

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Habitat Newark,

In this issue of The Toolbox, you will see much excitement brewing with new strategies in place for Habitat for Humanity Newark's continuing road to success.

Please be sure to join us for our Raising Roofs Gala at Nanina's in the Park on May 15th. This is our first Gala to celebrate and honor some of our long time supporters: Lois Van Deusen of McCarter & English, St. Cassian Church, Morgan Stanley, Kathryn Cassidy, The Gardner Family, Mary Lou and RJ Klein, and former HFHN Homeowner's Association President, Jose Vargas and his wife Marilyn.

We are beyond thrilled to announce our Chairpeople: Ralph LaRossa, COO of PSEG is our Honorary Chair, and Keena Mackay Hausmann of Latham and Watkins and Stuart Deutsch, Dean of Rutgers Law School have so graciously agreed to be the Event Co-Chairs. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

*The Land Acquisition Committee has been working diligently to acquire more land. We are happy to report that an extremely kind donation of property from the members of Congregation Ahavas Sholom, a Newark Congregation, is allowing us to build the Abraham House on South 6th Street and a new home on South 11th Street. With the City of Newark's help we have secured three lots in the South Ward and are working on acquiring two more lots in the West Ward that will hopefully be allotted to us this month.**

As some of you know, we are expanding our mission into Essex County. The application and plans for a new two-family home in West Orange have been approved and we will begin the building process before the summer.

We can't do anything without you and we thank you for all of your kind and generous support. Habitat for Humanity Newark thrives on great volunteers, incredible donors, and a dedicated staff to make our organization work.

We thank you for being a part of our family.

*Kindest regards,
Tracey Alexander
President, Board of Directors*

A special **THANK YOU to the City of Newark and a few of our outstanding officials who were there when we needed them most this year: Mayor Cory A. Booker, Deputy Mayor Stefan Pryor, Deputy Mayor Margarita Muniz, Mildred C. Crump, Toni L. Griffin, Mike Meyer, Adam Zipkin, Matt Klapper, Dana Rone, Donald M. Payne, Jr, Carlos M. Gonzales, Oscar James II, Ronald C. Rice, Luis Quintana, Augusto Amador, Anibal Ramos, Jr., Neil Mitgard, Ramon Lago.*

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Excitement Builds for Raising Roofs Gala

Excitement is building for a major fundraising event to be held May 15, 2008 at Nanina's in the Park located on magnificent scenic property in Belleville near Newark's famed Branch Brook Park.

Raising Roofs Gala's proceeds will help support Habitat for Humanity Newark's operations to build affordable new homes for hard working Partner Families in Essex County.

Special honoree of the evening will be Lois M. Van Deusen, Managing Partner, Retired from Newark's McCarter and English LLP law firm. Lois, a long time board member of Habitat for Humanity Newark, chaired the legal committee and continues to work tirelessly for the organization. She was the first woman to hold the position of Managing Partner at a major New Jersey law firm and one of a few women nationwide ever to do so.

The event will salute Foundation Partner Morgan Stanley, and Faith Community Partner Saint Cassian Roman Catholic Church of Upper Montclair. Several volunteers and Homeowner Families will be honored. There will be a number of other honorees and VIP's that you will be hearing about soon.

Keena Mackay Hausmann, partner with Latham & Watkins in Newark and a member of HFHN's Board of Directors will be Co-Chair of the event along with Stuart L. Deutsch, Dean and Professor of Law, Rutgers School of Law-Newark. According to Hausmann, "This is going to be a splendid evening, in a beautiful place at the perfect time of the year. We hope everyone will mark their calendars now and plan on being a part of this fantastic evening. We promise you will be glad you did."

Please check our website (www.habitatnewark.org) for the latest news on this upcoming event or contact Cathie Reyes, Development Manager at 973-624-3330. ●

Houses Built and Dedicated by



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.

Habitat Newark Dedicates Two New Homes During "Great Day for Newark"

"This is a great day, a really great day for all of us here in Newark," was the opening statement of Dana Rone, City Council Member for the Central Ward of Newark, as she kicked off ceremonies to dedicate two brand new homes at Habitat for Humanity Newark on January 12, 2008.

Council person Rone went on to praise the hard work by the new owners, hundreds of volunteers and the whole team that had just completed the new homes. She said "this represents an ever improving Newark, a better neighborhood and a brighter future."

It was a bright, sunny and crisp winter day as a crowd gathered to celebrate the completion of two new homes on Fairmount Avenue in Newark. Two single-parent women and their families had moved into their new homes just before Christmas and now are first time homeowners. No more substandard living conditions for these families. Now they live in decent, safe homes in an ever improving neighborhood. New homes, new friends and a new community have transformed their lives.

Newark Council Person at Large, Donald M. Payne Jr. also made brief remarks at the dedication ceremonies. He pointed out that one of the reasons he is so committed to Habitat for Humanity programs in Newark is because of the new homeowners created. "We have seen a lot of change in Newark in recent years, and many of our former residents have been forced to move away. This program brings back the kind of people who used to live here. These are the kinds of good hard working people who are the backbone of this great city, and that is exactly what we are seeing here today," concluded Payne.

The first of the homes dedicated was sponsored by St. Cassian Roman Catholic Church of Upper Montclair. This is the second home this year they financed and parishioners have put in hundreds of man hours doing construction work. Father John (Jack) Judge participated in the ceremonies and

several members of the congregation were on hand for the celebration.

The other home was built in honor of Jim Tierney of Morristown. Friends and associates of Tierney raised the money required to build the house and his associates in the Carpenter's Club helped build the home. Tierney, a retired Wall Street executive, has been a key member of the HFHN team for a long time. For a number of years he was Executive Director working 60 and 70 hour weeks and guiding the affiliate all the while accepting no pay. Currently a member of the HFHN Board of Directors, Jim has participated in Habitat "builds" all over the world. Tierney has made a significant impact on Habitat Newark's work.

Others participating in the dedication include; Tracey Alexander, President of HFHN's Board of Directors, Hendricks Davis, Executive Director; Paul Valerius, Pastor of the Central Assembly of God, HFHN Board Member and Chairman of the Family Nurturing Committee; Father John (Jack) Judge pastor of St. Cassian Roman Catholic Church of Upper Montclair; and Reverend Bernard Wilks of the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Newark and member of the Faith Relations Committee.

Habitat for Humanity Newark builds decent affordable homes for hard working partner families

who contribute over 400 hours of "sweat equity" and pay for the home with a zero percent mortgage. ●



One of the two homes dedicated on January 12 was dedicated in honor of Jim Tierney, former Executive Director and current member of the Board of Directors and the Carpenter's Club. Pictured above (from the left) are Shannon, Crystal and Judy Boodhransingh, new home owners and Jim Tierney with his wife Abby.



Saint Cassian Roman Catholic Church raised the funds and helped build the brand new home for Lisa Nelson and family that was dedicated on January 12th. Pictured above from the left; Tom Lugaric, Ray Aumack, Lisa Nelson (new homeowner), Father John (Jack) Judge (pastor) Lynn DeLuca (Chairperson for St. Cassian HFHN activities) and John Scott (former President of HFHN Board and member of Carpenter's Club).

2007 DONOR LIST—*To all the Businesses, Congregations, Foundations, Families and Individuals who donated to Habitat for Humanity Newark in 2007, you helped us build homes and hope! Thank you!*

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Carol Manning (left) and Kathryn Cassidy visited the Musicians' Village near New Orleans as part of their trip to Alabama for a Women Build Construction Leadership Training session.

Two Women Build Volunteers Attend Construction Leadership Training

Two key HFHN volunteers, Kathryn Cassidy and Carol Manning, recently experienced the first Women Build Construction Leadership training session sponsored by Habitat for Humanity International in Alabama.

Along with our two Women Build and Carpenter Club volunteers about two dozen volunteers from across the country teamed up to frame a house, install roof trusses and decking and install windows and doors in a five day period. During evening hours the women received instructions on construction planning, safety and volunteer management.

According to Manning, "the experience not only helped me improve my construction skills, but definitely taught me new ways to show Women Build Volunteers how to work safely and efficiently." Cassidy said, "It was truly rewarding to work beside the future homeowner and share her joy each day as construction progressed."

While in Alabama the pair also traveled along the Gulf Coast and saw first hand some of the destruction that still exists all these months later. ●

Comings & Goings

There is always a lot going on in and around Habitat for Humanity Newark. Here, in encapsulated form, are a few examples.

Romania

Jim Tierney and Jason Ramsey were among the HFHN home builders who paid a visit to Romania last summer. It wasn't the best trip due to weather and some stomach ailments, but Jim reports that Jason was a big hit over there and his construction skills were impressive and much in demand.

Women Build III Food Tasting Event

Last October our ever hard working Women Build III team held a Food Tasting event at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange. A number of restaurants offered a taste of their specialties, there was live entertainment and a wonderful art auction. Of course, it all goes toward the third home Women Build will be building!

New Orleans Build

A group from HFHN is getting ready right now for a building trip to New Orleans from April 6 to April 13, to help in the area devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Several members of the Faith Relations Committee will make the trip and this time City

Council Member Oscar S. James II will attend and bring a youth group along to work. The group is full to capacity.

\$62.50/per sq. ft.

An enterprising member of the Abraham House Committee came up with a great way to demonstrate how everybody can help make the Abraham House a reality. \$62.50 is what it costs per square foot to build the new two story three bedroom home. That's not much – we can all help out with a square foot or two – right?

Kelley Spear

... is currently studying for her Masters in Social Work Degree from Rutgers and is working as an intern with the HFHN team on special projects and in areas apropos to her specialty. Among other things she will be conducting some surveys we will all find useful. When you are in the office, stop and say hello and be sure to cooperate with her surveys and questions. It is great to have you with us, Kelley.

A New Way to Cook Dinner!

In this fast paced age, everybody is looking for an easy way to prepare a tasty, nourishing meal. DinnerSmith of Maplewood participated in the WB III Food Tasting event. Their service was so popular there that DinnerSmith decided to sponsor a day when

customers could come to their store, make meals to take home and a portion of all sales went to Women Build III. We heard a lot of good meals went home with WB ladies, and a tidy sum was sent in as a result.

Good Media Coverage Lately

HFHN has had pretty good media coverage lately. Abraham House has been popular with media. NJ Jewish News did a big article, and that was followed up by another article in the Catholic Advocate. At press time Margaret Prentice is working with the Recorder Newspapers on another article. We also had good coverage of the house dedications on January 12th. News Channel 12 sent a reporter and cameraman and reported on the event. Local Talk ran an excellent article on the dedication as well. If you see HFHN in print please send us a copy of the article.

Sad Farewell to Art Kornstein

Everyone at HFHN was shocked and saddened at the sudden passing of Art Kornstein. Art was an important volunteer for HFHN and was instrumental in architectural, planning and zoning issues for our new two-family home in West Orange. Our sincere condolences go to his family. Art will be missed.

Volunteer Help Wanted

Attention Electricians:

Volunteer positions are now open for retired or semi-retired electricians who want the job of helping our Partner Families achieve a better life for their families. NJ Electrical License and NJ Driver's License are required. Residential Experience is Preferred. The ability to instruct others is a plus. Please contact Fred Powell at 973-624-3330

Attention Plumbers:

Volunteer Plumbers who want to make a difference. Immediate openings exist for experienced plumbers with a NJ Plumber's License and NJ Driver's License to

work with other volunteers building decent low cost housing for our partner families. Residential experience is preferred. The ability to successfully instruct others is a plus. Contact Fred Powell at 973-624-3330.

Attention Administration Workers:

Here is an excellent opportunity for a person with strong admin skills that wants to volunteer for a worthy cause. Work will consist of general office help, occasional mailing efforts and phone answering duties. If you would like to work a few hours a week on a regular schedule we're interested. Familiarity with the PC

is a requirement and experience with MS Office a real plus. Contact Jean Bell at 973-624-3330.

Attention Finish Carpenters:

Habitat for Humanity could use more experienced volunteer finish carpenters, in particular those with framing skills. These positions will give you the opportunity to work with other volunteers who are dedicated to helping our hard working Partner Families build new homes. You will need the proper NJ licenses and a valid Driver's License. Hours are flexible, there is usually weekend work. For more details please call Fred Powell at 973-624-3330.

"We all know Habitat for Humanity is not just about building houses. The real purpose of what we do is to help communities transform themselves for the better and help people escape from poverty housing."

CARL QUERIOS

PROGRAM MANAGER, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL.

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