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upcoming events...

MARCH 1
Youth, join us March 1 for a birdfeeder blitz build at Emerald Hollow. See pg. xx for details.

MARCH 12 & MAY 17
PBS will feature Habitat Bucks nationally on the Visionaries television series. See pg. XX for details.

THIS SPRING
We are welcoming students for the second annual Collegiate Challenge at Habitat Bucks. The groups will be staying in Trumbauer’sville and working at our construction site during their spring break.

NARI Catches the Holiday Spirit

The season of giving united Habitat Bucks with the generous member contractors of the Bucks-Mont chapter of the National Association of Remodelers Industry. The group helped Habitat meet construction deadlines in order to complete homes for six more families this spring.

Starting with little more than a block foundation, NARI members, led by General Contractor Mike Fallon, began framing the structure by 7:15 a.m. Within a half hour, walls were being erected and Habitat families started to see their dreams becoming realities. Homeowner Rich Cole watched in awe as his first floor took shape. “That’s my house,” he said, pointing to his home. “That is my house,” he repeated proudly.

Mike is modest, but he and his group are mighty. In one weekend—Dec. 7 and 8—NARI carpenters completed 10,596 sq. ft. of joists and decks, 850 lineal feet of interior and exterior walls, which were pre-constructed by Shelly Enterprises Inc., and loaded second-floor walls for five of the six units in Cluster Three. Saturday, 21 carpenters worked nine hours; Sunday, 12 carpenters worked eight hours. They stopped briefly to warm up by the coffee station—sponsored by Quakertown National Bank—and to eat lunch, which was provided by CVS/Pharmacy, in

Ray Lusczak (right) and Michael Fallon

NARI members from 19 companies spent a weekend with Habitat to construct Cluster Three at Emerald Hollow)

Hatboro, and Kehilat HaNahar, of New Hope.

“They [NARI] are making dreams come true,” said Habitat’s Executive Director, Jim Petruzzi. Mike quickly challenged him saying, “No, they are making my dream come true. I have always wanted to do something really meaningful and this project has allowed me to do just that. I can give back doing something I love: building.”

Thank you to these sponsors and partners who made the NARI Blitz Build possible:

Billingham Built  •  BKZ Contractors Inc.  •  Blosser Electric  •  Brian T. Smith Builders Inc.  •  Calfiage Construction Associates Inc.  •  CVS/Pharmacy  •  Dave Bonning Remodeling  •  David Brooke Rush Builders  •  DeRocco Building Corp.  •  Frankford Iron  •  Gemmi Construction Inc.  •  Haines Contracting Inc.  •  J. Kurt Spence Builder Inc.  •  Kehilat Hanahar  •  Krause Construction  •  Lifestyles Design LLC  •  L.J.S. Builders  •  Norm Schorr Insulated Glass  •  R & R Morano Restoration & Renovation  •  Quakertown National Bank  •  Shelly Enterprises Inc.  •  Tilghman Builders Inc.  •  Wes Carver Electrical Contracting Inc.  •  W.T. Hellings and Associates Inc.
You’re invited…
Please join us for the dedication of Cluster Two on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 3 pm.

The ceremony will take place at Emerald Lane in Trumbauersville. Afterward, meet the new homeowners, tour the homes and enjoy refreshments. Need more information? Call Mikaela Martin at 215-348-2204 x306. We’ll see you there!

Local Runner Wins Inaugural Habitat for Humanity 5K

Quakertown runner Dean Dimmig took advantage of ideal running conditions—cool temperatures, cloudy skies and calm winds—to win the first running of the Habitat for Humanity 5K road race on Saturday, November 30 with a time of 16:57. Sandi Beale of New Hope was the first woman with a time of 20:14, finishing 13th in a field of 97 runners. The runners ranged in age from Charles Walker, 67, of Tampa, FL to Bryn Kreider, 9, of Pennsburg. Habitat staff member, Stefanie Clark, finished in 35:35 in her first race while her husband, Anthony, finished in 19:00.

Complete race results are posted on the Habitat Bucks website at www.habitatbucks.org.

Race organizer Bill Tuszyński of Quakertown Rotary, and a regular Habitat volunteer, noted that the race raised nearly $2,000 for Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County. “It was gratifying that we were able to raise the amount of money that we did. I was relieved that it all came together. My daughter, Hannah, and I thought of the idea for a race as we were driving around.”

The race was co-sponsored by the Quakertown Rotary Club and Quakertown United Methodist Church. The course started and finished at the church and ran on a loop through Milford Township with a half-mile hill in the middle of the course. Race-day volunteers included the Quakertown Rotary Club, Tuszyński family and friends, Habitat staff members Nancy Lewandoski, Joe Morrison and his sons Peter and David, and the Besse, Cole and Argue families who will be moving into the Emerald Hollow community.

Awards were also presented to the first, second and third place finishers in various age groups for men and women. A special award was given to David Weiss as the first registrant for the race. Daniel Bartos of Camp Lejeune, NC, won the “Long Distance Runner Award” as the pre-registered runner who traveled the farthest to participate in the run. Sue Fischer of Fischer’s Tuxedo Headquarters was recognized as a special sponsor who made a monetary contribution, provided the tuxedo for Tuszyński to wear while marshaling the race and came out of running retirement to train and run the race in a time of 26:26. In addition to the post-race awards presentation, Tuszyński held a raffle for prizes including homemade pumpkin pies donated by bakers from the Quakertown UMC and Quakertown First UCC. Accompanying the ceremony was music provided by 925 DJs.

Youth Help Open Door to Homeownership

The first annual Hike for Habitat on Saturday, October 26, made a difference in Bucks County. Observing national Make a Difference Day, the 5K hike through Peace Valley Park in New Britain was designed as a youth fundraiser to support Habitat’s Emerald Hollow community of 37 townhouses in Trumbauersville.

The hike was established in response to the growing number of young people who want to participate in a service project with Habitat; but many are younger than 15 years old, which is the minimum age requirement to work at the construction site. “The hike was a meaningful way for young people to get involved,” said Nancy Lewandoski, youth coordinator. “It helped raise awareness of the local need for simple, decent, affordable homes and generated support for the project through individual sponsorship.”

All ages were represented within the group of 58 walkers and 10 volunteers. Youth participants and their adult leaders raised approximately $1,000 in sponsorship pledges in preparation for the hike. Make A Difference Day, an annual celebration of neighbors helping neighbors, was created by USA WEEKEND Magazine.

Thank you to our sponsors of Hike for Habitat. Eagles Peak Spring Water of Fountainville sponsored the T-shirt printing. First Savings Bank of Perkasie provided bottled water for the event and volunteers who worked the water station at the turnaround point. Villa Capri provided a gift certificate for the hike raffle. ACME and Mert & Monte’s helped to provide food for the walkers. Basement Graphics printed the hike T-shirts and School Works! submitted the T-shirt design.

Thank you to these wonderful Hike Committee volunteers:
- Katie Fischer, Central Bucks H.S. West
- Gail Kondela, School Works!
- Cyndi Lewis, Truman High School Key Club
- Ken Stephon, First Savings Bank of Perkasie
- Bill Tuszyński, Quakertown Rotary

Thank You Notes

FIRST SAVINGS BANK OF PERKASIE has been sponsoring a doughnuts & coffee treat at site twice a month. Ken Stephon, who started the program, announced that Clemen’s Markets and Yum Yum Donuts (both of Quakertown) are now providing the goodies as in-kind donations. Our construction workers are grateful for the warm coffee and sweets this winter. Thank you for your kind support!

Thank you CENTRAL BUCKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE for providing additional funds to our agency through the Business Cares grant for 2002. Business Cares is a foundation to enrich the lives of families during the holiday season.

Thank you, QUAKERTOWN ROTARY, for showing your commitment to the work of Habitat by donating $1000 in January.

The MEMBERS OF NARI purchased Christmas gifts for our Emerald Hollow children and raised $135 for more Christmas gifts for the group of children who live, or will live, in the Emerald Hollow community. The parents are most grateful!

From our wish list: T) MIERNICKI of Perkasie donated funds to purchase measuring tapes.

The Habitat crew would like to welcome a new staff member, Rick Felty of Doylestown, who brings experience in affordable housing issues and feels right at home on the construction site. Rick is working alongside Construction Supervisor, Ray Luszczak, and AmeriCorps members Robin Fraser and Molly Mattecheck.

“Without officially working here, I was very familiar with working here,” said Nancy Lewandoski, youth coordinator. “It helped raise awareness of the local need for simple, decent, affordable homes and generated support for the project through individual sponsorship.”

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PBS Recognizes Habitat as a Visionary

PBS stations across the nation are featuring Habitat Bucks this winter and spring in a Visionaries segment, “From the Ground Up.” This television series portrays our Emerald Hollow community, including highlights of families, volunteers and our vision to integrate groups of people from varying economic levels. In the segment’s introduction, Actor and Host Sam Waterson, says, “We join staff and volunteers working on the Emerald Hollow Project—which will, for the first time, mix a community socially and economically, in a bold attempt to eliminate the ‘low-income housing’ stigma and desegregate economic boundaries….And in a county often identified as a habitat for the wealthy, we find people from diverse backgrounds erasing substandard housing from the landscape.”

Catch “From the Ground Up” on WYBE, Wed., March 12, 8:30 p.m. and Sat., May 17, 3:30 p.m. For updated programming schedules, visit www.visionaries.org.

**New Genuardi’s ID Number**

Thank you for showing your support by collecting supermarket register tapes. Genuardi’s supermarket announces an exciting and easier way to raise money for non-profit organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity. The Community Cash Back program is now powered by eScrip, an electronic fundraising tool. If you have been collecting paper register receipts, please register your Genuardi’s club card or your credit/debit card at www.eScrip.com, or use a sign-up sheet at the Genuardi’s customer service counter. Our Group ID Number is 149390004. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to Habitat electronically, and you will need to register only once a year. Genuardi’s is no longer redeeming paper register receipts. Please note: We are still accepting ACME register tapes.

**Tribute Gifts**

(9/06/2002-12/31/02)

Thank You for Your Generous Contributions

**IN MEMORY OF...**

- Rita Danielsen
- Jacqueline McGoldrick
- Kenneth E. Hadfield
- Kenneth Hadfield
- Rev. Karlton Heckman
- Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Moser
- Erica Hendrix
- Mr. and Mrs. Elaine Franklin
- Bernard Grimes and Mary Carroll
- Grimes
- Mr. and Mrs. Harlan
- Swanson
- Mark Swanson
- Grandma Laresch
- Mr. and Mrs. Tom Alba
- Pete Luszczak
- Michael Joseph Lantzy
- Ruth Margolis
- Hal Margolis and Stephanie Mason
- Eleanor Nordbye
- Mr. and Mrs. Helen M. Fisher
- Samuel Ott
- Mr. and Mrs. David McClain
- Earl Pursell
- Katherine Pursell
- John Richter
- Eleanor Richter
- Jinny Scott
- Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Petillo
- Mr and Mrs. Willard W.
- Segraves
- Mr. and Mrs. John Segraves

**IN HONOR OF...**

- George Carr
- Maria McComas
- Lola Connelly
- Mr. and Mrs. John Connelly
- Howard Cowan
- Neshaomy Federation of Teachers
- School Nurses of Neshaomy
- School District
- Paul Donley
- Brian Donley
- Jessica Fondy
- Sally Leasure
- Jim & Jeanne Frank
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Frank
- Mary C. Ivie
- Mr. and Mrs. Sandi Ivie
- G.M. Carr and K.C.
- Davidheister
- Mr. and Mrs. George Carr
- The Rev. and Mrs. Charles Kleis
- RCA Foundation
- Thomas Mack
- Mr. and Mrs. Lynda Du Shane
- Peter Mayo
- Carmen Monaco and Gay Bera
- Virgil Miller
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Swartley
- Sam Roberto
- Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Roberto
- Wally Roccoli
- Mr. and Mrs. Sandi Ivie
- Dale Seafuro
- The Sixth Grade Team at John
- Barclay Elementary
- Mary Schoeller
- Mr. and Mrs. Alan Sterner
- Jane Steeley
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Swartley
- Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Van
- Valkenburg
- Mr. and Mrs. Carl Van
- Valkenburg
- Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Van
- Valkenburg
- Madeleine Wells
- Mr. and Mrs. Willard Wells

**Tribute Gifts**

(9/06/2002-12/31/02)

Thank You for Your Generous Contributions
Strengthening Leadership Roles with Habitat Bucks

I hope all of you, our Habitat Bucks family, had a great holiday season. We at Habitat Bucks took a little time to relax, catch our breath and prepare for the next round of building! We are making great progress, with the help and support of an ever-increasing number of people accepting leadership roles. You will read about NARI in this issue (pg. 1), and the incredible service they are providing the Habitat Bucks families. Two volunteers who have taken an amazing leadership role in the NARI Blitz Build are Phil Blosser and Mike Fallon. I wish you all could meet them; they are special people. Phil is the president of the Bucks-Mont NARI chapter who began our partnership by pulling together a committee of NARI folks. But planning was just the start of Phil’s contribution. He was out at Emerald Hollow swinging hammers with the rest of the group. And he persuaded some of the crew in his company to come along. Anytime we’ve called for help, Phil has come through with suggestions and actions. We are grateful for the privilege of working with Phil, a truly soft-spoken, yet powerful leader.

Then there is Mike Fallon. Mike took on the task of over-seeing the entire blitz build project. Mike also operates his own company, so this was no small commitment. Mike is a big man; he looks like he could lift a wall on his own. And he needed to shoulder the load of planning and implementing a blitz build of this nature. We consider ourselves very fortunate to meet and work with someone as committed, caring, strong and resourceful as Mike, who is willing to accept nothing but the best efforts from himself and others. Everyone at Habitat Bucks feels enriched to have worked with him on this project. Mike leads with a laugh, a smile or a squinted eye, whatever is needed to ensure success. NARI recently presented the President’s Award to Mike for his volunteer work in the community, including his Habitat contributions. It was wonderful to be at the gathering to applaud his honor, especially because we who know him are certain that although he appreciates the recognition, it’s not about the award for Mike.

A final leadership spotlight for this edition beams on a staff member—another person critical to the success of the NARI Blitz Build, and to Habitat Bucks as we move forward into the future—our Director, Trish Kriger. Trish has been with us since July, and in this short time, she has made an amazing difference in our organization. As our lead contact with NARI, Trish exchanged enough emails and calls with Mike and Phil to clog a computer and a phone line. She always made sure that whatever had to happen with NARI happened. And that was just one Habitat Bucks project on her plate. Trish creates ideas, develops the necessary plans and schedules, and leads the effort with skill, humor and passion for the task. Whether it’s a blitz build, a business plan or a new partnership endeavor, her recent award, NARI’s Friend of the Year, tells you how our partners see her.

Without special people such as those highlighted here, other special contributions you have heard about or still others laboring quietly behind the scenes, Habitat Bucks could not continue to grow and serve the Bucks County community. On behalf of our staff and board members, our thanks go out to each and every Habitat Bucks supporter working with us.

Jim Petruzzi
Executive Director

Call for Holiday Card Designs

Your painting could be featured as the 2003 Habitat for Humanity holiday card. Artwork for this year’s holiday card will be chosen in July by committee vote. Bring your original artwork to the Habitat office at 340 N. Broad St., Doylestown, on or before June 30. We will not consider submissions received after the deadline. 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!
Sending Off...

As with all Americorps*VISTA volunteers, another one-year term has come to an end. For NANCY LEWANDOSKI, youth coordinator, that means passing the torch to a new volunteer and saying goodbye to a rewarding and challenging experience in a position that was held first by her.

The youth coordinator position was created out of a desire to increase the youth activities and education that had previously been enveloped by the volunteer coordinator’s responsibilities.

“We needed someone to take the youth program to the next level and evolve it, to be articulate and make the connections we needed to make the youth program a success,” says Jim Petruzzi, executive director. “Nancy has far surpassed my expectations.”

Trish Kriger, director, agrees. “Nancy has built an incredibly solid foundation for [Habitat Bucks’] youth program,” she says. “She has a very natural, motivating quality about her that has resulted in her making so many connections for us in the schools and in the community.”

Nancy came to Habitat Bucks after working several years in electronic and print media. She graduated from Creighton University in 1999 with a journalism degree and skills she has used to produce this newsletter.

“I wanted to feel like I was making a difference in my work,” Nancy says. “This position has been life-changing. It has helped me open myself to things outside of my experiences. This is the type of job that makes you think more of others than your own financial success.”

Nancy says that her work with Habitat has opened her eyes in many ways. “It’s given me an in-depth perspective on economic struggles. The faces, the hearts, the faith of families who own a home through Habitat have shown me that I take a lot for granted.”

Since taking on the inaugural position, Nancy has been involved with youth from elementary schools to high schools to vocational-technical schools and colleges. Bucks County Community College students have been regular volunteers on site; Barclay Elementary School’s sixth grade class creates thank you notes; carpentry students at Upper Bucks Vo-Tech School are working on framing for an Emerald Hollow cluster. The biggest undertaking was Nancy’s creation of “Hike for Habitat,” which resulted in 58 participants and 10 volunteers from area schools hiking around Peace Valley Park to raise money and awareness for Habitat Bucks.

“It was a challenge to face my fears of not being able to contribute something, to plan youth events. Letting myself get really involved emotionally and physically with my work—that was really hard for me to do,” Nancy says. “It’s a different type of work that requires a different kind of energy—more hands-on, more emotional.”

Although her full-time commitment to Habitat Bucks is ending, Nancy will be staying involved by continuing her work on the newsletter. “I have a dream of making a life out of freelance projects with writing and editing, and I hope to continue working with non-profits.”

The Habitat staff couldn’t be happier that she’ll still be a presence in the office and on site. Mikaela Martin, director of operations, has worked with Nancy since last February. “Nancy’s made an invaluable contribution to Habitat that will last forever. I am thrilled that she will continue to share her creativity, her energy and her laughter with us.”
Masked Ball Guests Enjoy a Great Evening

When Dracula walked through the door, every eye turned to see the commanding, taller-than-six-foot frame draped in a black cape take his position beside the piano. His piercing gray eyes and mysterious silence transported the guests directly into a Bram Stoker novel.

Dracula’s music accompanied the cocktail hour at Habitat for Humanity’s Annual Dinner and Masked Ball, held October 18, at Spring Mill Manor in Ivyland, PA. The event was a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, which attracted about 150 people, and raised more than $35,000 in support of affordable homes in Bucks County. With Dracula, portrayed by Michael Moeller, the Horizon Dance Alliance performed selections throughout the evening from the ballet Dracula.

Along with a silent auction and dinner, guests danced the night away to the sounds of After Dark. Sponsors for the second annual gala included Quakertown National Bank, Commerce Bank, Prudential Fox and Roach, Gene Fickes and Marv Woodall, First National Bank of Newtown, First Savings Bank of Perkasie and Dinner Chairman James F. Paccioretti.

“We could not have pulled together such an outstanding event without the support of our sponsors and dinner committee,” says Joseph Morrison, Habitat’s chief development officer. “We owe them a great deal of thanks for their financial stewardship and for their personal involvement in every aspect of the dinner.”

In recognition of these partnerships, the “Good Neighbor” award was presented to T.H. Properties for its outstanding support of Habitat’s mission, and a “House Sponsor” award was given to Doylestown Presbyterian Church for their adoption of one home in Habitat’s Emerald Hollow community. In addition, the “Distinguished Service” award was presented in abstentia to Dan Kendra, of Precision Solutions, Inc., who has demonstrated superior service and dedication to Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County. The “Outstanding Leader” award was presented to Paul Landes, President of the Board of Directors, for outstanding overall leadership and support of Habitat’s mission.

Habitat family members served as judges for the costume awards. They selected Maureen Gatto and Dennis McKenna as “Best Family or Couple,” Alice Zander as “Most Unrecognizable,” and Doug Julian as “Best Overall Costume.”

Top: Dracula makes a command performance to begin the evening. Bottom: Doug Julian accepts the award for best overall costume from Dinner Chairman James Paccioretti.
Birdhouse Building Blitz

If you aren’t old enough to build homes for Habitat, this Bird Feeder Blitz Build is the event for you! Come to Emerald Hollow with your hammers and paint brushes Saturday, March 1, at 11 a.m. to try your hand at constructing and painting a bird feeder. The event is sponsored by Home Depot, in Neshaminy. The blitz build is designed especially for youth 5-15 years old, but all ages are welcome. Habitat uses the birdfeeders as fundraising items, which will be sold at local events throughout the year. The building project will take place under roof, rain or shine. Additional entry forms are available at Home Depot in Neshaminy.

Entries must be postmarked on or before February 22. Spaces are limited, so sign up today by completing the form below and mailing it to: Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County, Youth Coordinator, 340 N. Broad St., Doylestown PA 18901

Child’s Name/Age ________________________________
Child’s Name/Age ________________________________
Parent/Guardian _________________________________
Address __________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
Phone ______________________________________________

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.

Birdhouse Building Blitz 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)