

# COMINGHOME

Habitat Happenings for our Friends & Volunteers

## Four Green Homes Nearing Completion

Four townhomes on Colonial Avenue in Bristol Township exemplify our continued effort to decrease energy usage, saving homeowners money on utility bills and being kind to the environment.

In "building green," we fully expect these homes to receive the coveted Energy Star rating. These 1350-square-foot, three-bedroom units have utilized all the current green building standards including Insulated Concrete Foundations, soy based spray foam, Energy-Star rated windows and doors, 15-SEER condenser units and sophisticated underground water retention.

Preliminary Energy Star testing indicates that these homes will score very well and ensure that Habitat Bucks maintains a green standard.

Next up are two lots we recently purchased in Bristol Township, at the corner of Plymouth and Watson Avenues. We plan to build energy-efficient ranch homes, one with four bedrooms and one with three bedrooms. Construction on the four-bedroom home is slated for this summer with completion by early 2012.



You are invited: We will celebrate home dedication to the new families Saturday, June 4 at 9:30 a.m. Location: 1421 Colonial Ave., Bristol.

## Renters Prepare for Homeownership

Four families are just about to become homeowners with Habitat for Humanity! They've worked hard to complete their sweat equity hours; they've participated in workshops, learned how to be responsible for their mortgages, and they are now realizing their dream. Their new, three-bedroom townhomes, located on Colonial Avenue in Bristol Township, will be dedicated June 4, 2011.

Arteshia Darby, Judy Grange, Titus Muchiri and Phillis Mwangi, Patrick Muriithi and Milkah Njogu are low-income families who live in Bucks County, and in order to afford to purchase a home, they need a hand up. Some live in large complexes where safety is a big concern. Judy is still shaken by the memory of being attacked as she arrived home from work one night. Titus & Phillis and Patrick & Milkah, who have small children, are outgrowing their apartments. Arteshia pays very high heating bills because the home that she rents is so poorly insulated. Offering families the opportunity to help build their homes, and selling them to the families at cost provides the foundation for a new future. For some families, their mortgage payment will be less than they are now paying to rent an apartment. Join us. Donate today at [www.habitatbucks.org/donate.htm](http://www.habitatbucks.org/donate.htm). Thank you for your support!

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS: The DOW Chemical Company, the Women Build program, made possible through Lowe's, and Episcopal churches of Bucks County.**



From left: Arteshia Darby, Judy Grange, Phillis Mwangi & Titus Muchiri, Patrick Muriithi & Milkah Njogu

## Volunteer Spotlight

These volunteers keep pick-ups and deliveries for the ReStore running smoothly. Thank you!



Audrey Coulter has contributed over 500 hours.



Barbara Kearns has contributed over 250 hours.



Dianne King has contributed over 100 hours.

## Launching A Brush With Kindness

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County is proud to announce the launch into neighborhood revitalization with our new program, *A Brush With Kindness* (ABWK). This summer, we will be jumping into new territory, expanding our outreach to more families in need of assistance on the home they already own. In our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we are excited about this program, initiated by Habitat for Humanity International.

Following Habitat's tradition of a zero-percent interest loan, ABWK will offer a loan and the labor needed for exterior home preservation. Qualifying improvements include painting, landscaping and minor repair services for homeowners in need throughout Bucks County. This program is designed to help low-income homeowners who are affected by age, disability or family circumstances who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes.

Through ABWK they are able to maintain their homes with pride and dignity. We expect this program to help revitalize the appearance of neighborhoods, strengthen connections within communities and help preserve affordable housing for families in Bucks County.

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

## Earning our First Energy Star Rating

Our first single home in more than 10 years has four bedrooms for this multi-generational family, and it is our most energy-efficient home yet! Located on Liberator Street in Bristol Township, we completed a total remodel of this home, using the existing 825 square-foot foundation as a foot print, and transformed it into a beautiful 1656 square-foot home. The new homeowner, LaTarsha McWhite, purchased her home in November, where she lives with her two children, Ronnie and Ronald, and her mother, Irene.

Habitat Bucks has committed to "Green Building" with the emphasis on energy efficiency and we are proud to say that with this home, we have received our first Energy Star rating.

The new homeowners will reap the benefits of lower utility bills now and in the future and also have minimal maintenance on their home. The home scored a "61 on the HERR'S index" which translates to a 36% savings on energy cost over conventional homes.

Habitat was also the winner of the prestigious **Contractor of the Year** award for 2011 from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The Liberator Street home was the hands down winner in the category of total home remodel under \$250,000.





# Volunteers Make ReStore Clinics a Success



Dave demonstrates furniture repair and refinishing.

The ReStore has been bustling with activity! Our first three workshops proved to be a huge success. The Saturday classes are open to the public and are held free of charge.

“We are excited about being able to give back to the community by offering these workshops,” ReStore Manager, Dianna Curran, said. “So many people support us through shopping and donating. We hope they will find these workshops helpful.”

One of our regular volunteers, Dave Ames, instructed the first two classes: repairing and refinishing furniture. The focus of the third workshop was transforming laminate countertop into a granite look-alike. This workshop was conducted by Jamey Campbell, who is also a ReStore volunteer.

Habitat will continue these workshops in the fall. This summer, the ReStore will be offering more items for sale at our barn in the Trumbauersville/Quakertown area. The barn sales will be held once a month on a Saturday. Like us on facebook, or visit our website at [habitatbucks.org](http://habitatbucks.org) and click on the ReStore for more details.

**We would like to thank all of our volunteers and patrons who help us fulfill our mission in building affordable homes with low-income families.**

## News briefs

**Women Build 2011** is off to a great start! Our next event is a Sweet Tea Shopping Spectacular. Check our website for details and a full list of events and activities:

[www.habitatbucks.org/women\\_build.htm](http://www.habitatbucks.org/women_build.htm)

We are pleased to announce that **Wells Fargo** is the first sponsor to step forward in support of our next home, located at Watson Ave. in Bristol. We plan to break ground in August 2011. Thank you Wells Fargo!

The **Tree of Life** tapestry, woven in commemoration of the Langhorne Carpet Company's 80th anniversary, is now available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale of the tapestry benefit Habitat Bucks. Visit our website for more information: [www.habitatbucks.org/shop.htm](http://www.habitatbucks.org/shop.htm)



**Friday, October 28**  
**6:30-11:00 p.m.**  
**Doylestown Country Club**

## You are invited!

Mark your calendars now for our third annual gala event.

This magical evening will be an affair to remember.

Enjoy sumptuous food, wine, music, and fabulous auction items.

Everyone is welcome.

Ticket and sponsorship information coming soon.

Bring your friends and be part of a sparkling, festive celebration to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County.

The goal for the evening is to raise \$50,000, which will be used toward the building of our next home.

*Stay tuned for clues about our three mystery doors and the keys that open them.*

We look forward to seeing you!



31 Oak Avenue, Suite 100  
Chalfont, PA 18914

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## Memorial Gifts

**Rev. John Berstecher**  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Horrell

**George Carr**  
Doris Carr

**Kenneth Alden Darnier**  
Sally Minich

**Stephanie Fauata**  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Horrell

**Bill Fletcher**  
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Fletcher

**Kenneth Hadfield**  
Ann Hadfield

**Jamie Haigh**  
Doris Carr

**Patricia Helmer**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Bailey  
Mr. and Mrs. James Hulett  
Sew What's

**Mae Henderson**  
Elmer Henderson

**John Knoell**  
Gretchen Knoell

**Russell Koehler**  
Dorothy Koehler

**Donald Lauriha**  
Mr. and Mrs. Buzz Cochran

**John Malone**  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Malone

**Leroy Miller**

Anonymous  
**Robert Minton**  
Vilma Boyd  
Nancy Davis  
Eddington Presbyterian Church  
Ellen Silver and Sylvia Silver

**Robert Minton**  
John Powell

**Frank Pagenkemper**  
Janet Pagenkemper

**William Pfeiffer**  
Ruth Pfeiffer

**Dorothy Roberts**  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Adamski

**Alice Schlenger**  
Newton Richards and Ann Paice

**Ken Vinis**  
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Reed

**John Wright**  
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Greer

## In Honor Of...

**Arise Music Team**  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Dahl

**Customers and employees of Rich-  
boro Shop-N-Bag**

New Horizon's Musical Ministries

**Habitat Employees and Volunteers**  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Thomas

**The Emmell Family**

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brayton

**Xana Bertino**  
Vince Bertino

**Michele Boesch**  
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Harold Slagter

**Cheryl Bovza**  
Janice Mininberg

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Mary Beth Kozar

**Ellen Cicak**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Overton

**Rich and Pat Dalton**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dalton

**Caryl Dix**  
Anonymous

**Paul Donley**  
Anonymous

**Peter and Janet Dywer**  
**Andy and Lori Fletcher**

**Ruth Fletcher and Adam Schuller**  
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Fletcher

**Jay Friske**  
Allison Valdez

**Ruth Gerken**  
Jay Heikes

**Emily Hamm**  
Mr. and Mrs. James Pelc

**Sylvia Hollick**  
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**Jeanne Leslie-Hughes**  
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**Cheryl Luce**  
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**William Strecker**  
Jayne Poole

**Barbara Thompson**  
Catherine Holliday

**Bill Tuszynski**  
Stephen Steklenski

**Richard Walker's Retirement**  
USGS Eastern Region

Learn more at [www.habitatbucks.org](http://www.habitatbucks.org)