Forget the Beach Towel, Grab the Hammer!

“It’s given me hope, that you really can change something that’s wrong in the world and there are people out there doing it day after day.”

Erin Riegel, Providence College

The 50 students who spent their spring break in Trumbauersville will tell you that all four seasons invaded the otherwise quiet town this March.

Students from northeastern high schools and colleges braved the snow, the rain, the wind, and the occasional burst of sunshine; still they went home smiling from their experience. They were here to build homes, but they left with a deeper sense of community, within their groups and in the lives they reached with their generous donation of time and hard work.

Habitat Bucks held its first Collegiate Challenge, which began March 4 and ended March 29. Participants came from Boston College, Providence College, Albion College, Miss Porter’s School, Northampton Community College, Bucks County Community College and Penriddle High School. The community welcomed them with accommodations at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Quakertown, and Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Trumbauersville. The YMCA provided shower facilities, and many churches and schools donated lunch for the students.

Despite inclement weather conditions, the first cluster of Emerald Hollow Estates progressed from first and second floor shells at the beginning of the Collegiate Challenge, to fully enclosed garages and second stories, and bundles of shingles stacked on the bare roofs waiting for the next set of capable hands.

“Meeting the families who we were helping was awesome. It makes you realize what you’re actually doing here.”

Tyler Stewart, Boston College

Thank you to the following for providing food, accommodations, or making lunches. We couldn’t have done it without you!

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHRIST INDEPENDENT BIBLE CHURCH
DOYLESTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DOYLESTOWN ROCK GYM
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GAIL & LAUREN MORFORD
GENUARDI’S
GIANT FOODS
KUTZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
THE LITTLE STORE
THE MERCER MUSEUM
MEYER’S RESTAURANT
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PLEASANTVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
QUAKER SCHOOL AT HORSHAM
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TOM AND ANNE SCHANTZ
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
UPPER PERK SPORTSWEAR INC.
YMCA UPPER BUCKS
Put Your Faith Into Action!

Tuesday, May 14th marks the beginning of Building On Faith Week, a volunteer week staffed specifically with church groups! Each day will begin with prayer and continue with various work projects at the Emerald Hollow Estates site in Trumbauersville. Building On Faith Week runs from May 14 through May 18, with a picnic celebration on Sunday, May 19. We are still filling slots for each day! To register, or for more information, please contact Stefanie Clark at (215) 348-2204 x307 or community@habitatbucks.org.

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

It’s volunteer appreciation time again! The Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will be held at our building site, Emerald Hollow. This year’s picnic will mark the end of Building on Faith Week, a time when all faiths can come together to build a community. We’ll have entertainment, games, face painting and plenty of food. Volunteers are asked to bring a dessert to share and some lawn chairs or blankets. There will be a youth display on how they are helping to further the mission of Habitat. So bring the family, see the progress at Emerald Hollow, and enjoy the day!

Who: Habitat supporters, volunteers and their families
When: Sunday May 19, 12-4pm
Where: 223 N. Main St. in Trumbauersville

Volunteer Spotlight

NICK GRANT has wanted to volunteer with Habitat for years, but never had the time. Well, now he has the time, and gives it freely. “I saw an article in the paper and I came one Saturday.” Now he is there almost every day. Nick was a valuable asset to the construction team during the Collegiate Challenge. “The college and high school kids were great. They all seemed to want to work and I really got an education. When you work with younger people you see how committed these kids are instead of reading about only the bad ones in the newspapers.” When Nick isn’t picking on other volunteers or trying to understand Ray, he is urging others to get involved. “I wish more older people would get involved. There’s a lot of work to be done.”

THELMA WILLIAMS is no stranger to hard work, having spent four and a half years in the army during WWII. After meeting and marrying her husband in Japan, she returned to the States and spent most of her married life in lower Bucks County, working at the Post Office and raising their two children. “A couple years ago, I was out for a walk, saw the Habitat sign and went to see if they needed any help. I like working here because I can be with the young people and see their dreams come to fruition.” But volunteering at Habitat is not all that Thelma does. “Anything that keeps me off the streets and out of the bars,” is her standard line. She volunteers with her church, the senior center, the American Legion, Center Square Towers, and the Buxmont Women’s Veterans.

Thank you to all the groups that helped make the Collegiate Challenge an amazing success! The students really appreciated it. Habitat is proud to have partners like you.
Youth Help Lead the Way

Some months ago, Habitat Bucks asked the young people of the county to help us with Emerald Hollow Estates. I never expected the great response we have received. High schools, colleges, youth groups and church groups have come out on site to build. Others, too young to build, have provided lunches and helped raise money for the project. Still others have joined us in the office and helped with behind-the-scenes work. What a great influx of energy and enthusiasm this has provided us.

Leading the young people and others in their work are the AmeriCorps and VISTA national service volunteers who make up half our staff in the office and at the worksite. Young people leading their peers and joining all the other volunteers is a major reason our 37 town homes are rising from the ground so quickly.

I’ve been fortunate enough to spend some time with most of these youth groups – see their energy, hear their words and marvel at their willingness to help. With young people such as these entering adult society you have to feel positive about what they will achieve. I’m also gratified to see the media have covered some of these youth groups. I get very tired of reading about what young people are doing wrong and how selfish and self-centered they have become. The stories of the groups working with us show what our affiliate believes – young people care, contribute and make a difference if you just ask them and then give them a chance.

All of these groups have not only my thanks but my respect for their contributions to Habitat Bucks and the families we partner with.

Thank You for These Tribute Fund Gifts

IN MEMORY OF...
Michael Downey
  Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hrin
Hanna Grundbacher
Mary Michener
A. Mary Shelby and J. Scott Hoffman
  First United Church of Christ
Bob Fuller and Joe Bera
  Carmen Monaco and Gay Bera
Robert Arvedi and Joe Bera
  Carmen Monaco and Gay Bera
George Lemnox
  Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Yelle
Janet Maurer
  Helen Love
Lois Neff
  Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dunn
  Mabel Pinkerton
  Mr. and Mrs. Peggy Richards-Hagy
  Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Van Valkenburg
  Louise Neff
  Marian Malchman and Laura Gery
Earl Pursell
  Katherine Pursell
Anna May Sayers
  Joseph Zechman
Joseph Scalise
  Mr. and Mrs. David Williams
Mary Gerhart Smith
  Mr. and Mrs. Mary Smith
Jacob Yarrows
  Mr. and Mrs. Paul Landes

IN HONOR OF...
Jeffrey Berman
  Beth Taylor
Nicholas DeLaurentis
  Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hrin
Betsy and Mike Dwyer
  Daniel Farrell and Tom Green
Gebelein Family
  Debra Detweiler
Keith Kujath
  Kelly Kujath
Paul Lewis
  Paul Hansen, Jr.
Mike Milcarski
  Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hrin
Joseph McGoldrick and Rita Danielson
  Jacqueline McGoldrick

Map to Emerald Hollow Estates

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<tr>
<th>223 N. Main Street</th>
<th>ALLENTOWN ROAD</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>CJ's 19th Hole</td>
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<td>Rt. 663</td>
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<td>309</td>
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New Faces in the Habitat Family

Mikaela Martin is our new Office Manager. She worked in a similar position at a small business in Quakertown. “Habitat is an organization that I believe in and one I wanted to be part of,” she explains. Mikaela has a five-year-old son, whom she affectionately calls her “monster” and she enjoys taking road trips.

Stefanie Clark joined the Habitat team as the Family Program Director. She was a software instructor at the Computer Technology Institute. She wanted to work closer to home in an organization she supports. “My family has always been committed to Habitat for Humanity financially and by volunteering. Now I can be a part of the organization every day.” Stefanie enjoys her newly-married life, cooking, photography, and working on her house.

Nancy Lewandoski joins us as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer to be our Youth Coordinator. She had worked at a small publishing company where she wrote feature articles and edited for two trade magazines. “I wanted to expand my communications knowledge and experience. But I also wanted to get fulfillment out of my job.” Nancy is excited about her role as the Youth Coordinator because “when you get young people involved, they will continue their commitment throughout their lives.”

Marcus Sanchez is the office “computer expert.” As a student at the Computer Technology Institute, he joined Habitat as an intern. During his internship, Marcus developed a database for volunteers, family mortgages, media contacts and more. Marcus’ dream job is to work with the elderly and teach them how to use computers. Marcus hopes to graduate with a BA.

Wish List

- Bobcat excavator or any machine with a bucket on it ($5000)
- 7-ton dump truck ($7000)
- 30 Craftsmen 25ft/1in tape measures ($18 each)
- Leather hammer holders ($3.50 each)
- Stanley retractable utility knives ($4 each)
- One-piece fiberglass tub kit (white) ($280)
- Lunches for volunteers ($400/month)

Thank you to Kelli Regan for the design of this newsletter and to Old York Printing for the printing. We appreciate their hard work in bringing “Coming Home” to our supporters.

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Marcus Sanchez
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Joe Morrison
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