

Cold Weather Did Not Chill The Enthusiasm For Their New Homes

It was a frigid Saturday morning, even for December. But there was enough excitement to warm up everybody at the new home dedication by Habitat for Humanity Newark.

Two new homes were dedicated; and two new Partner Families became homeowners in time to enjoy the Christmas holidays in their brand new homes.

A good sized crowd was on hand to help the families celebrate. There were inspiring prayers and speeches and of course the all important ribbon cuttings. Included in the gathering to celebrate with the new homeowners were City Officials from Newark, representatives of the home sponsors, and a few dozen people involved in building the homes in one way or another.

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Everyone Goes Home A Winner at Casino Night

Of course, the money was only pretend, but the enjoyable evening was quite real! A good sized crowd of people gathered at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange recently for the second annual Habitat for Humanity Newark Casino Night.

Highlight of the evening was a full array of games of chance conducted by professionals using real casino-style equipment. The games included Black Jack, Roulette, Craps, and Poker.

Everybody started out with the same amount of "chips" and when the evening was over the winners exchanged their chips for tickets.

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SAVE THE DATE...

Building Homes Building Hope

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWARK
Raising Roofs Gala

Please join us for a benefit to celebrate building homes, hope, and community.

Thursday, May 28, 2009

(Thursday after Memorial Day)

Wilshire Grand Hotel

350 Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, New Jersey



Everyone Goes Home A Winner at Casino Night

(continued from front cover)

Those tickets were then used for chances to win an excellent selection of prizes ranging from a custom made pair of cowboy boots to several wine baskets, basketball tickets, and even a \$1,000 gift certificate from Sky Mall. Of course the evening was complete with door prizes and a 50-50 drawing. In attendance were sponsors, donors, volunteers, staff, city officials, board members, and many friends of Habitat Newark. The evening of gaming was proceeded with a cocktail party and wonderful dinner.



Just like the real thing, Habitat supporters enjoy a friendly game of Black Jack.



Enjoying the evening were Jeff Farrell (center) new President of the Board of Directors, Dave Zurheide (right), Executive Director, and Jeff's brother, Glenn.



Habitat Newark Board Member Peter Waldt and Deputy Executive Director Don Blaesser enjoy the cocktail party.



Jason Ramsey, Project Manager for the West Orange house is joined at the cocktail party by his wife Glenna, and friends Tom Hackel and Veronica Taylor.



Carlton Daniels, Vice President of Habitat Newark's Board of directors enjoys the evening with Marcus and Rebecca Glanton, newlyweds who plan on becoming volunteers.



Margaret Prentice and her husband, John Dyson, sample the excellent food. Margaret is a member of the Board of Directors and former Chair of the Faith Relations Committee that launched, and raised funds for the Abraham House.

The *ToolBox* is published by Habitat for Humanity Newark, Inc., an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. HFHI is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat has built more than 225,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1,000,000 people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

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Comings & Goings

NEW HFHN Board President

Jeffrey Farrell was recently elected President of HFHN's Board of Directors. Farrell has served with the land acquisition and construction committees during the past two years. He is president of Cambridge Development, a construction and redevelopment company operating in North Jersey.

Jeff and his wife, Christine, live in Montclair. They have a young daughter, Maria, and awaiting a new arrival.

Jeff succeeds Tracey Alexander whom the board praised for her outstanding service during the past two years.

Habitat Mourns Passing of Millard Fuller

The entire Habitat for Humanity International family is mourning the passing of Millard Fuller, who died February 3rd after a brief illness.

Called by many "a force of nature" Fuller and his wife Linda formed Habitat for Humanity in 1976 and together built it into a world wide success story helping thousands of people secure decent housing. He was 74 years old.

On Sunday, February 8, the Star Ledger did a wonderful article saluting the major contributions Millard made to people all over the world, including those here in Essex County. The article features Kim Wilson, a Habitat Newark Homeowner, and her family.

For the complete story on Fuller, please see our website www.habitatnewark.org.

Lots of Building Going On!

After dedicating two new homes just before Christmas, Habitat Newark has a number of other projects in full swing. The Abraham House is nearing completion on South 6th Street and will soon be occupied. We have just begun a house at 75 South 11th Street that is being sponsored by Exit Realty International. The Family Selection Committee is in full swing to select owners for our first home in West Orange. Ground will be broken soon for the two family home there as we expand into other parts of Essex County.

Baseball Season Starts Soon

Despite all the snow we have endured this winter, the baseball season will start soon. The good news this year is that the Newark Bears are under new ownership and have planned a full season of family fun.

Mark your calendars now. July 13th to 16th will be Habitat for Humanity Newark Week at Riverfront Stadium. The Bears will play four home games in a row that week. We will help promote ticket sales and will share ticket revenue with the Bears organization—all leading to sponsoring a Newark Bears House. Anyone who would like to help with this project should contact Don Blaesser at 973-624-3330.

Check out www.habitatnewark.org

If you haven't visited the Habitat Newark website recently, you will find a lot of great new information there and the latest happenings at Habitat Newark. Now you are able to view a number of videos that focus on Habitat as well as the latest information about our organization.

We Need Your Email Address

Snail mail is slow and expensive. We can do a much better job communicating with you if we have your email address. Odds are that we do not. To help the environment and to help us communicate better with you, please send your email address, along with your name and the town you live in to: toolbox@habitatnewark.org. We will not share your address with anybody else, ever.



Nice car.



That old car of yours will probably not be worth what you think it should be as a trade in. But, you can donate that car to Habitat and earn a tax deduction.

To learn more go to www.carsforhomes.org or call 877-277-4344.

Please call or e-mail us if you are receiving multiple copies or do not wish to receive *The ToolBox*.

You can make a donation to Habitat Newark 24/7 at www.habitatnewark.org

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(continued from front cover)

Both of these new homeowners worked far more than the 400 sweat equity hours required of them.

After the new homes were dedicated, the families, many volunteers, the staff, and other Habitat Homeowners and Partner Families gathered at a nearby church to continue the celebration and fellowship with a great meal! The follow-up event included Christmas Carols and gifts for the children.

For more information and photos from the dedication see the story at www.habitatnewark.org.

Houses built and dedicated by



Cutting the ribbon on their new home, which is sponsored by the McCarter & English law firm of Newark, are Tewolde Ghebremedhin and his wife Zufan as well as their children Selam 17 and Rahw 19. The family immigrated to the United States from Eritrea in Africa. Reverend Paul Valerius helps cut the ribbon and Dave Zurheide, HFHN Executive Director, (in background) looks on.



Soon to enjoy the first home they ever owned are Joy Nkenke and her three children: Jennifer, Maribel (Mimi), and Brian. Their new home is sponsored by Exit Lucky Realty and the City of Newark, and officials from both were on hand for the dedication. Joy, who came to the United States 16 years ago, works as a quality control specialist.

