

Habitat Heartbeat

The Newsletter for Habitat for Humanity • Santa Cruz County • Fall 2008

Chaminade Event Takes Center Stage

Fundraising event marks
Habitat Santa Cruz'
20th anniversary

2008 marks Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County's 20th anniversary and we are celebrating on October 24th with an all-out fundraising dinner at Chaminade in Santa Cruz.

This (black-tie optional) event will be Habitat's largest fundraiser of the year, and includes a reception, dinner, music, and dancing until midnight. Charity donors will 'build' a complete house during the festivities by bidding on component parts. Guests will also be treated to a murder investigation over the course of the evening with lots of "local" suspects, ending with the "arrest" of the "culprit." Dance music provided by The Garage Band. All proceeds will be used to construct more homes for those in need of decent housing.

When: **October 24th**

Where: **Chaminade in Santa Cruz**

Sponsorships: **\$1500 - \$10,000 (includes 8 seats)**

Individual Tickets: **\$125**

To become a sponsor or purchase tickets, contact Cathy Wylie at 831.469.4663, or admin@habitatsc.org. Tickets may also be ordered online at www.habitatsc.org/anniversary.html



The anniversary event includes a reception, dinner, music, and dancing until midnight, plus, donors will 'build' a complete house during the festivities by bidding on component parts.

First GreenBuild Award Goes to Habitat Santa Cruz

City opts for sustainable building practices



Color this house green: 179 Belvedere Terrace, Santa Cruz

A Green Building Award was granted to the local Habitat affiliate by the City of Santa Cruz for a newly completed home at 179 Belvedere Terrace. Spurred on by the 'green' goals of Construction Supervisor Steve Biolsi and generous assistance from Thrivent for Lutherans, the house is an example of sustainable building practices and a guide for future construction. Some of the items included in the building are borate pressure-treated wood and engineered lumber; fly-ash concrete, formaldehyde-free insulation, a tankless water heater, resource-efficient landscaping and, with funding from PG&E, an array of solar panels.

The City's recommended 'green' practices became an ordinance in June, 2008. They include deconstruction and reuse of materials, energy and waste management, and erosion control, among many other specifications.

The construction at Belvedere Terrace is the result of an alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International that was announced in 2005.

Go to: www.thrivent.com for full information.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael Floyd

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Cathy Wylie

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Virginia Villa-Hernandez

• • •

BOARD OFFICERS

Tom Morell - President

Brian Bailey - Vice President

Jennifer Parks - Secretary

Reed Geisreiter - Treasurer

• • •

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Mike Bethke

Conni Butler

Sharon Bystran

Jane Chapman

Lorene Hall

Rueben Helick

Dave McClure

• • •

ADVISORY BOARD TRUSTEES

Dale Bridenbaugh

Tom D'Angelo

Papia Gambelin

Andy Giorgianni

Melanie Shaffer-Freitas

Rosemary Zarate-Crevello

• • •

HEARTBEAT STAFF

Lorene Hall

Margery Moran

• • •

1014 Cedar Street
Santa Cruz CA 95060

office: 831.469.4663
fax: 831.469.3118

www.habitatsc.org
email address:
info@habitatsc.org

Director's Message Michael Floyd, Interim Executive Director



For the 28 years I have known her, I have listened to the stories of Lillian, my family's "progressive" friend who, now in her 80's, met and worked with Millard & Linda Fuller in the days

before blitz building was in fashion. So I can truly say that it was an honor to be recently asked to take a break from my own real estate business to sit in Emily Hanson's chair over the coming months as our Santa Cruz affiliate conducts its search for a new Executive Director.

As a retired print magazine journalist and editor I hope to bring that same passion Lillian has instilled in me to Habitat for Humanity of Santa Cruz County while raising overall awareness of this truly humanitarian organization. Nothing is more fundamental than the family unit, and few things rank higher than putting a roof over one's head. So, I am hard pressed to come up with anything more rewarding than extending a hand to a family that needs it. And I feel blessed to be able to share that feeling with all of you who have been here making that dream possible for so many people.

Sincerely,

Michael Floyd
Interim Executive Director

Farewell! Habitat bids Farewell to Andrea Tolaio, Director of Resource Development who left our Habitat family here in Santa Cruz to spend some quality time with her family and ponder her next endeavor. Emily Hanson, Executive Director accepted an offer with a waste management company. *We wish them both well.*

Steve Biolsi, in Partnership

Our "Green Guide" is moving on
by Brian Bailey

Perhaps our considerable loss will be another Habitat's deserved gain, and perhaps we will be comforted by that, but the end of Steve Biolsi's tenure as Construction Supervisor is hitting Habitat Santa Cruz pretty hard.

Steve didn't choose construction as a career nor did he have prior experience.

He came to HfH Santa Cruz via Americorp and Peninsula Habitat, moving here to work with Christopher Lee, our previous Supervisor. When Chris retired, Steve 'jumped into the deep end,' as the saying goes, being solely in charge of the Casillas build, followed quickly by Belvedere Terrace. His commitment to sustainable construction led him to ongoing research into recycled, low impact, pollutant-free materials, which he then acquired and saw incorporated into the homes he was responsible for. He regularly attended Board meetings, providing home-baked goodies along with 'green guidance' for the Board. The Green Build award from the City of Santa Cruz is a direct result of Steve's devotion to his goals and to Habitat for Humanity.

Steve will be looking for a place with a Habitat affiliate in New York State, where he and his new wife Christy have recently moved. He will undoubtedly continue to share his leadership, humility, and good humor in his new post. Most likely he will also continue to sign his messages and emails with Habitat's 'in partnership' salutation.

So, from all of us, Steve, good luck and thank you, *In Partnership.*



Departing Construction Supervisor
Steve Biolsi

Habitat Volunteers Help Other Agencies

Janus House is Habitat SC's most recent project

by Cathy Wylie

Sometimes good ideas surpass expectations and the results are far beyond what could have been imagined. What began as a way to keep Habitat's volunteers engaged blossomed into something much greater than we anticipated. We learned that our board members and construction volunteers have roots in the community that extend well beyond Habitat for Humanity.

In May of this year, Habitat for Humanity volunteers completed two homes on Belvedere Terrace and asked us "what's next?" Staff and board members, realizing there would be a pause until the next build, contacted several community service organizations and offered Habitat's volunteer labor force to assist in any needed projects. Over the summer, they have worked at the Homeless Services Center; built a sandbox and planter box for Nuevo Dia Child Development Center; helped install a



Kyle Smith lays flooring, one of the last steps in the completion of Janus House

volleyball court at Above the Line group home for girls in Watsonville, and built garden sheds for Ocean Alternative Education Center and Sierra Pacific Charter School. In August they assisted Janus of Santa Cruz with its remodel of a 100-year-old Victorian that will house pregnant women and new mothers undergoing drug and substance-abuse treatment. Currently they are building a new storage shed for the Homeless Garden Project to



The door is open! Director Linda Jones at Janus House in Santa Cruz

replace an outdoor kitchen destroyed by fire, and will soon begin building a food storage shed for Valley Churches United in Ben Lomond. They hope to wrap up the season working at Siena House, a home for unwed mothers.

By reaching out a helping hand, Habitat has been rewarded with newly forged partnerships with other organizations that serve the community. We have also reaffirmed how, when we come together with a common cause, we have the power to succeed beyond our dreams.

New Space! More Space!

New office deemed 'wonderful!'



Volunteer Niki Derby opens the door to Habitat Santa Cruz' new office.

Habitat Santa Cruz has new, more spacious, offices at 1014 Cedar Street in downtown Santa Cruz and no one could be happier than the staff. "Now we have space for volunteers to work, areas to talk with visitors, room for meetings, and sorely needed storage space," says Administrator Cathy Wylie. "There is a huge table where we can spread out to process mailings, and the chairs and desks are top quality!"

All the furnishing are a generous gift

from the General Partners of South County Professional Park LP: George Couch III, Richard and Diane Kleinand, and Reuben Helick.

1014 Cedar Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

office: 831.469.4663
fax: 831.469.3118



Why We Volunteer; Why We Stay

Board members tell of their commitment

"After participating in Hurricane Relief in March of 2006, I got hooked on building. A friend suggested I volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. I've discovered that Habitat brings Hope (with a capital 'H') to families that are in need of quality housing and a better future. The volunteers are a dedicated group of people with different life experiences coming together for the same purpose. When I help build a home I have a tangible product that I can see at the end of the day, and when the home is finished I can take pride and satisfaction in what has been done."

Jane Adams Chapman, Board of Directors, HfH Santa Cruz

Donate Online!

Habitatsc.org now allows you to donate online securely through Paypal. The system accepts all major credit cards as well as Paypal, and allows you to make a single donation or to donate on a recurring basis. To show your support, click on the Donate link in the Quicklinks menu at www.habitatsc.org

Donate

Long-time Volunteers: The Heart of the Organization

Collectively they've pounded enough nails to just about circle the earth



Dave Allen, cabinet maker extraordinaire

What can we say about them?

They comprise the core of our building team, the ones who are there every Tuesday and Saturday. We thank them; we admire them; we need them!

Thank you to our volunteers!

George Wren, Paul Fewel, Tony Krajci, Brian Bailey, Jim Chambers, Al Crawley, Dale Bridenbaugh, Bill Reisig, Beth Silcott, Heather Clowser, Jon Hooper, Dan Kriege, Don Erba, Herman Goon, Mark Navratil, Bill Smart, Jack Schifando, Frank Smith, Leonard Damm, Helen Damm, Eric Nelson, John Reisdorf, Rex Lawson, Dave Allen, Tom D'angelo, Rohan Mahy, Cecilia Crocker, Frank Kline, Ivy Sarrat, Kevin Kilpatrick, Pirat Thongkam, John DeValcourt, Paul Sanders.

Thanks to you, and to all of the rest of our volunteers who have made our projects a success.



Long-time volunteers (from left) Beth Silcott, Dan Kriege, and Dale Bridenbaugh

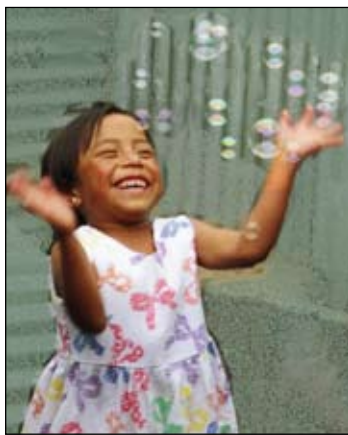
Bricks, Rebar, and Tithes

by Lorene Hall

"It is about more than money. It is an act of faith and love that lets you know you are not alone. I like a verse from Proverbs 25:25: 'As cold water is to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.'"

Adrian Ciorna, Director,
Habitat for Humanity,
Romania

Julia's home had been two rooms: one opened to the street to create the tiny grocery store that her mother used to earn their living. The other, only partially roofed, was where they



Five-year-old Julia is very happy in her new home.

cooked and ate and slept, where they washed their clothes and themselves, and where the children played when it was raining. Outside was a weathered privy, a fence used as a clothesline, three rows of corn and a few chickens wandering loose. In the rainy season the dirt floor turned to mud, the mice rustled in the damp walls, the chickens came inside, and the children were too often sick. When I met five year old Julia she was about to move into a new, dry, warm, Habitat house: a

house with glass windows, a solid foundation and roof, space for play and homework, and beds for everyone. She was very, very excited.

Her local Habitat team had welcomed us warmly and brought us to meet a family whose decent new home was partly financed by our donation.

The name for this special donation is "tithe." Every Habitat affiliate tithes - 10% of their own cash donations - with the funds going to other countries, which the affiliate chooses. The year I met Julia, her country, Guatemala, was one of the recipients of HfH Santa Cruz' tithe. Her family's new home cost about the same amount as a single bedroom in the U.S. The purchasing value of the Santa Cruz tithe had been multiplied by eight by being sent to Guatemala.

Adrian Ciorna, National Director of Habitat Romania, which is a current recipient of HfH Santa Cruz' tithe, says that his organization is the main one in his country dealing with poverty housing. About 30 percent of their program is funded by tithing from other affiliates. "Still," he says, "it is about more than money. It is an act of faith and love that lets you know you are not alone. I like a verse from Proverbs 25:25: 'As cold water is to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.'"

Find out more about how you can become involved with your local Habitat for Humanity affiliate by calling 831.469.4663, emailing admin@habitatsc.org, or visiting www.habitatsc.org