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 Perkasie Borough and represents our first ever “adaptive reuse” project. Groundbreaking took place in May during National Women Build Week, when crews of volunteers raised their hammers as part of the Women Build (pictured). Homeowner families are expected to move in early 2010.

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 Lenz, 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 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. For every $115 donated, Habitat for Humanity will raise their hammers as part of the Women Build program at The Stitchery.

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 lmcclellan@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x302.
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 time. Her primary contribution has been creating merchandise displays. She is always so happy to help the staff in many different endeavors, and is now a part-time volunteer 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!

Patti Moskauki

For Patti Moskauki, 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 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.”

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteers

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 or contact Beth at b.dunn@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x316 or 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.

Save the date!

The first annual Habitat for Humanity What Makes a Home signature event is scheduled for Sunday, November 8 from 5 to 8:30 pm 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.html or contact Billy at 215.822.2812 x316 or b.dunn@habitatbucks.org.

Want to get away?

Purchase a ticket for a chance to win a $3,000 gift certificate for a Caribbean Gateway! 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 or 215.956.9176. Raffle sponsored by beCAR affiliate partners County Line Abstract and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage; trip provided by Wings Trips.

Holiday Cards now available

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 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 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 your, your family or your friends – at 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. Nancy is at 215.822.2812 x304 or n.oconnor@habitatbucks.org.

Want to get away?

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Find Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County on Facebook

Become a fan of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/pages/Habitat-for-Humanity-of-Bucks-County/80170394932 or by doing a search for “Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County” at www.facebook.com.
Eighth Annual Habitat for Humanity 5K and Kids Fun Run!

It’s time to lace up those sneakers 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 8:45 am, with the ¼-mile Kid’s Race at 9:30 am and the 5K starting at 10 am. 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 Tuszyński, 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’ race, 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 active.com; for more information visit www.habitatbucks.org.

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 now 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 or 215.822.2812 x 305.

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 or contact Beth at b.adams@habitat bucks.org or 215.822.2812 x 305.

Director’s Corner

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 buying 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 to learn the many different ways you can support Habitat for Humanity.

BCAR’s $100,000 donation.

Tom Skiffington, 2008 BCAR President, and

Linda Andrews, Executive Director, presents

Todd Polinchock, 2009 BCAR President, with

the keys to their new homes. Afterwards, the celebrations continued as guests were treated to tours and responded to each homeowner by waving 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 Pirolla 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 successes 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 Kranz/Kaguima Family— Daniel, Milka, Irene, Alex and Charles; the Moskau Family— Patti, Mariah and Taya; the Pirolla Family— Sammy, Yazmin, Sammy Jr. and Joshua; and the Sackoor-Diarasso Family— Mohammad, Fatmata, Ahmed, Youssouf and Moussa (newborn daughter, Oumou, joined the family in January).
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 $32,000 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 mocci o l@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!

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

**Directions to the ReStore**

- **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.

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 Perkasie, and we are looking to close the rest of the $90,000 gap in the next two months. Thanks, GMAC!

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To learn more about our ReStore, please visit www.habitatbucks.org.

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