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**Habitat  
 for Humanity®  
 of Bucks County**

# COMING HOME

HABITAT HAPPENINGS FOR OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS

Coming Home is produced by Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County // Editor: Mikaela D. Martin // Assistant Editor: Stefanie F. Clark // Newsletter Design: Laura S. Bentz, Laura Sue Design

## Habitat for Humanity is Now Building at The Stitchery!

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County's latest and greatest homebuilding program is located at 815 West Chestnut Street in Perkasio Borough and represents our first ever "adaptive reuse" project. Groundbreaking took place in May during National Women Build Week, when crews of women volunteers raised their hammers as part of the Women Build program (pictured). Homeowner families are expected to move in early 2010.



The ribbon cutting on May 6 signifying the groundbreaking of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County's newest homebuilding site, The Stitchery, in Perkasio.

Habitat for Humanity is converting the building into six fully contained condominium units on three floors. Each condo will range in size from 950 square feet to 1020 square feet, and the first floor units will be fully handicap-accessible. In keeping with Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County's building goals, this homebuilding program will strive to meet ENERGY STAR® standards and NAHB National Green Building Program™ Silver rating.

Constance Lezenby, AIA, assisted Habitat for Humanity with the final designs and code review for this project. Constance is well versed in working on older structures and is also a Certified Sustainable Building Advisor.

The total estimated cost for construction of this exciting project is estimated at \$1.1 million, and Habitat for Humanity is currently fundraising for these homes. Partnership opportunities are abound; now you can help raise the roof one square foot at a time!

We make homeownership affordable, even for our supporters. With this new project comes a new campaign – and it's by the foot. Every square foot at The Stitchery is up for sponsorship at \$115 per square foot with the goal to raise \$115,000 for one unit by the end of 2009. This is a wonderful way for your church group, school, community organization or circle of friends to get behind the work of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County.

Habitat will provide a poster display with true-to-scale floor plans on it. The grid of sponsored square feet will be filled in as the donations are received, and donors will be honored with a 12"x 12" colorful certificate for every \$115 donated. Commit to multiple square feet and make colorful mosaics to proudly display at your organization.

As we all know, three key resources are necessary in order to make this Habitat's homeownership program a reality for families in our community: funds, volunteers and vocal support. Or an act, a give and a share. When you sponsor a square foot, you are accomplishing all three! This is your chance to be a voice for those in need of a place to call home. Raising funds by the foot is an excellent opportunity for your family, group or business to raise funds, and we welcome the opportunity to come in and work with your organization to come up with the perfect "Square Foot Fund Drive" program for you.

We're excited about the many building, fundraising and volunteer initiatives The Stitchery brings our affiliate, and we hope you can be a part of them!

For partnership opportunities, please contact Billy Dunn at b.dunn@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x316.

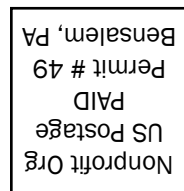
For volunteer opportunities, please contact Laura McClellan at l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x302.

**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.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

www.habitatbucks.org  
 Chalfont, PA 18914  
 31 Oak Avenue, Suite 100



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER 21–24: ReStore Anniversary Sale & Celebration:** Special discounts 10/21 through 10/23, and a 20% off sale, snacks and giveaways on 10/24. See details in the ReStore article, page 4.

**NOVEMBER 8: More Than a Home Signature Event:** The first annual Habitat for Humanity signature event will take place from 5pm to 8:30pm at our office. Details on page 7.

**NOVEMBER 28: Habitat for Humanity 5K & Fun Run:** Fair but challenging course, awards in several age brackets, post-race food and raffles. Registration details on page 6.

**DECEMBER 5: ReStore December Sale Event:** Stop by for all your holiday shopping needs! Visit [www.habitatbucks.org/restore.htm](http://www.habitatbucks.org/restore.htm) or call 215.822.2708 for more info.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Susanne Jess

Chalfont resident, Susanne Jess, began volunteering at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore at the beginning of September 2008 and has been a regular fixture at the store ever since! Volunteering several days a week, Susanne has donated well over 600 hours of time. Her primary contribution has been creating merchandise displays at the front of the store. "Susanne has an amazing gift of creating displays that people can relate to and actually see in their own home. Everything she sets up sells within days," says ReStore Manager, Dianna Curran. Susanne is a tremendous asset with her artistic ability, friendly personality and willingness to help the staff in many different endeavors, and is now a part-time staff member herself. "The ReStore would not be the same without her," says Curran. We look forward to a long and lasting relationship with Susanne and thank her for all her contributions!

## FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

## Patti Moskauski

For Patti Moskauski, homeownership was a goal for so long; but, with so many other immediate concerns, taking steps toward owning a home could not be a priority. When she reached out to the network of resources available in Bucks County, the dream turned to hope for her and her family. Through the Self-Sufficiency Program at The Bucks County Opportunity Council, Patti was able to pursue a nursing career. She graduated as an LPN and started earning enough money to begin thinking again about homeownership. After maintaining a several-years-long conversation with Habitat, Patti applied for a Habitat home. She was accepted in Fall 2007, completed the sweat equity requirement and went to settlement on her home one year later. Her youngest daughter, Moriah, is enrolled in first grade, and her oldest daughter, Talya, is commuting to college.

"Thanks to Habitat and its volunteers, we are warm and cozy in our new home, surrounded by walls built with love. I will forever be in awe and so very grateful for this."

## Shop Local, Dine Local

Shop local, dine local – keep Doylestown unique and thriving! Support the locally-owned, independent shops and restaurants that make Doylestown a cultural landmark in Bucks County. While doing so, you'll be supporting a local charity. Here's how it works:

- Purchase a Shop Local, Dine Local card for \$16
- Keep the card in your wallet and present it to any of the participating businesses and restaurants to receive special discounts and incentives. A full list of participating businesses can be found at [www.doylestownalliance.org/shoplocal.htm](http://www.doylestownalliance.org/shoplocal.htm) and cards are valid through December 2009.
- Two-thirds of the money raised from the sale of the Shop Local, Dine Local cards will go to two local Charities, CB Cares and Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County.

Shop Local, Dine Local cards can be purchased at the ReStore and other local businesses; visit [www.doylestownalliance.org/shoplocal.htm](http://www.doylestownalliance.org/shoplocal.htm) for a full list.



## Homeownership Opportunities

Have you ever considered homeownership through Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County? At a recent information meeting in Lower Bucks, attendees were surprised to see that their own families' incomes qualify them for our homeownership program! Habitat is not a giveaway program – it's a partnership between working families (and singles) and our affiliate to provide affordable homes to people who already work or live in our communities, but don't have the means to purchase a home. We welcome you to take a second look at our criteria – for you, your family or your friends – at [www.habitatbucks.org/application\\_information.htm](http://www.habitatbucks.org/application_information.htm). Give us a call or drop us a line: Stefanie is at 215.822.2812 x307 or [s.clark@habitatbucks.org](mailto:s.clark@habitatbucks.org). Nancy is at 215.822.2812 x304 or [n.oconnor@habitatbucks.org](mailto:n.oconnor@habitatbucks.org).

## Want to get away?

Purchase a ticket for a chance to win a \$3,000 gift certificate for a Caribbean Getaway! The winner will be able to book the vacation of his/her choice. Tickets are only \$20 each; drawing will be held November 8. To purchase raffle tickets, contact Kelly at [kelly@bucksrealtor.com](mailto:kelly@bucksrealtor.com) or 215.956.9176. Raffle sponsored by BCAR affiliate partners County Line Abstract and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage; trip provided by Wings Trips.

## Holiday Cards now available

Congratulations to Bucks County artist, Karen Lewallen, winner of this year's Holiday Card Design Contest! Show your customers and clients that you give back to the community by ordering Karen's beautiful holiday cards, pictured here. The card's standard inside message reads, "Wishing you much peace and success in the New Year!" or, buyers may choose a customized message with a name and/or logo. The back of the card includes the Habitat for Humanity logo and description, as well as the cover design



name, "Creating Community," and artist introduction. Cards are only \$8/10 pack; all proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County! Download an order form at [www.habitatbucks.org/specialevent](http://www.habitatbucks.org/specialevent) or contact Beth

at [b.adams@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.adams@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x305 for more information.

## Save the date!

The first annual Habitat for Humanity What Makes a Home signature event is scheduled for Sunday, November 8 from 5 to 8:30pm here at our office. Enjoy food by Max Hansen Caterers as we celebrate all that we've accomplished this past year. Be sure to save this date as we have limited seating! For more information and to order tickets, visit [www.habitatbucks.org/signature\\_event.htm](http://www.habitatbucks.org/signature_event.htm) or contact Billy at 215.822.2812 x316 or [b.dunn@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.dunn@habitatbucks.org).

## Double your donation

Did you know that many corporations in the greater Bucks County area provide matching dollars for financial contributions made to Habitat for Humanity? Merck alone will match up to \$30,000 per year and many other wonderful corporate partners have a similar policy. Unsure about your company program? Give us a call and let us help you! For more information about Corporate Matching, please contact Billy at 215.822.2812 x316 or [b.dunn@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.dunn@habitatbucks.org).

## Find Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County on the World Wide Web

Become a fan of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County on Facebook by visiting [www.facebook.com/pages/Habitat-for-Humanity-of-Bucks-County/50173090825](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Habitat-for-Humanity-of-Bucks-County/50173090825) or by doing a search for "Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County" at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

Add us as a contact on Flickr by visiting [www.flickr.com/photos/habitat-bucks/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/habitat-bucks/) or by doing a search for "Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County" at [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com).

## Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County is:

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## Youth United

Youth United, a Habitat for Humanity International program, mobilizes young people, ages 5 to 25, to fully fund and build a house with their local Habitat affiliate. All students are engaged in fundraising, education and advocacy activities, while those over 16 help with the actual house construction. From dances, sporting events and fashion shows to bake sales, car washes and advocacy for our families, your participation makes the difference. There are many ways for your group or school to Act! Give! Share! We provide the toolkit and planning process; the school provides the students and leadership. Contact us today to get started!

To learn more about Youth United, contact Beth Adams at [b.adams@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.adams@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x305.



### Youth supporting youth

Youth United not only benefits those participating in the program, but also the mission of Habitat for Humanity to build affordable homes in Bucks County. Did you know that homeowner children and teenagers are:

- 25% more likely to graduate from high school?
- 11% more to likely to graduate from college?
- 20% less likely to become teenage parents?
- 59% more likely to own a home as adults?

## Eighth Annual Habitat for Humanity 5K and Kids Fun Run!

It's time to lace up those sneaks and start training for the Eighth Annual Habitat for Humanity 5K! The Quakertown Rotary Club and Quakertown United Methodist Church are once again hosting the Habitat 5K Race at the Quakertown United Methodist Church, 1875 Frier Road, on Saturday, November 28.

Registration opens at 8:45am, with the ¾-mile Kid's Race at 9:30am and the 5K starting at 10am. Along with awards for the top male and female runners in various age groups, there will be a raffle for gift certificates and prizes—including homemade pies! All race proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County.

Race organizer, Bill Tuszynski, is as excited as ever for this year's event. "As always, Quakertown Rotary's Habitat 5K is a highlight of the Thanksgiving weekend. The race is a good workout, equal to fighting the Black Friday crowds and a lot cheaper to boot. With indoor registration and bathrooms, your posse can come cheer for you and stay comfortable. The race has grown to over 200 runners and walkers since we started in 2002 and is both a challenge for competitive runners and a fun experience for those like me in the back of the pack. New this year is a 9 and under age group to recognize the youngest racers. This is also our third year for the ¾-mile Kids' Run, a flat non-competitive event for our future stars." Bill adds, "we'll have a few new wrinkles on food and prizes to keep things fun and, as always, I've got my tux ready to go!"

Register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com); for more information visit [www.habitatbucks.org](http://www.habitatbucks.org).



## Neighbor to Neighbor

The Bucks County Association of REALTORS®, Inc. (BCAR) is thrilled to have met their goal to raise \$100,000 through the Neighbor to Neighbor program! The money raised equals the funding needed to build one home in the Emerald Hollow community, that of Marybeth and Corey Fisher, and their three daughters.

The Neighbor to Neighbor program is a partnership between Habitat for Humanity, BCAR, and its members to build homes for hardworking families in Bucks County, the goal of which is to raise funds with the help of local REALTOR® agents. The program also encourages participants to use their voices to promote the mission of Habitat Bucks to make safe, affordable housing a matter of conscience and action in Bucks County.

Have you and your Realtor office joined Neighbor to Neighbor 2009? There are new benefits and membership levels to meet everyone's needs, and getting involved is easy! For more information or to register, visit [www.habitatbucks.org/neighbor\\_to\\_neighbor.htm](http://www.habitatbucks.org/neighbor_to_neighbor.htm) or contact Beth at [b.adams@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.adams@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x305.



Linda Andrews, Executive Director, presents Tom Skiffington, 2008 BCAR President, and Todd Polinchock, 2009 BCAR President, with a hammer-adorned plaque in recognition of BCAR's \$100,000 donation.

## Director's Corner

by Linda S. Andrews, Executive Director

### Did you know...

Did you know that you can build a green home and keep it affordable? Habitat Bucks is creating homes that are friendlier to the environment and to the budget of hard-working families. Speaking of families...

Did you know that the average Habitat homeowner in Bucks County earns about \$35,000 per year?

Did you know that to become a partner family with Habitat, families go through a process that takes several months before they are approved? Qualification is based on income and credit, just like anyone else applying for a mortgage. But, Habitat has additional restrictions; they must prove that they have lived or worked in Bucks County for at least a year and that their current living conditions meet the definition of substandard. Heartbreakingly, many families do not even get the opportunity to apply, simply because we don't have enough homes available for everyone who needs one.

Do you know who your Habitat neighbors are? You will find our partner families working in our hospitals, medical offices, schools, day care centers, factories, retail stores and for non-profits. You will also find them volunteering in fire departments, on community sports teams, the public library and in the schools. When a family is able to move from a rental to a home of their own, they become invested in the community. Our families know the value of giving back in the community where we all live.

The impact on the community goes beyond creating stability by moving families from rental to homeownership and keeping badly needed workers in the county. The money that is spent building a home also stays in the community. For every home we build, approximately \$270,000 goes back into the community in spending. That doesn't even include the taxes paid by the families once they become homeowners.

Thinking of making a difference in your community? For a real difference, support Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County.

Visit [www.habitatbucks.org](http://www.habitatbucks.org) to learn the many different ways you can support Habitat for Humanity.

*Linda S. Andrews*

## DEDICATIONS



Julia Heredia and Edgar Burgos after receiving the key to their home during dedication.

### April 23, 2009

Surrounded by friends, family and current homeowners, three new families were welcomed into the Emerald Hollow community in April. Words of joy and thanksgiving, blessings and dreams-come-true rose to meet the setting sun.

Edgar Burgos and Julia Heredia, joined by their children, Laura and Paolo; Ruth Kuremsky, joined by her son, John and grandson, Chandler; and Alice Zander, joined by her daughter, Beniah, each received the keys to their new homes. Afterwards, the celebrations continued as guests were treated to tours and responded to each homeowner by warming each room with their hearts and congratulations.



Family Program Director, Nancy O'Connor (left), with Board member, Nancy Buckner (right), during house settlement with the Pinilla Family (center).

### October 2, 2008

Habitat for Humanity builds houses, yes, but much more is created with the raw construction materials. "My house was built with wood and brick...but it was also built with love," said new homeowner Jeannie Horst. And so it is that Habitat builds homeowners, and communities and friendships and families.

The October Dedication celebrated the love and success of six new Emerald Hollow homeowners: Jeannie Horst; the Fisher Family—Corey, Marybeth, Becky, Maddy and newborn Leah, who joined the family in September 2009; the Karanja-Kaguima Family—Daniel, Milkah, Irene, Alex and Charles; the Moskauski Family—Patti, Moriah and Talya; the Pinilla Family—Sammy, Yazmin, Sammy Jr. and Joshua; and the Sackor-Diarraso Family—Mohammed, Fatmata, Ahmed, Youssef and Moussa (newborn daughter, Oumou, joined the family in January).



# ReStore

The Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County ReStore is about to commemorate its first anniversary, and there is much to celebrate! Since opening the doors last Fall, the ReStore has become the go-to place for area citizens looking to save money on homebuilding supplies and home furnishings, donate quality new and gently-used items, and recycle materials. The community support has allowed the ReStore to raise over \$325,000 to support the important work of Habitat for Humanity right here in Bucks County.

Habitat for Humanity ReStores operate throughout the country, offering retail outlets where new and used building materials and home items are sold at a fraction of normal prices. Proceeds from these ReStores help local affiliates fund the construction of Habitat houses within their community, some of which have raised enough funds to build an additional 10 or more houses per year!

The ReStore offers many benefits and opportunities for families and individuals looking to support the efforts of Habitat Bucks:

#### Donating to the ReStore

Materials sold by Habitat ReStores are usually donated from building supply stores, contractors, demolition crews or from individuals who wish to show their support. In addition to raising funds, ReStores help the environment by

rechanneling good, usable materials into use. Items that we can accept as donations include: building, plumbing, electrical, roofing, landscaping and mason materials; appliances; furniture; tools; vehicles; home décor items.

#### Volunteering at the ReStore

Both groups and individuals have lots of opportunities to volunteer at the ReStore, including: unloading deliveries, cleaning and testing donations, stocking merchandise, assisting customers and answering phones. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Please contact Laura at l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x302 for more info!

#### Recycling with the ReStore

The ReStore can take many of your trash items for recycling: all metals, including broken appliances; car and truck batteries; eyeglasses (for the Chalfont Lions Club); cars (as part of the Cars for Homes program); paper including catalogs, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, office paper, including shredded and fax paper, notebooks, folders. No phone books or cardboard, please.

#### Shopping at the ReStore

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore has the best deals in town! We offer prices generally 25 to 75% below retail prices, with new inventory arriving daily and special monthly sales. Of course, the

best part of shopping at the ReStore is knowing that proceeds stay local to build much needed affordable homes in our neighborhoods and that your purchases are helping to save the environment by making our landfills a little less full. Be sure to clip the coupon below to save 10% on your next shopping trip!

Thanks to all who have made the ReStore's first year in business a success. Be sure to stop by for the first anniversary event, October 21 through 24, when we'll be celebrating with amazing customer deals, giveaways and refreshments. If you haven't shopped, donated, recycled or volunteered with us yet, we hope to see you soon!

> Visit the ReStore at 31 Oak Avenue, Chalfont (215.822.2708); we're open Wednesday, 9am - 5pm; Thursday and Friday, 9am - 6pm; Saturday, 9am - 5pm; and by appointment.

USE THIS COUPON FOR

## 10% OFF

YOUR NEXT RESTORE PURCHASE

#### Restore Location

31 Oak Avenue, Chalfont, PA  
215.822.2708

#### Restore Hours

Wed: 9am - 5pm; Thurs and Fri: 9am - 6pm;  
Sat: 9am - 5pm; and by appointment.

Not valid with any other offers.

## THANK YOU NOTES



Janet Stevenson, IFDA Chapter President, and Ellen Cohen, IFDA Chapter Advisor, visited the offices to present International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA) of Philadelphia's annual donation to Habitat Bucks. Not only does IFDA make a donation each year, they also volunteer their time; most recently, a group helped plant trees at Emerald Hollow and spread the word about Habitat for Humanity and our ReStore throughout their membership. Thank you for all you do!



Thank you to these 2009 Neighbor to Neighbor participants:

- Whole office participation, RE/MAX 440
- Susan Butler, Century 21 Montague - Canale
- Michael Goelz, Century 21 Alliance
- Devina Golden\*, Prudential Fox & Roach
- Laurie Hopkins, Keller Williams, the Hopkins team
- Mark and Frances Redding, Prudential Fox & Roach
- John Suchy, CB Hearthside

\*Three year participant!

For more information about how you and your office can get involved with Neighbor to Neighbor, see page 6.



**Women Builders, Constance Lenzenby (also the architect for The Stitchery), Anna Mae Mokes and Celia Malmad.**

During **National Women Build Week**, crews of women volunteers (aka, Women Builders) raised their hammers at Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County's first adaptive reuse homebuilding effort, The Stitchery. National Women Build

Week featured daily guest speakers from our community partners including **St. Michael's**

**Lutheran Church, Constance Lenzenby Architects, Bucks County Opportunity Council and Center for Independent Living of Bucks County.** Sponsors for the week were **St. Michael's Lutheran Church, First Savings Bank of Perkasio, The Awesome Adventure Women and Quakertown Community School District teachers.** Women Builders are an incredible group of women who come together to work hard, make friends, but most importantly, build a home. Thanks to everyone involved in making the week a success!

Thanks to local publisher, **Robin Coppinger**, for donating space in the engaging and informative Bucks County Women's Journal! Over the past several months, we've printed articles covering a range of topics including homeownership



opportunities, green homebuilding efforts, the Holiday Card Design Contest and

the Women Build wine tasting event. Be sure to check out the latest issues online at [www.buckscountywomensjournal.com](http://www.buckscountywomensjournal.com).



Thank you to recent Day Sponsors: **Merck** (pictured), **Ally Bank, Goldman Sachs, NextGen Healthcare Information Systems, Re/Max 440, First Savings Bank of Perkasio, St. Michael's Lutheran Church of Sellersville, Trinity Lutheran Church of Perkasio.**

Thanks to everyone involved in making our first **Youth Faith Build Day** a success! Twelve high school students from several local churches volunteered on the Emerald Hollow site, then enjoyed a BBQ cookout and an evening at an Iron Pigs minor league baseball game.

A huge thank you to volunteer **Wanda Lindsay** for fundraising to purchase Wawa hoagies for Habitat's construction crew! Wanda has been involved as a volunteer through **Bucks County Community College**, building in Bucks County as well as traveling for a Collegiate Challenge trip this spring.

Thank you to **Conestoga Bank** for choosing Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County as one of their community partners. They made a \$1,000 donation to the work of building decent, affordable homes in Bucks County!



Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County was one of several affiliates across the United States to receive a \$50,000 commitment for the sponsorship of half of a home from **GMAC**. The building of this home has started in Perkasio, and we are looking to close the rest of the \$50,000 gap in the next two months. Thanks, GMAC!



Thanks to (pictured from left) **Ella Phipps** (6), **Emma Vergamini** (6) and **Zoe Boone** (5) for raising over \$40 through lemonade sales. The girls recently stopped by the building site to present their check to construction crew members, Ray (front) and Jason. We appreciate your hard work!

**Trinity Lutheran Church and First United Methodist Church** cosponsored vacation Bible school, teaching 170 children about homelessness and offering a donation toward Habitat's Perkasio site, The Stitchery. Habitat Bucks' Outreach Director, Beth Adams, met with the Bible school students to give them hands on experience by building a "people house," while older students visited the work site with snacks for the workers. The students also made welcome boxes for the families and collected over \$1,000 in their coin banks. Thanks for an amazing week!

**Mealey's Furniture** held a fundraiser to benefit Habitat's Women Build program during their tent sale. Habitat volunteers sold refreshment during the event, with all proceeds benefiting the Women Build. A huge thank you to Mealey's for their generous support, and thank you to Habitat's awesome volunteers who helped out!