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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 Tusavitizes 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 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 Mattecheck 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.
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 Mennonite: Lunch • Buckingham Friends Meeting: Cheese’s kitchen basket • Bucks Country Gardens: Landscaping • Bucks Deeney 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 Trumble, GMAC RFC: Corporate grant • G.A. Peak Excavating: Excavation, basement & footings • Gilmore & Associates: Construction stake-out services • Glen Nemeth, Nemeth Construction: Work crew, equipment, playground • Hajoca Corporation: Plumbing fixtures • Heatnry Supply, Inc.: Stone masonry materials • John Hunsberger: Concrete • Kathleen, Adriassen & Donald Maloney: 15 utility knives • Kolodah 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: Fire 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 • Weygand’s Lumber and Home Center: Building materials • Whirlpool: Appliances

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. Hellings & 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 overwhelmingly 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 paneled 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 Luszczak, 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.

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 Perkasie) 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 Petruzzi
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
Welcome, Trish!

"The schedule is a little slower and more complex, but every day is a delight," Trish says. "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 Luszcza 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 something 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 astounding 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 Perkasie 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

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 Luszczak, 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. 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

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

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**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)

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**Member Agency**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

United Way of Bucks County

340 N. Broad Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

www.habitatbucks.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Lisa Henderson, Volunteer Coordinator (VISTA)

Nancy Lewandoski, Youth Coordinator (VISTA)

Joe Devlin (VISTA)

Robin Fraser

Molly Mattecheck

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