



Spring 2008

Cornerstone

The Newsletter of the Burlington County Affiliate
of Habitat for Humanity
www.habitatbcnj.org

THE MISSION OF HABITAT
FOR HUMANITY
BURLINGTON COUNTY IS
TO ELIMINATE
SUBSTANDARD AND
OVERCROWDED HOUSING
IN BURLINGTON COUNTY
THROUGH AFFORDABLE
HOME OWNERSHIP

Broad Changes

By Construction Manager Todd Ermer

Drive down Broad Street in Beverly, NJ just a few blocks from the Delaware River and you'll see the side by side exterior shells of the most recent builds of our affiliate. These are both on their way to becoming finished well-built, energy efficient homes. Accomplishing this achievement with many groups of volunteers is, in itself, impressive. However, I believe that sharing photos of the transformation of these properties will illustrate the "broad" difference that Habitat makes in the communities we serve.

Habitat obtained the properties a few years ago each with dilapidated homes on them as the picture shows.



Both were in such poor condition and posed potential threats to volunteers that they needed to be demolished by a professional demolition contractor



(continued on page 2)

HFHBC Welcomes Another Homeowner!!



(Exec. Dir. Mavis McGuire, Alfonse and mom Andrea Milos)

Our first contact with Andrea and Alfonse Milos came near the end of 2007. We received an application for housing from a single, hard working mother of a four year old son. Andrea immediately struck us as a fighter. She has had numerous personal challenges to overcome and has done so much more than even she ever thought possible. She applied with Habitat for Humanity Burlington County while managing a local hair salon and in less than seven months, she closed on her new home in Burlington City. We are fortunate at our affiliate because we are blessed with Partner Families who come through our doors with a gracious spirit and giving heart. They come ready and willing to complete their "sweat equity" hours accomplished through helping to build the homes of other families as well as their own. There is something special about a single parent who comes to build early in the morning, staying late into the day, then going over to our ReStore to get in a few more hours stocking shelves and working with customers. All of this was done in her effort to give her son his very own room and a small yard in which to run with a ball. Very few families are able to commit their time and exhausted effort into getting through their "sweat equity" as quickly as Andrea has. She smiled through it all and has become an even better person for it. She and her adorable son have given themselves a better chance at even greater successes in life. We are proud to have taken part in her growth and our own at Habitat for Humanity. Andrea has an ability to hear far beyond what those of us with no impairment can hear. She follows a voice that tells her, "You can do anything in this world you want to!"

Volunteer Spotlight

A special thank you to **Ed Penberthy**, HFHBC Board member and partner at the **Law Offices of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll**, for putting together a team that provides invaluable pro bono legal services! Led by **Lauren Beetle**, the team includes, **Jeff Beenstock**, **Amy Trojecki**, **Ken Morgan**, **Kristen Ross**, **Robert Baranowski**, **Mariah Murphy**, **Christopher S. Lam** and **Tracey Siebold** among many others. We are proud and very grateful for their support.



We Buy Ugly Houses!!!!

and empty lots too

With the reduction of available land and the increase in building restrictions, finding properties we can buy for \$1.00 is getting difficult. We could use your help. Do you drive by an abandoned house or an empty lot? Or worse, have one in your neighborhood? If so, call our property tipline (856-303-8080 ext. 215, also known as Joann's desk). Leave as much info you can; such as town, street address, if there's a realtor sign out front....

WHY I VOLUNTEER

There are thousands of working families with children in Burlington County who are living in substandard or overcrowded housing because they can not afford the high costs of decent housing. Some of these working families contribute hundreds of hours of their own labor as "sweat equity" so that they can afford to own simple, decent homes built in partnership with caring Habitat staff, volunteers and donors. That partnership inspired me to become a Habitat volunteer.

Parents who partner to build homes for their families say that Habitat volunteers make a difference because they help make decent housing and home ownership an affordable reality. Families, volunteers, donors and staff also tell me Habitat matters to them because it is a shared experience of giving that makes a positive difference in their lives. I feel fortunate to share that experience.

John Powell
Volunteer



Thank you to St Martin in the Fields Church in Lumberton for providing our volunteers with lunch each month. We highly recommend their delicious hoagies, which they sell the fourth Saturday of the every month. For more info, contact them at 609-261-4882 or

Broad Changes (continued from page 1)

Pictures from the ceremonial groundbreaking of these projects show that just removing the old structures has already made noticeable improvements.



Foundations are laid and ready for volunteer groups to start framing.

A floor to stand on.

Higgins House & Coldwell Banker Elite...Finally, under roofs



WOW! We are almost there!



Obviously, we still have a lot of work to be done on these homes and the two ranchers we plan to build right near them after these are completed. While these pictures tell a little bit of the Habitat story, there's no doubt that you'll get an even richer perspective of our program by getting personally involved. I encourage you to do whatever you can to become a part of the "broad" changes that Habitat works to accomplish wherever we build.

Give Big by Office Manager Carle Murray

In a time of “**The Big Give**” and “**Give Back**”, we begin to ponder “What does it take to reach the heart of a giver”? While giving, in any fashion and for any reason, is to be honored and admired, we at Habitat for Humanity Burlington County find ourselves wondering why more people do not feel the urgency to “give” in their own community. Perhaps we think it is more urgent to give to another country. Why don’t we see, that what was once “over there” is now, over here? Everyday, right here in Burlington County New Jersey, there are families living in sub-standard conditions. Children are sleeping in overcrowded rooms, without simple comforts such as a desk or table on which to do homework. Do we think about whether that child will be able to go on to college? Right here in Burlington County there are hard-working parents who dream of purchasing a home for their family. That’s right. I said “purchasing” because Habitat homes are not free. They come with a monthly mortgage at zero percent interest. It is a decent, affordable home built with the “sweat equity” of local Partner Families who will go on to purchase that home. Every one of them wants to prepare holiday meals, play board games together and turn on the night-light for their children as they wish them pleasant dreams; The kind of dreams that can only come from feeling secure and loved. Please do not let charity become the coat we put on only twice a year. Charity begins at home and for most of us, that home is Burlington County. Don’t just make someone’s day, make their life. Please, Give Big! Now, it’s even easier to contribute...Just go to:

www.habitat.org/cd/giving/donate.aspx

Please don’t forget to designate your donation to Burlington County New Jersey affiliate. Thank you.

What Your Donation Can Purchase...

A Single Window: \$100
An Exterior Door: \$175
An Interior Door: \$60
A Kitchen Countertop: \$150
A set of Cabinets: \$2000
A Sheet of Drywall: \$10
A Case of Nails: \$30.00
Washer and Dryer \$350 (special price from Whirlpool)



There are so many items which can be purchased with your thoughtful donation. Please help any way you can! Thank You!

Wish List for the Office & Construction

- **Tools** - Hand Tools, Power Tools, Dry Wall Tools
- **Equipment & Materials** - drywall mud, nails, step ladders, etc.
- **Heavy Hand Tools** - shovels, picks, sledge hammers, etc.
- **Clean up Tools** - brooms, trash bags
- **Electrical Supplies** - box cable, outlet & switch boxes, phone jacks
- **Auxiliary Equipment** - dust masks, work gloves, nail aprons, hard hats, safety goggles
- **Building Materials** - wood, nails, doors, windows, whatever
- **Use of a Heavy Duty Truck**
- **Tradespersons**
- **Warehouse space**
- **Kitchen and Bathroom supplies** - coffee, filters, paper towels, plates, hand soap, etc.
- **Pump jack scaffolding**
- **Truck mounted tool box**

Want to save a tree? Contact us at :
info@habitatbcnj.org
to request an electronic newsletter.



HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY BEING A HABITAT VOLUNTEER

Habitat offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities from which you can choose. You can volunteer for as little as a few hours on a project fitted to your schedule and interests.

Here are a few of the opportunities available:

- Building homes
- Writing grant proposals
- Identifying and acquiring home sites
- Recruiting and interviewing families
- Office administrative support
- Staffing the ReStore

Habitat also needs pro-bono professionals with backgrounds in construction, architecture, real estate law, residential real estate development and information systems development and support.

To volunteer to make a difference,
please call 856-303-8080 x217 Carle Murray, Office Manager
or visit our web site at <http://www.habitatbcnj.org/vinfo.html>.

What’s new at the **ReStore**

By Marianne Reddick, ReStore Manager
Our operation is a collaborative effort to schedule, pick-up, off load, set up, display, price, move and sell. It’s a balance of screening and scheduling. It’s an effort to meet demands and appeal to every socio-economic class. We have reached our two year mark and in that time we have brought in and sold many couches, chairs, windows, refrigerators, books, hinges, stoves, and dishwashers. We have met many customers. Some come back once a week, some once a day. Some tell us they dream of the item they went home to think about buying. ‘If you see it, buy it, ‘cause it won’t be there when you come back” has become our new slogan. Everyone that comes through our doors will be able to find something to furnish their new apartment, dorm room or house with items we save from the landfill.

View our new Public Service Announcements at:

www.swampqueenproductions.com/client/habitatforhumanity

www.phonesforgood.com



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Burlington County Affiliate

1702 Taylors Lane
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077
Tel: (856) 303-8080
Fax: (856) 303-8099
www.habitatbcnj.org



ReStore Hours

Wednesday & Thursday

9 am to 7 pm

Friday: 9 am to 5 pm

Saturday: 9 am to 2 pm

We welcome Colleen Gross to our staff.
Colleen will be learning the ropes while
working with Camden's Affiliate to open a
ReStore of their own and
Aimee Riley, our new cashier.

Thank You To Area Businesses & Organizations!

They continue to play a critical role in our ongoing success. Their financial support provides necessary resources to purchase and build homes. We truly appreciate the efforts of so many to accomplish our goals.

The following have made contributions in 2007/2008:

Platinum Plus Level

Henry M. Rowan Family Foundation
Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll
TCGC Charity Golf Classic
Dan Higgins Flooring Warehouse*
Coldwell Banker Elite*
United Way of Burlington County
Davis Enterprises
Ford Foundation
Krontex Inc.
Realogy Charitable Foundation
Whitesell Corporation

Gold Level

Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensors
Citrine Management Corporation
Bank of America
Traveler's Insurance Company
D'Olier Foundation
Holman Enterprises
CDW Corporation

Platinum Level

Bank Of America

Silver Level

GMAC
Starbucks Coffee
Lowes Home Centers
Wachovia Corporation
Builder's League of South Jersey
Cargill Foods

Bronze Level

Fox Roach Charities
Villanova College, Canada
IKEA Retail Corporation
Home Depot
B.F. Molz
Valenzano Winery
WalMart Corporation

Cornerstone Level

Sam's Club

* House Sponsor

HFHBC is **actively seeking** applicants for homeownership.
We are looking for families who meet the following criteria:

NEED

- Currently live in sub-standard, unaffordable or over-crowded housing.
- Have a total yearly income within our guidelines

Size	3 person	4 person	5 person
minimum	\$19,058	\$21,176	\$22,870
maximum	\$40,122	\$44,580	\$48,146

ABILITY TO PAY

- Can afford a housing payment of about \$600 per month (This includes a 0 down/0% mortgage, property taxes and insurance)

WILLINGNESS TO PARTNER

- Willing to be a partner with Habitat by **contributing 500 hours of "sweat equity"** toward the construction of Habitat houses
- Willing to attend homeowner training and budget counseling sessions.

APPLYING FOR A HOUSE

Families who feel that they meet the criteria should call the office or you can download an application from our website.