

Newark Volunteers Build Two Homes in Guatemala

A group consisting of several volunteers from Habitat for Humanity Newark, visited Guatemala in March where they constructed two homes for local residents.

The volunteers, pictured below, visited Antigua Guatemala and built the homes in the mountain city of Santa Maria de Jesus with Morristown New Jersey based Houses to Homes Guatemala (<http://www.fromhousestohomes.org>).

This program replaces filthy, inadequate housing constructed primarily from corn stalks, with simple cinder block homes that have a concrete floor, a door that locks and a window. The new homes protect families from the elements, and create much more sanitary living conditions.

Houses to Homes Guatemala also sponsors a new elementary school called *Cambidano Vidas*, which means “changing lives.” Located in Pastores, a suburb of Antigua, children are selected from poverty stricken surrounding rural villages. Using a combination of Montessori and other modern teaching methods the Cambidano Vidas School maintains reasonably sized classes and operates in a sanitary, organized fashion. Parents are heavily involved in their children’s educations. For children from these rural villages this is a rare opportunity for a basic education that will help break the cycle of poverty. The New Jersey group of volunteers visited the school while they were there.



Workers on a new house sponsored by John and Jeanne Scott of Upper Montclair, are nearing completion of the erection of cinder blocks. Pictured on the back row starting at the left are Jim Waldron and Bill O'Neill (both Carpenters Club); John Scott (Former President of HFHN's Board and Carpenter's Club); Lynda and Karl Meister; and Pete Sullivan (HFHN's VP of Board of Directors). In the front row are the happy family who now live in the home and some of the Houses to Homes Guatemala crew.



With the completed home in the background, in the back row are two workers from Houses to Homes Guatemala next to Jim Fehon, Tony Gibbons Jr., Tony Gibbons (former HFHN Board Member) and Jim Tierney (HFHN Executive Director Emeritus and Board Member.) In the front row is the excited family who moved into the house the very day the photo was taken. This house was donated by active Newark volunteers Wally and Dot French and their family and dedicated to Millard Fuller founder of Habitat for Humanity International who recently passed away.