken Beer & Sons Excavating*: Excavating machines, transportation, labor • *Tom Link, L & M Paving*: Driveway paving • *Trinity Great Swamp*: Lunch • *United Way of Bucks County*: Ongoing allocation • *Warren Lumber*: Four sliding doors • *Wehrung's Lumber and Home Center*: Building materials • *Whirlpool*: Appliances

QUAKERTOWN ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS ...

The Habitat 5K Run

Saturday, November 30 @ 10:00am
Quakertown United Methodist Church



Eat too much on Thanksgiving? Want to avoid the mall herd? Want to use your health to benefit a great cause? Bring your friends and family to the Habitat for Humanity 5K.

- 3.1 mile course features an up-and-down loop with one long hill—great for serious and recreational runners.
- Pre-registered runners will receive a T-shirt
- Prizes awarded in many categories
- Refreshments available after the race, including pumpkin pie!
- All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County

Registration fee \$20—forms are available at www.habitatbucks.org. Contact race organizer Bill Tuszynski (215-538-0994; tuszynsk@voicenet.com) or Nancy Lewandowski (215-348-2204 x305; youth@habitatbucks.org) for sponsorship or race day volunteer opportunities.

NARI Plans December Blitz Build

During the sweltering heat of the summer it was hard to imagine that winter weather could soon affect Cluster Three's construction schedule. With Cluster One completed and Cluster Two scheduled to be completed in early 2003, we needed to get Cluster Three roofed before the winter weather set in. The tight timeframe presented a serious scheduling challenge.

While volunteering on Cluster One, Phil Blosser, CRS and president of Blosser Electric, heard about our dilemma. Phil suggested that the National Association of Remodelers, Inc. (NARI), might be able to help. He explained that the Bucks-Mont chapter, of which he's president, is always willing to consider meaningful community projects.

Within a week, Phil rallied members of NARI's Community Service Committee to discuss proposals with Habitat. The enthusiasm was infectious. Within hours a steering committee was formed. General Contractor Michael Fallon, of W.T. Helligs & Associates, volunteered to lead the

project. Dave Bonning, of Dave Bonning Remodeling, Dave Haines, of CR Haines Contracting Inc., Mark Kinsey, of PKG Insurance Associates, Brian Smith, of Brian T. Smith Builders Inc. and Linda Andrews, Bucks-Mont NARI executive director committed to provide critical support.

The group got right to work and planned a blitz build that would have Cluster Three under roof by the end of the year. Specifically, the entire six-unit cluster would be framed on the weekend of December 7! With plan in hand and spirits high, the steering committee presented the proposal to the NARI Board of Directors in early October. It received overwhelming support. Word of the blitz build spread, and commitments of support started rolling in, including a partnership with NARI member, Shelly Enterprises, who agreed to help provide panelized walls for the build. Ken Beer & Sons Excavating made a generous donation of equipment and labor to dig the foundation.

When the plan was presented to NARI's full membership on October 10, it was met with resounding enthusiasm and support. Member companies signed up to make the build a reality.

We welcome the members of NARI to the Emerald Hollow project and thank them for helping us to get six more families into their homes!



Tom Schantz got hooked on Habitat through the affiliate in Easton, PA. He volunteered there with his cousin. The project at Emerald Hollow was just around the corner from his home, and Tom became a regular presence at the site this summer.



"I like having a good time on site and I can do that here. That's what makes Habitat a little different. Everyone has a good time working toward a good cause," Tom says.

He is one of many volunteers who say they would like to be on site as often as they can. "Working with the homeowners has been great," Tom says. "At the dedication

ceremony, it felt good to finally have something done, and to see them move in."

After Tom sold his greenhouse business, he has devoted a significant amount of time to the construction team. Tom has worked in production and has managed people, but until he arrived on site, he had no experience in

building. Working alongside Ray Luszcak, Romy Brossman and Joe Devlin has taught him a lot, he says. Tom has taken a shot at just about every task presented to the construction crew. He's willing to learn and he appreciates experienced advice from Nick Grant, another regular volunteer and Tom's site partner.

Now that Tom is retired he is making plans for another business and he also finds more time to play golf and travel.

Thank you for your commitment, Tom!

Moving Our Economy Onward & Upward

Okay, no one wants to read about the financial needs of our affiliate. The wonderful work we are doing and the wonderful people doing it are much more exciting. But please, PLEASE, bear with me; read this and then give it serious thought.

The downturn in our economy has affected each of our individual lives, which in turn, affects non-profit organizations like ours. Habitat Bucks did some excellent planning before beginning our current 37-townhome project, and we are holding our own, despite a decrease in our income. We need your help now more than ever, just so we can continue to maintain the level of service we provide to Bucks County.

Given the sluggish economy and weaker-than-usual Habitat Bucks income, I recently reduced spending at the risk of moving slower and building fewer homes this year. Our staff and AmeriCorps members continue to perform little miracles and somehow "make do" with what we have. But, we are already in need of additional construction materials, equipment and a laundry list of resources to continue moving ahead. Unfortunately, we can only meet those needs as funds become available. That's where you can play an important role.

Not long ago you should have received an annual appeal from John Hollenbach (President & CEO of First Savings Bank of Perkasio) and me. Many of you have responded and we thank you with all our hearts. There are still thousands of you out there who we have not heard from. Please consider a gift as soon as you are able, so we can continue to provide decent, affordable homes for Bucks County families in need.

Many of you have sent me notes thanking Habitat Bucks for serving our community, especially with all of the negative things going on in our world. We thank you for these notes and we encourage you to continue providing the resources to do an even better job in the future.

With the thanks of our board, staff and partner families,

Jim Petrucci
Executive Director

Recognizing Excellence

Once a month, members from our Building Committee select an individual who, by his or her actions, has demonstrated a level of service and dedication to our Habitat Bucks affiliate that extends beyond the call of duty, deserving special recognition. Our Volunteers of the Month have made a major impact on our project. They set a benchmark of human kindness and compassion to which we all can aspire, helping to bring the dreams of our Habitat families into reality. Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County greatly appreciates the efforts and accomplishments of these individuals. The following recipients have been named since Emerald Hollow began:



December 2001:
Tom Hardy



January 2002:
TBA



February 2002:
Nick Grant



March 2002:
Steve Bauman



April 2002:
Tom Schantz



June 2002:
Becca Stephens



July 2002:
Ray Fluck



August 2002:
Geoff Simpson



Sept. 2002:
Gilbert Winner

GENUARDI'S

New Register Receipt Program

Genuardi's has recently changed their register receipt program and made it even easier for you to contribute money to Habitat. Genuardi's Community Cash Back Program has gone paperless. It's now a web-based program powered by eScrip. If you've have been collecting paper register receipts for Habitat (or want to start with this easy new program) go to www.escrip.com to register your Genuardi's club card or your credit/debit card. Habitat Bucks' group ID# is available under "sign up." You can also register in person at any Genuardi's customer service counter or call Mikaela Martin, 215-348-2204 x306. As before, a percentage of your purchases will be donated to Habitat. You will need to register only once a year. The store is no longer redeeming cash register receipts. Thank you for your support. We look forward to a more efficient fundraising system. *Please note: we are still accepting ACME register receipts.*

The Habitat Family Grows Introducing Our New Associate Director

Trish Kriger saw the Emerald Hollow property with the original Tusavitz home and thought, "the landscape is gorgeous, like God's country."

When she moved from Corning, NY to Bucks County in September 2001, Trish wanted to plug into the local Habitat affiliate. The homes of Emerald Hollow were still a blueprint, so she started with our public relations/marketing committee. A year later, with the project in full swing, Habitat Bucks welcomes Trish as the associate director.



Serving the mission of Habitat seems to be in her blood. "Habitat was my father's cause," Trish says. "We've always donated to the organization, and since college when I went on my first Habitat build, I've known that this was one of the places where I would love to work."

Previously, Trish managed the daily operations at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown. She also took part in developing public programs and marketing strategies for the museum. Through her professional background in public relations and management, Trish brings her vision that all levels operate toward the organization's goals.

She divides her time between the site and the office, coordinating the building with the administration of the project.

"I love the mixed model, and I enjoy getting to know the families. I've learned a great deal about construction and how Emerald Hollow differs from single-home projects in the past," Trish says. "The schedule is a little slower and more complex, but every day is a good day here."

Welcome, Trish!

Hello, Hello and Goodbye

Molly Mattecheck and Robin Fraser

(pictured right) joined the AmeriCorps construction crew this fall. They will be learning their trade alongside Construction Supervisor Ray Luszczak and Joe Devlin, who is staying another year through AmeriCorps.

After graduating from the University of Portland with a degree in sociology, Molly wanted to do a year of volunteer service. "I want to do some-

thing for someone else before I go into the career world and start doing work for my own gain. I worked with Habitat while I was in college, and I just knew this is where I wanted to be. Habitat is one of the best volunteer organizations there is."

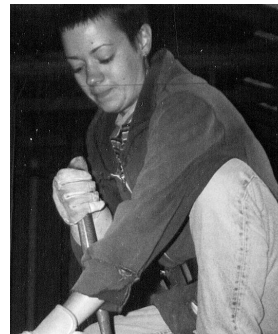
Robin wanted to become part of Habitat for Humanity after building with the organization in Tijuana, Mexico. As a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and a former kindergarten teacher, Robin is here to learn construction and to teach new volunteers. "I want to get a better understanding of how houses are put together." She also wants to surround herself with people who share the value that doing good is more important than making money. "I've met people here who are willing to give so much...it's really astounded me."

Molly and Robin aren't here to change the world, but they want to make a difference in the lives of a precious few. "Nothing gives me more pleasure than seeing someone's life change and



knowing I had something to do with it," Robin says. "It's a very humbling experience."

As the second generation of AmeriCorps volunteers at Emerald Hollow, Molly and Robin hope their presence will help break down the bias that women can't do this kind of work. The road toward that goal has been paved for them by Romy Brossman, (pictured left) a first-generation AmeriCorps volunteer.



AmeriCorps

members commit to a year of service and now it's time for Romy to move on. As she pounds her last nails, she leaves with a wealth of memories and confidence in her abilities. "There are so many people willing to give their time, energy and money. It's been much more than I'd thought possible," she says. "I'm not afraid to tackle a project because I have fundamental skills now," Romy says. "I've learned skills that will allow me to repair my own house."

While she won't miss the tool belt that hung around her waist this past year, she feels she'll be a better architect after working on this project. "I learned from Ray that when you're actually building the design, it's sometimes difficult to construct it the way it looks on the plans."

Romy starts this spring with the Boston Architectural Center, where she will work toward a master's degree in architecture. WE WISH YOU THE BEST!

Thank You Notes

Quakertown National Bank is servicing the mortgages for our Habitat model homes in Emerald Hollow and four of the most recent Bristol homes. We are very grateful for your ongoing support.

Thank you Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce for selecting our agency to receive the Business Cares grant for 2002. Business Cares is a foundation that enriches the lives of families during the holiday season.

From our wish list: Gary Ehrenfried, with The Home Depot at Neshaminy, donated a Ryobi 10-in. miter saw, which arrived just in time for the baseboard trim work on our first four units.

Rebecca Collins of Bensalem provided measuring tapes, and TJ Miernicki of Perkasio donated funds to purchase measuring tapes, a ladder and quick clamps for the work crews.

Thank You for These Tribute Fund Gifts

IN MEMORY OF...

James Borie
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hrin

Joan Cooke
Anonymous

Jeffrey Gribb
Mr. and Mrs. Sandi Ives

Fred Grun
William A. Grun

Henry Koch
Rosemarie Finn-Torchia

Mildred Beck Pine
Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

IN HONOR OF...

Paula Ballinger
Helen Love

Florence Cacioppo-Jahn
Margaret McBride-Dean

Hal Margolit
Stephanie Margolit

Mary Reiff
Ruth Sauter



director's corner



Executive Director,
Jim Petruzzi

Who is Habitat Bucks?

We often speak of the organizations and businesses supporting us, but our real strength comes from individuals. We had a great crowd at the dedication of the first four homes in Emerald Hollow—about 200 strong—but there are thousands of you out there. So let me share some of what I spoke about during the ceremony. The people I recognized have played key roles in helping Habitat Bucks successfully undertake such a huge project, and these individuals are examples of the host of truly special people working with us.

Without the leadership of our staff, these dedicated few—and I mean few—we could accomplish nothing. They are blessed with long hours, low pay, hard work and new issues to deal with every day. And yet, working alongside the families partnering with Habitat Bucks and our wonderful volunteers, the sacrifices are worth it. Ray Luszczyk, our construction supervisor (Czar of Building, Grand Poopah of Partitions or Wizard of Walls if you like), is one of the key staff people. Without Ray, we have a beautiful piece of land and piles of lumber. Ray makes the homes happen; he leads our construction efforts with extraordinary dedication, a sense of humor and an ability to orchestrate the work of the professionals and amateurs who are Habitat Bucks.

Our volunteers are made up of a cross-section of our county, from professionals to students. One special volunteer on site is Nick Grant—a super volunteer. Nick showed up when the project began and comes out almost every day with our construction staff. One of his rewards is to be kidded and harassed by staff and other volunteers (lovingly, I assure you). Luckily, Nick is a person who can give twice what he receives!

Nick is an asset, and he is in good company. Two young ladies, Ally and Patty, with whom

I have worked on site several times, told me their goal is (together) to donate 500 hours of service during the course of the Emerald Hollow project—the same number of hours our families commit to working on the homes. That's a lot of hours for full-time students, but somehow I think they will find a way. They are always willing to learn and to try new things.

Another group that is critical to our efforts are our AmeriCorps members at the construction site and our VISTA members in the office. These young people come and serve with us for a year through a federal program. They receive a very small stipend and are called upon to contribute as full staff. We've had some great members, two of whom are Joe Devlin and Romy Brossman. They were our first AmeriCorps members and are known as construction crew leaders to many of you. Joe has opted to stay with us a second year in a new capacity and Romy is leaving to pursue a graduate degree.

Finally, our board of directors—a board we require to really work—both at the site and in their offices! Board members have come, served and moved on, with others taking their places. This healthy new blood keeps us moving ahead. Paul Landes, our president and inspiration, is an extraordinary contributor within this group. Paul gives as asked and encourages others to give of their time, energy and donations!

These are just snapshots of the multitude of people who make Habitat Bucks successful. Our undying thanks goes out to each and every one of them—and you! Because of you, we are not done with our work, but just beginning to eradicate substandard housing in our county.

Habitat Homeownership Opportunities

Habitat for Humanity is providing homeownership opportunities through two home model programs for our new development, Emerald Hollow Estates, in Trumbauersville, PA (near Quakertown).



To qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home, you must meet the income requirements for your family size and you must:

- live or work in Bucks County for at least one year
- have a satisfactory credit history
- currently live in substandard housing (unsafe living conditions, overcrowding, over-priced rent, etc.)
- have a willingness to partner with Habitat in completing "sweat equity" hours and participating in media coverage
- be able to pay a monthly mortgage payment

Income Requirements

Family Size	HABITAT HOME MODEL		INTERFAITH HOME MODEL	
	Min Income	Max Income	Min Income	Max Income
1	19,935	\$28,795	\$22,150	\$35,450
2	\$22,770	\$32,890	\$25,300	\$40,500
3	\$25,650	\$37,050	\$28,500	\$45,600
4	\$28,476	\$41,132	\$31,650	\$50,650
5	\$30,780	\$44,460	\$34,200	\$54,700
6	\$33,030	\$47,710	\$36,700	\$58,750
7	\$33,325	\$51,025	\$39,250	\$62,800
8	\$37,620	\$54,340	\$41,800	\$66,850

For more information on Habitat homeownership opportunities, call Stefanie Clark at 215-348-2204, x307.

wish list

- Bobcat excavator or any machine with a bucket on it (\$5000)
- 7-ton dump truck (\$7000)
- On-site beverages (\$50/month)
- Leather hammer holders (\$3.50 each)
- Stanley retractable utility knives (\$4 each)
- One-piece fiberglass tub kit (white) (\$280)
- Lunches for volunteers (\$400/month)



Coming Home is produced by Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County

Editor: Nancy Lewandoski

Assistant Editor: Stefanie Clark

Newsletter Design: Kelli Regan, The Lightbulb Lab

Printing: Old York Road Printing



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
OF BUCKS COUNTY**

340 N. Broad Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
www.habitatbucks.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Board of Directors

President, Paul Landes (*High Aim Resources*)

Vice President, John Davis (*Borough of Doylestown*)

Treasurer, Hal Margolit (*Drucker & Scaccetti, PC*)

Secretary, Maureen Gatto (*Law Offices of Maureen Gatto*)

Steve Bauman (*TH Properties*)

Tony Carlin (*The Carlin Group*)

Jim Dowling (*Ethan Allen, Inc.*)

Susan Jones (*Commerce Bank*)

Rev. Bernie Kelly (*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*)

Glen Nemath (*Nemath Construction*)

John Panichella (*GE Betz*)

Priscilla Stein

Julie Stevens (*Dunlap & Associates*)

Staff Members

Jim Petruzzi, *Executive Director*

Trish Kriger, *Associate Director*

Vince Cipriano, *Site Supervisor*

Stefanie Clark, *Family Program Director*

Ray Luszczyk, *Construction Supervisor*

Mikaela Martin, *Director of Operations*

Joe Morrison, *Chief Development Officer*

AmeriCorps* Volunteers

Lisa Henderson, *Volunteer Coordinator (VISTA)*

Nancy Lewandoski, *Youth Coordinator (VISTA)*

Joe Devlin (*VISTA*)

Robin Fraser

Molly Mattecheck

Member Agency



United Way
of Bucks County

NON PROF ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
No. 79
Doylestown,
PA 18901