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Faith Week 2004 in BOFW 2004, contact Joe at ext. 303; information about how your group can participate is available from your congregation sponsors. For more information, contact Joe at ext. 303; j.morrison@habitatbucks.org.

The Central Bucks High School East Marching Band kicked off the celebration of the Habitat/HBA Blitz Build by performing at the Emerald Hollow Community.

HBA Blitz Build Celebration

Several hundred people gathered on April 3, 2004 to celebrate the accomplishments of the Home Builders Association of Bucks and Montgomery Counties. The HBA succeeded in completing the entire structure and exterior of cluster seven, which will be home for four new Emerald Hollow residents. The interior work in the homes was finished by mid-May by HBA members. The official celebration of the HBA Blitz Build started with a bash...and a boom...blaring trumpets and trombones as the Central Bucks East High School Marching Band entered Emerald Hollow in full uniform with flags flying. The marching band paused briefly behind the stage for a flag performance before continuing through the development playing the theme from Rocky. After a blessing from Habitat Bucks’ Board President Rev. Bernie Kelly, remarks were shared by Peter Rotelle, chairperson of the HBA Blitz Build Committee, and Trish Kriger, Habitat Bucks executive director. Natasha Brockington, who became a Habitat homeowner in cluster seven, shared her thanks on behalf of all of the families benefiting from the blitz build.

“Writing this speech at 4 o’clock this morning, I realized that words from the heart need no rehearsal. To those of you who helped build my home, with hammers in your hands and nails in your pockets, thank you so much. We appreciate you from the bottom of our hearts.” Rotelle highlighted the participation of the blitz build’s larger partners: DeLuca Homes, Excel Contractors, Bergey’s Donation . . . . . . . . . . 7 Superior Kitchen Tour . . . . . . . . . . 8

The Wizard of Oz. After a blessing from Congressman Jim Greenwood with Justin Guarini. Both spoke of the great accomplishments of the HBA/Habitat Blitz Build during the Celebration Day in April.

Congressman Jim Greenwood compared Emerald Hollow to The Wizard of Oz, quoting, “There’s no place like home.” The congressman was joined by Bucks County Commissioner Mike Fitzpatrick in his applause for the HBA and Habitat. American Idol and Bucks County native, Justin Guarini, also shared some thoughts before HBA Blitz Build Committee Members Jon Sukonik and Marna Friedman recognized the participating companies and sponsors.

“Coming here from Los Angeles, where people care about ‘me, me, me,’ it’s a blessing to come home and see people caring about ‘we.’ Habitat for Humanity is about ‘we,’ it’s about community identity and stability.”

The Peptones shared their musical talents following the presentation as guests were invited to enjoy a scrumptious lunch prepared by R.R. Carolina Pork Barbecue. Although Guarini was not expected to lend his vocal talents to the celebration day, the Peptones were able to convince him to join them. The crowd cheered and danced along as Guarini treated them to two Motown songs. Many thanks for the dedication, support and leadership displayed by the participating organizations and sponsors of this year’s HBA/Habitat Blitz Build:

Northeast Building Systems and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Local dignitaries also stood to share their praise of the blitz build and its participants. Congressman Jim Greenwood compared Emerald Hollow to The Wizard of Oz, quoting, “There’s no place like home.” The congressman was joined by Bucks County Commissioner Mike Fitzpatrick in his applause for the HBA and Habitat. American Idol and Bucks County native, Justin Guarini, also shared some thoughts before HBA Blitz Build Committee Members Jon Sukonik and Marna Friedman recognized the participating companies and sponsors.

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Anastasi Company Inc. • AJC Painting Inc. • Allstate Insurance Co.-Brian M. Kelly Enterprises, Inc. • Almo Distributing • Altiside Inc. • Arbill Safety Products • B & D Custom Builders • B & F Insulation

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upcoming events...

AUGUST 11 • HOLIDAY CARD CONTEST All Bucks County artists are invited to submit their original artwork into the 14th Annual Holiday Card Contest. The contest deadline is August 11th. See details on page 5.

SEPTEMBER 12–19 • BOFW Mark your calendars now for Building On Faith Week 2004! Each year, over the course of one week in September, Habitat for Humanity International celebrates its partnership with congregations by encouraging affiliates to build houses with local congregation sponsors. For more information about how your group can participate in BOFW 2004, contact Joe at ext. 303; j.morrison@habitatbucks.org.

SEPTEMBER 18 • SPAGHETTI DINNER Come to the Trumbauersville Firehouse from 3–7pm to enjoy an All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner benefiting HBA/BC. The dinner includes salad and bread; you may choose to bring a dessert to share. For more information, contact Joe at ext. 303; j.morrison@habitatbucks.org.

OCTOBER 16 • SUPERIOR KITCHEN TOUR The Second Annual Superior Kitchen Expedition will take place from 10am to 4pm. See details on page 8.

continued on page 2
Coming Home is produced by Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County

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Blitz Celebration, continued from page 1

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THANK YOU NOTES

Blooming Glen Mennonite Church recently made a grant, through former board president Paul Landes, of $10,000 to help support our mission. Thanks to Paul and Blooming Glen Mennonite for their continued support and leadership!

Thanks to the groups who participated in Habitat Bucks’ first installment of the GREENscaping Program: Cub Scout Pack #185 of Saint Isidore’s Church, Gwynedd Friends Youth Group, Souderton High School’s Future Business Leaders of America, Kutztown Elementary School’s Green Thumb Club, Pennridge High School’s Key Club, New Hope-Solebury High School’s Key Club and Kehilat Hanahar Mitzvah Class. A special thanks also to these Master Gardeners for assisting with GREENscaping Days: Susan Schneck, Bill Moyer, Jane Ellen Nugent, Mike Flagg and Pam Hershfeld.

H&R Block/Option One Mortgage recently sponsored a Habitat home for $60,000 and sent interested employees out to help build the sponsored home. By the day’s end, the employees had not only put up walls, but also built their teamwork skills and commitment to community involvement, proving that corporate partnerships truly are a win-win proposition! Thanks to all involved, especially to Kim Denger, Jessyca Harrington, John Kelly and Todd Gross who made this grant possible.

To the family of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County: Thanks for all your kindness and sincerity in my time of need. It made me feel better to know you all cared. I also want to thank our great community that I can clearly call home. My neighbors in Emerald Hollow Estates went out of their way to help me when I truly needed them. Being badly injured and emotionally scarred, they helped every way they could. They took care of my children, getting them to and from school and daycare. They went shopping and even cleaned my house. They offer to do things every day as I start to recover. It is so reassuring to know people are still like this today. I am truly blessed to live in this fine community. Susan Besse, Emerald Hollow homeowner

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans made a $10,000 grant to help build a “Luthern Sponsored” home in the Emerald Hollow development. Area Lutheran churches are currently being contacted to help support this project with both volunteers and money. Twelve churches have already provided letters of support, outlining their future involvement.

Emerald Hollow Trades Spaces

Two Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County’s Emerald Hollow families were recently chosen to participate in the TLC hit series, Trading Spaces. In each Trading Spaces episode, two sets of neighbors swap homes for 48 hours and completely redecorate one room in each other’s place. It’s a little bit home improvement, a little bit game show, a little bit soap opera and a lot of fun!

Watch this summer as Natasha Brockington with her sister, Akeira, trade spaces with Rick and Dorothy Chase for a special episode celebrating the mission of Habitat affiliates across the globe.

Once these Habitat Bucks’ homeowners swap houses, life on their street, Emerald Lane, may never be the same! Check your local television listing or visit www.habitatbucks.org for air dates.

Calling All Youth & Young at Heart!

Join the Youth Committee. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Habitat office in Doylestown. Teachers, administrators, scout leaders, club advisors and volunteers who attend will advise and assist in the creation and implementation of youth programs. For more information, call Kelly at 215.348.2204, extension 305; k.hile@habitatbucks.org.

Habitat Newsletter Online

The Coming Home newsletter and other announcements will soon be available online and by email. You can continue to receive a print version of Coming Home, but the electronic version will allow us to include more information. We encourage you to subscribe by email—it’s free! And we promise to keep your email address confidential.

To subscribe, send a blank email to news@habitatbucks.org with the word “subscribe” in the subject line.
We live in a busy world, complex and sometimes overwhelming. So often our energy is completely consumed with our own joys and challenges that it seems there is no time to look outside our own small circle and truly focus on the world outside. Observing the world is easy enough; we may vacation in foreign countries or watch turmoil unfold on the evening news, but to embrace truly the beauty and tribulations of the world takes work; it takes time and it takes money—resources that are not easy to come by. In February, I traveled to Mexico for a tithing conference hosted by Habitat International. Eighty attendees from fourteen countries were to spend three days in Morelos building homes and three days in Puebla discussing our commitment to the global elimination of substandard housing. As a Habitat staffer, I thought I was well schooled on the global issue and well equipped to participate in the conference. Intellectually, I knew about the severe poverty abroad. I knew that the average cost of a home abroad is just $4200. But what was astounding was what I did not know.

I did not know that more than a billion people suffer the hardships of poverty housing everyday. I did not know that 50% of Sub-Saharan Africa lives on less than one dollar per day. I did not know that countries like Guatemala and Bolivia tithe funds to Habitat affiliates in the U. S. despite their tremendous need at home. What was even more astonishing was what I learned emotionally. My trip was not just an awakening of the mind, but of the spirit. Finding words to define this part of the experience seems all too personal, but suffices to say that it is the relationships that I reflect on now. I think about the people that I met, some colleagues, some family members, all bound by faith and perseverance, all ready to take on the challenge to encourage a dream and provide a more dignified way of life to people they never met.

I chose to share briefly my conference experience because it is all of our experience. As partner families, volunteers and financial supporters, we are all contributing to Habitat’s goal of housing over one million people worldwide by the year 2005. Not only do your efforts house neighbors in Bucks County, but as donors, 10% of all funds not specifically restricted by the donor will be sent abroad to shelter our neighbors worldwide. The math is simple, every time we raise money for one home in Bucks County, our tithe will build two additional homes in an under-developed or developing country. One hundred percent of our tithe goes directly to providing materials and support programs for deserving families.

When we tithe, we redefine our community—we extend it beyond our geographic boundaries. When we tithe, we define community as a common dream; and when we tithe, we commit ourselves to the selfless pursuit of realizing that dream for all of the world’s people.
Newcomers & Encores Clubs Raise Over $22,000 for Three Area Nonprofits

The Newcomers Club of Central Bucks and the Encores Club of Doylestown showed their unwavering support of Habitat Bucks by donating a portion of funds from their annual gala for the third consecutive year. This year the gala was themed, “Passport to the World,” and included international foods, a silent auction, a live auction and casino game tables. Patrons ate, drank, danced and gambled the night away; all the while knowing that every dollar spent went to help three worthy charities: Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County, Gilda’s Club and Camp Discovery. The Newcomers and Encores Clubs sponsored a luncheon two weeks later to present the checks officially, each in the amount of $7,400, to the three charities. Habitat is grateful for this continued support and looks forward to next year’s party!

Tribute Gifts

(Received 2/01/04 – 6/30/04)

Thank you all for your generous support and contributions.

IN MEMORY OF...  
Rose, Anna, and Mary  
Josephine A. Beber  
Edna Breen  
Mr. and Mrs. David Delellis  
Gertrude “Trudy” Burns  
Anonymous  
Glen Finney  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hrin  
Milton “Bud” Moser  
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Guyger  
Olive Hefelfinger  
Charles Wilmerton and Marge Gray  
Joseph Osterman  
Mrs. Joseph Osterman  
John Selby  
Mr. and Mrs. James Alden  
Fiddlesticks Ladies Golf Association  
Paul J. Stahl Sr.  
Cahan and Company  
Robert Vail  
Mr. and Mrs. Al Heuschkel

IN HONOR OF...  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Young  
Alyce Mann  
Herbert Class  
Anonymous  
Ann and Paul Fillman  
Paulette Gray  
Patrick Finegan  
Catherine A Finegan  
Richard Helms  
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Attarian  
Christine Kirkwood  
Patricia Hamilton  
Lisa Marella  
Maggi Boyer  
Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Morabito  
Dale Underwood

Call for Holiday Card Designs

Your art could be the talk of the town, displayed as the 2004 Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County holiday card! Habitat Bucks invites all Bucks County artists to submit entries for the 14th Annual Holiday Card Contest. Entries should reflect the spirit and mission of Habitat for Humanity and should not be representative of one specific holiday. The deadline for submissions is August 11th. Artist may either send artwork to the Habitat office at 340 North Broad Street, Doylestown, PA 18901, or make arrangements for hand delivery by contacting Sam at 215.348.2204 ext. 310; s.martin@habitatbucks.org.

If your work is selected, it becomes property of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County and will be recognized as an in-kind donation. Artists whose artwork is not chosen will be contacted by mail and may collect their submission at the Habitat office.

Get out your paintbrushes and show us what you’ve got!
Volunteer Spotlight

Pastor Carolann Hopcke

Pastor Carolann Hopcke and the congregation of Christ’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Trumbauersville have long offered Habitat Bucks “a door that is always open.” Their support of the Emerald Hollow project has been diverse and numerous. From hosting committee meetings, application days and family workshops to allowing the use of their parking lot for our recent HBA/Habitat Celebration Day to hosting the Building On Faith Week 2003 service and picnic, this congregation has never failed to provide their full support. It is Pastor Hopcke’s dedication to serving the entire community that started her involvement with Habitat Bucks. “When Habitat came to Emerald Hollow, I wanted to help the congregation realize that ministry extends beyond our four walls,” she said. Pastor Hopcke models her commitment to the greater community beyond Trumbauersville Borough and Milford Township. She is currently serving as the Board Secretary for the Quakertown Food Pantry, as well as actively participating in monthly meetings with upper Bucks social-service agencies.

Pastor Hopcke’s undergraduate degree in elementary and early childhood education is put to good use in Vacation Bible School classes and in working with the youth of her congregation; it has also encouraged the youth who travel from all over the country to volunteer with Habitat Bucks. Collegiate challenge groups—high school and college students who visit Emerald Hollow for a straight week of building, often over spring break—continually comment on the warm treatment they receive from Pastor Hopcke and her crew during their stay. In addition to using the church basement as home base during their visits, groups always receive a welcome dinner upon their arrival, as well as other home-cooked meals throughout the week. Pastor Hopcke gives the young visitors a tour of the church, complete with an invitation to make themselves at home. This sort of hospitality has encouraged many groups to form a relationship with our affiliate and return yearly.

Personal involvement is also a part of Pastor Hopcke’s beauty. In connection with Pastor Deb Gifford of Christ Reformed UCC in Trumbauersville, she has overseen the presentation of welcome baskets to each of Emerald Hollow’s partner families during the dedication of their homes. Additionally, she organized and led an inspiring candle ceremony for the cluster three dedication. Stefanie Clark, family program director, gets to the heart of what all of these contributions mean. “Without Pastor Carolann’s support, accomplishing our mission in Trumbauersville would not have been possible. She has been instrumental in so many aspects of what we do.”

Donna Loux

Have you heard of the Habitat Bucks Birdhouse Blitz Build program? It’s all the rage these days, involving numerous church, faith and community service youth groups, and even a few senior citizens groups! Donna Loux is the woman we have to thank for this fantastic program, as it was the product of one her notorious brainstorming sessions. “She is a veritable fount of ideas,” says Outreach Programs Director, Kelly Hile. “What makes her such an incredible asset is her willingness to turn those ideas into action.” Donna discovered Habitat Bucks a few years ago while looking for a badge activity that would allow her Girl Scouts to move to the next level. She met with our youth coordinator and the Birdhouse Blitz Build was born—a program that has exploded and now incorporates a diverse mix of individuals into our mission. Donna has worked to strengthen the Habitat-Scout bond ever since, acting as a liaison and promoting opportunities like creating house-shaped thank you cards, providing lunch on the construction site and our newest endeavor, the Greeters program. She is now serving on our Youth Committee, developing new ideas for engaging youth throughout the community. To describe the Loux family as “active” in the community is a major understatement. Donna’s association with the Girl Scouts, of which she served as a service unit leader and continues to be integrally involved, stems from her two daughters, Rachel, 5, and Rebecca, 14, both committed scouts. The entire family also has an extensive relationship with the Doylestown Fire Company. Donna’s husband, Denny Jr., has performed 20 years of service and is a lifetime member, while Donna has dedicated 10 years of service in various capacities, from working with the fire prevention team to organizing pancake breakfasts and other fundraisers. Rebecca is also an aspiring member of the fire prevention team.

“People make the program,” Donna explains. “I have only ever received a warm, welcoming response (from Habitat staff and volunteers).” For Donna, what continues to engage her in our organization, despite a seemingly never-ending string of new faces, is that receptiveness to new ideas and a willingness to explore them. “I feel like I have a voice at Habitat, that I can make a difference, that my opinion is appreciated,” Donna elaborates. With that she hits the nail on the head. Volunteers like Donna are what keep our organization fresh, vital and relevant, and we will always welcome them.
Melissa Trainor
A new AmeriCorps*VISTA member, Melissa Trainor joined us as our new Family Program Associate in May. Melissa works closely with Family Program Director, Stefanie Clark, to assist our ever-growing number of partner families achieve homeownership. Melissa hails from New Lebanon, New York, and has only recently returned from a two-year stretch in the Peace Corps, where she served as an English teacher (and so much more!) in the West African country of Burkina Faso. With a degree in International Relations and extensive experience abroad, Melissa brings a far-reaching perspective to our organization. Melissa has previously served as an AmeriCorps member during her college years at SUNY New Paltz, working with young people in the community. Obviously, service is nothing new to Melissa! We are grateful that she has chosen Habitat Bucks as the recipient of her talents.

Kelly Hile
Fresh from a two-year Peace Corps stint in Africa, Kelly Hile joined Habitat Bucks through the AmeriCorps*VISTA program in May 2003. First serving as the youth coordinator and then as the outreach programs coordinator, Kelly has spent her 12-month term with Habitat Bucks creating, implementing and establishing unique and innovative programs for volunteers of all ages. Kelly’s outstanding talent and commitment was the foundation on which Executive Director, Trish Kriger, extended an invitation for her to join the professional staff as the new Outreach Programs Director, following her year of service. Kelly accepted, explaining that, “it was an amazing year; very challenging and very invigorating.” The staff, board members and volunteers of Habitat Bucks are grateful for her decision to remain and are looking forward to her continued influence and dedication to the organization.

Rebecca Vaki
On Saturday, April 10 at 4:48am, Habitat Bucks’ Fund Development Associate, Laura Blair, delivered a happy and healthy baby girl, Rebecca Ann. Rebecca weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and was 19½ inches long. Both Rebecca and Laura are doing well and having a great time getting to know one another. Laura plans to return to work in August with a part-time schedule.

Bergey’s Bestows Goodwill, Check and Truck to Habitat Bucks
Bergey’s Inc. teamed up with Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County to help make dreams a reality for local families. Over 30 employees from Bergey’s donated their time to build homes at Habitat Bucks’ construction site, Emerald Hollow Estates in Trumbauersville. In addition, eight employees who could not build on site that day donated $1,000 to the affiliate. As an incentive for employee involvement, Glenn Bergey, president of Bergey’s GMC, allocated funds for the purchase of a pickup truck for the Habitat Bucks construction crew. Glenn, who presented the truck and check during the crew’s lunch break, said that Habitat Bucks is “a worthwhile cause in the eyes of Bergey’s employees, and they proved that with the donation of cash and time.” Bergey’s employees, over 800 of them, have donated to other local nonprofit organizations, such as firehouses and churches, as well. “It is so exciting to have Bergey’s as partners in our Emerald Hollow project. They have such an enthusiastic team,” said Trish Kriger. Bergey’s is a local, family-owned company that has been serving the area’s auto, truck and tire needs since 1924. For information regarding service and sales, please call 877.BERGEY3 or visit www.bergeys.com.
2nd Annual Superior Kitchen Tour

The Second Annual Superior Kitchen Exposition will take place on Saturday, October 16, 2004 from 10am to 4pm. This annual event is a self-guided tour featuring six to eight of the finest custom kitchens in private homes across central Bucks County. The event is being organized once again by Superior Woodcraft proprietors, Michele and Patrick Kennedy. One-hundred percent of the proceeds raised from this event go to help Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County fulfill our mission to build affordable homes, better lives, stronger families and safer communities.

In launching this year’s event, Michele Kennedy declared, “Superior Woodcraft, Inc. and its employees are committed to the Superior Kitchen Expedition as an opportunity to organize and combine our contribution with that of other businesses and individuals in and outside of Bucks County. Our goal in producing this exciting and rewarding event is to unite our community in the spirit of friendship and support for Habitat for Humanity and its programs.”

Tickets are $20 in advance or $25 on the day of the event. In addition, opportunities for a wide range of sponsorships are still available. For more information, call 215.348.2204, extension 375, or visit us on the web at www.habitatbucks.org.

Volunteers are currently being sought to help on the day of the event as greeters, car parkers and gift bag packers. If you would like to participate as a volunteer, please contact Joseph Morrison at the Habitat office at 215.348.2204, extension 303; j.morrison@habitabucks.org.

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County

OUR MISSION: To build affordable homes, better lives, stronger families and safer communities through partnerships with people and organizations throughout Bucks County.

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