



Coming Home

HABITAT HAPPENINGS FOR OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS

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upcoming events...

MAY 14 - 19

Building on Faith Week. Join us on site to put your faith into action. Ask if your church or synagogue is involved. Read more about it on page 2.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. All volunteers are invited as we celebrate YOU! Join us on site at 223 N. Main St. in Trumbauersville for a day of good old family fun. See page 2 for details.

FRIDAY JUNE 7TH

Bucks County Sales and Professional Association's 5th Annual Golf Outing Putting contest at Noon, shotgun Start at 1:00pm. \$99 per person-includes 18 holes of golf, cart, door prizes, team prizes, networking reception (6:00-7:00) and buffet dinner at 7:00pm.

Call the Habitat office or Kathleen Kelly at 215-968-0900 for a registration form or more information. Registration by May 11, 2002

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 Pennridge 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

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



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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



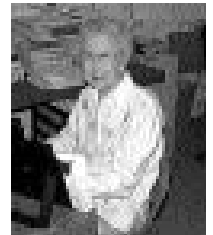
NICK GRANT has wanted to volunteer with Habitat for years, but never had the time. Well, now he has the time, and gives it freely. "I saw an article in the paper and I came one Saturday." Now he is there almost every day. Nick was a valuable asset to the construction team during the Collegiate Challenge. "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



Nick enjoys his lunch on site.

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.



Office Volunteer Extraordinaire, Thelma Williams.

"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.

Christmas Gift from Wehrung's Lumber Helps Build Four Houses

Vernon Wehrung, of Wehrung's Lumber and Home Center, played Santa when he delivered nearly \$9,000 worth of lumber to the Emerald Hollow Estates site on December 26. The lumber included 2x4s, sheathing, floor decking, floor



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JIM PETRUZZI THANKS VERNON WEHRUNG.

joists, and wall plates and is enough to complete the first four homes. "I want to challenge other lumber companies to do the same," explains Wehrung, "I'll be calling some of them personally to get them involved."

Wehrung's is a full service lumber yard and home center, which has been serving contractors and residents since 1986.

director's corner



Executive Director, Jim Petruzzi



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

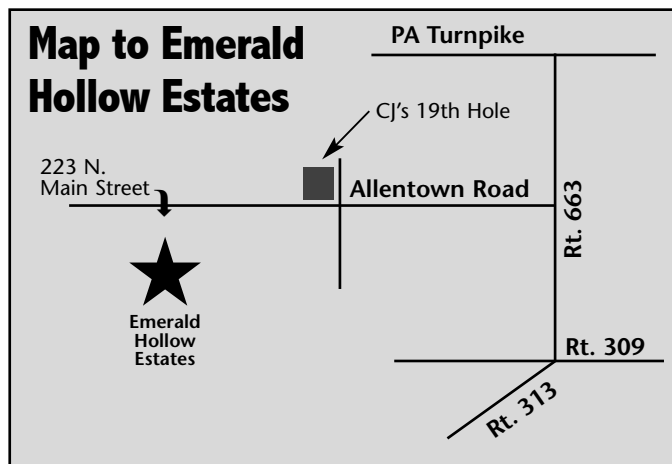
IN MEMORY OF...

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Mary Michener
- A. Mary Shelby and J. Scott Hoffman
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Daniel Farrell and Tom Green
- Gebelein Family
Debra Detweiler
- Keith Kujath
Kelly Kujath
- Paul Lewis
Paul Hansen, Jr.
- Mike Milcarsky
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hrin
- Joseph McGoldrick and Rita Danielson
Jacqueline McGoldrick



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.



Whitney Eisentraut is Habitat's **Office Intern**. She is a senior at Palisades High School enrolled in the Academy program, comparable to a vocational technical school program. As part of her senior year, Whitney was required to find an internship in a place that interested her. "I didn't know what to expect in this office environment, but I have learned a lot and the people I worked with were the most fun." Whitney aspires to become a forensic scientist.



Joe Morrison joins the Habitat team as the **Chief Development Officer**. Having spent many years with the Boy Scouts of America and as executive director at Interfaith Housing, Joe has extensive knowledge on fundraising. He is spearheading the *American Dream* campaign—aiming to raise \$2.5 million over the next two and a half years. "I came to work for Habitat because I believe in the mission to provide affordable housing. I'm excited about Emerald Hollow Estates and projects in the future."

wish list

- Bobcat excavator or any machine with a bucket on it (\$5000)
- 7-ton dump truck (\$7000)
- 30 Craftsman 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.

Member Agency



United Way
of Bucks County



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
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