



Fall 2009

# Cornerstone

The Newsletter of the Burlington County Affiliate  
of Habitat for Humanity

The mission of Habitat for Humanity Burlington County is to eliminate substandard and overcrowded housing in Burlington County through affordable homeownership.

## Homes for the Holidays

*Carle M. Murray, Office Manager*

At this special time of year, when holiday songs hit the airwaves of television, radio and computers, we become filled with the joy of giving.

Someone once said that this feeling should not come only once a year, but the spirit of giving should live within us throughout the year. That's what makes you, our companions in compassionate giving, so very special. You give of your time through volunteerism, your faith in what we do with your donations and you give of your hearts, simply by caring what happens to your neighbors and their children.

At Habitat for Humanity Burlington County, we witness that compassion each day when our doors open and we see you come through them to donate so that another child can enjoy a Home for the Holidays.

This year is no different because the need for decent, affordable housing for families in Burlington County continues to exist and it is our mission to bring and end to this. We see the benefit of your gifts each time a child brings home a report card with grades that would make any parent proud; or opens their first saving's account at a neighborhood bank. We see it in the decline of gang participation in our communities and the increase of college

educated youngsters who, without your help, might never have thought of college as their future.

We have seen that when a child grows up with a parent who *owns their home*, they benefit not only from the health, safety and stability of homeownership, they also have a greater sense of being part of something larger than their family; They become part of the community.

Habitat Partner Families come to the community in which most have spent their

youth, with their own children hoping to offer something they themselves have never known; a family home. They work tirelessly at helping to build another family's home before they ever take hand in the process of building their own. They do this with a grateful heart and with the recognition that they must help someone else before they can begin to help themselves. It is with this spirit that each home is born and each family becomes "part" of that house. Their sweat is actually poured in like the foundation on which it stands;



The Cook Family Closed on their new home in September 2009.

a proud marker for all time; A memory for their children and possibly, their children's children. With each home built the end to poverty housing gets that much closer to being realized.

Please join us anew this year by opening your heart to another and help another child to sit in a warm, cozy home to call their own this Holiday Season and throughout the entire year! On behalf of all of the families who bear the fruit of your gifts, we thank you again and again for your many gifts, not just during the holiday season, but all through the year!

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that we do, we are also proud of the other gifts that we bring to the community. True, Habitat relies on the generosity of individuals and corporations and groups for donations, but we also give back. The



The dedication of our 15th home in Beverly.

## The Gift of Opportunity

*Todd Ermer, Construction Manager*

During the holidays, there are many organizations brought to your attention whose goal is to make this year's holidays a little brighter for people in need. By supporting Habitat over this past year you have been an important part of giving a permanent address to a future full of brighter holidays for two families right here in Burlington County.

We have also transformed a couple of homes in Medford this year. The pictures below of one of these homes speak for themselves; these homes obviously needed a lot of work. If the pictures don't convince you, talk to the hundreds of volunteers who could attest to the hard work they have put into these projects that are scheduled to be completed in the beginning part of 2010. Not only do we pride ourselves in the actual construction work

biggest thing we offer is opportunity. We offer opportunities for people in the community to use their skills and talents to make a difference in someone else's life.

We offer people the opportunity to put their useful, but unwanted things to good purpose at our ReStore. We offer corporations and businesses opportunities for their employees to build with us to change the dynamic of their corporate culture, if only for a day. We offer opportunities for businesses to save on taxes by contributing to a cause that they can see makes a difference and works directly in their community. We offer opportunities for students to learn the value of service. We offer a place for people who want to learn construction skills and network with others. We offer the opportunity for people to invest their money into making a difference in the community. And, of course, we offer opportunities to people to become homeowners who would be



**Before and After:** the amazing transformation of one of our Medford homes.

“At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was naked and you clothed me, I was homeless and you took me in.' Hungry not only for bread - but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing - but naked for human dignity and respect. Homeless not only for want of a room of bricks - but homeless because of rejection.” (Mother Teresa)

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## Thank you from a small, quiet place

*Joel Ford, Executive Director*

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone. But, as I write, the holidays are fast approaching. The frantic pace of the season is upon us and the whirlpool of holiday activity has begun. I find this time of year the most frenzied of all American holidays; Tensions rise and life takes on a sense of urgency that bears a strange resemblance to desperation. The level of consumerism and the focus on material objects leaves me spiritually unfulfilled. But, in moments of reflection, while the chaos of the season whirls around me like some strange vortex of blinking lights and brightly colored ribbon, I find a small, quiet space from which I can reflect.

It is from within this cocoon that I can see the important things in my life. It is there, in that calm harbor, that I can open my heart to the gifts that are all around me, but frequently hidden by the clutter of our every day lives. It is in this space that I can open myself to the Spirit and see the wonder and glory that is all around.

As we come to the close of another successful year here at Habitat for Humanity, we also take a moment to reflect and to remind ourselves that our mission relies on the generosity of others. In so doing, we are reminded that we could not have come this far without your support. We are so grateful for and blessed by your partnership. Like frenzied holiday shoppers, we tend to think only of what is left to do. True, there is so much more for us to do in the coming year but, for now, let us take a moment to say “Thank you!” and wish you the joy of the Holiday season. May God bless you and your family and the real Spirit of season fill your heart.

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## About our ReStore

**Marianne Reddick, ReStore Manager**

Welcome to the Burlington County Habitat for Humanity Restore! The mission of our ReStore is to raise funds to support the cost of building affordable housing in Burlington County! The ReStore is a retail store that sells donated building materials and home improvement items.

Our product line changes almost daily, but we frequently carry a large selection of lighting, home and office furniture, doors, kitchen cabinets, and a variety of appliances.

While each Habitat for Humanity Affiliate operates their stores differently, here is what you can expect from us:

- We don't negotiate prices- because we have so many items, work with volunteers, and price our items under market retail, we have a firm policy of no negotiation. Thank you for respecting it.
- We only accept full payment and don't take deposits for holding items. We will hold an item for 3 hours only. If you have not purchased it at the end of the hold, the item is

available for sale to the next customer.

- We don't do lay-away. Our policy is to require payment in full for an item. We then allow 7 business days to pick it up.
- We are a **self-serve** warehouse. We provide handcarts and flat-bed hand trucks for your convenience. We do not sell or rent our material handling equipment.
- We DO provide great service! Our helpful staff and volunteers are all eager to assist you.
- We DO We provide convenient hours and low prices.

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## ReStore Hours

**Tuesday** 10am to 7pm

**Wednesday** 9am to 7pm

**Thursday** 9am to 7pm

**Friday** 9am to 5pm

**Saturday** 9am to 2pm

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unable to become homeowners in a traditional way. This does not just benefit the new homeowner. Providing stable, affordable housing, benefits the entire community. So, as this year comes to a close, we ask you to seize the opportunity to help Habitat of Burlington County in our efforts to continue to give the gift of opportunity in this community.



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**Thank You to Area Businesses & Organizations!**

We truly appreciate the efforts of so many to accomplish our goals. The following have made contributions in 2008/2009:

Platinum Plus Level

- Henry Rowan Foundation
- Danellie Foundation
- Lowes-Delran & Hamilton, NJ
- Christine Dangler

Gold Level

- CDW Corporation
- Davis Enterprises

Silver Level

- Association Headquarters, Inc.
- Fluor Corporation
- GMAC Mortgage
- United Communities, McGuire A.F.B.
- Roster Financial, LLC
- Cetylite Industries, Inc.
- Dan Higgins Wood Flooring
- Home Depot Supply Florence, NJ
- ARI-Mt. Laurel, NJ
- J&D Richards Supply-Moorestown

Bronze Level

- Whitesell Industries, Inc.
- Builders League of South Jersey
- Christ Baptist Church
- First Presbyterian Church Moorestown
- Suburban Lighting
- Medford United Methodist Church
- Prudential Fox & Roach Voorhees
- CabinetTree
- Seagull Lighting
- Masco Bath

Cornerstone Level

- Associated Chiropractors of Burlington County
- Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Fox & Roach Charities
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church
- Empire-Cinnaminson, NJ
- Apt Supply

Cut or tear here and include with your gift in the envelope provided



**Habitat for Humanity Burlington County**

**Yes!, I want to make homeownership a reality for Burlington County families!!**

**Directions:** Please complete this form and return it to us in the response envelope provided. If you are giving a gift, don't forget to include you check!

**Pledge/Gift:**

- Gift enclosed:** Enclosed is my gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (checks payable to HFHBC)
- Donate by Credit Card:** Please charge my credit card as follows:  
 TOTAL amount to charge: \$\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_ (Please enter the TOTAL amount of the gift to be charged.)  
 In \_\_\_\_\_ monthly payments of \$\_\_\_\_\_ each, starting on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2009.  
 Credit Card Type:     Visa     MasterCard     Amex     Discover  
 Name exactly as it appears on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** (Required for Credit Card contribution)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:

- Please contact me about an estate gift/gift of stock
- Please remove me from your mailing list
- Save a tree. Send your newsletter to me by e-mail!
- Save 2 trees. Send my Thank you by e-mail also!