Metro Camden Habitat for Humanity®

HABITAT happenings

Spring 2010

Metropolitan Camden Habitat For Humanity • P.O. Box 3311 • Camden, NJ 08101 • 856-963-8018 • www.habitatcamden.org

Cooper Plaza Project Starting to Take Shape

The plans were reviewed, the lumber was on hand and the men were excited to demonstrate their proficiency! On March 9th and 10th, teams of professional framers, many of them Amish, framed 10 houses for local Habitat affiliates, including the first three units for our Cooper Plaza Project. Our units were framed by 3 teams competing on Wednesday morning. Within the teams, there was almost no verbal communication, only the sound of hammers and pneumatic nail guns echoing in Greater Philadelphia Expo Center. In 1 hour 31 minutes the winning team had framed and braced all the interior and exterior walls for both floors of one house. The walls for all three units were then loaded onto trailers till the foundations are ready. Schedule permitting, one of the teams from Zook Builders intends to erect the walls at our site.

A special thank you goes out to all the builders who provided their time and talents that day to give us a head start on our new-construction project. This was the fourth year of the Builders Competition, which was originally organized by John McClintick of Devon Presbyterian Church as a way to respond to the housing needs in the wake of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. The generous spirit of the day was captured in the remarks of one of the framers, who said, "I work every day. I'm just giving back one day."

Haiti Reconstruction

Images of the devastating tragedy that struck Haiti this winter are burned into our consciences. The outpouring of aid for relief efforts was immediate and overwhelming—from telethons to special collections at worship services. Members of the Camden/Gloucester Jaycees teamed up with the congregation of Bethany Baptist Church and raised $4,959 to aid those in need after the earthquake in Haiti. These funds were designated for rebuilding in Haiti, where Habitat has been operating for over 26 years. (The Habitat-Haiti office building was destroyed in the earthquake.)

Unlike most relief efforts which are short-term solutions to emergency needs, Habitat for Humanity's disaster recovery programs focus on long-term development. In Haiti, Habitat announced a goal to help 50,000 families. Habitat's threefold plan for Haiti began with the distribution of 10,000 emergency shelter kits containing tools and supplies to help families make immediate house repairs and construct temporary shelters on their home sites.

In the second phase, Habitat for Humanity will help families remove debris, salvage materials that can be recycled, repair homes that received minimal damage and build transitional shelters that meet basic needs. In the third phase, Habitat will build earthquake-resistant houses. Depending on design and the cost of materials in the earthquake's aftermath, these houses will cost from $4000 to $6000 apiece. "With more than 200,000 houses severely damaged or destroyed and 1.2 million people homeless or displaced, there is a critical need for shelter in Haiti," said Habitat for Humanity CEO Jonathan Reckford. "Based on our responses to the Asian tsunami and hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the U.S. Gulf Coast, we are confident that we can empower families to improve their housing conditions by giving them the tools and then working alongside them."

2009 Corporate and Foundation Donors

PSE&G
Danellie Foundation
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Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation
Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
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Kevin McLaughlin/MAC Events/ South Jersey Home Show
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2009 Donors of Professional Services

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Marius Vermeulen— IT support
Lou Miller/A&M Floor Coverings—Vinyl Installation
Mr. John—Portable Toilets
Pop Shop—Food Preparation
Tortilla Press—Food Preparation
Michael Herkert /Artworksink.com—Graphics Design

2009 Faith Community Donors

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Haddon Hts.
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Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Oaklyn
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Haddonfield
First Baptist Church, Collingswood
First Baptist Church, Haddonfield
First Presbyterian Church, Barrington
First Presbyterian Church, Haddon Heights
First Presbyterian Church, Somerdale
Glendale United Methodist Church, Voorhees
Congregation M'kor Shalom, Cherry Hill
Mt. Moriah AME Church, Mt. Holly
Narberth Presbyterian Church
Oaklyn Baptist Church
Pennsauken United Methodist Church
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Haddon Heights
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Laurel Springs
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cherry Hill

WISHLIST

PEOPLE

- Weekday Construction Volunteers (Wed.-Fri.)
- ReStore Volunteers
- Videography & Editing Team
- Homeowners Academy Coordinator to organize instructors, students and curriculum
- Pennies for Palaces Coordinator to contact schools & schedule presentations
- Computer Technician for routine maintenance and troubleshooting of hardware & software

THINGS

- Dump Truck
- Video Camera
- Portable PA system
- Bottled Water
- ReStore Donations – furniture, appliances, kitchen cabinets, etc.

Other Cooper Plaza Project News

- Lowe's made a gift of $25,000 as a partial sponsorship for House #1 at the Cooper Plaza Project.

- $10,000 was received from American Water Resources to celebrate reaching the milestone of 750,000 customer contracts by donating 750 pieces of lumber (estimated at $10,000). "We are proud to provide peace-of-mind coverage to homeowners nationwide, and I can think of no better way to celebrate our achievement in protecting homes than with a donation that helps build homes for families in need," said Sharon Cameron, President of American Water Resources.

The New Face of Construction

Eugene Brooks started volunteering with MCHH over a year ago and came on staff last spring as a Construction Supervisor. He previously worked as a Construction Manager for a large residential developer. Eugene is a United States Navy Hospital Corpsman serving in a Marine Corps Unit.

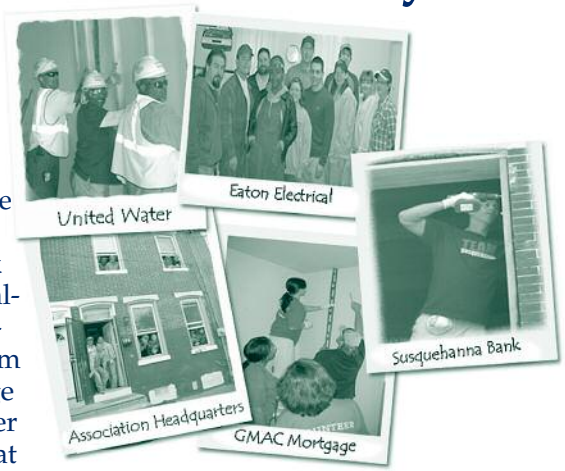
In the fall he was called to active duty and was deployed to the Louisiana/Mississippi area to aid relief efforts locally as well as medical planning of two humanitarian missions in Thailand and the Philippines. Additionally during his free time in the New Orleans area, he volunteered his time to work on houses in St. Bernard Parish for Habitat for Humanity. His active duty came to an end in early April, at which time he returned to MCHH to replace the retiring John Collier as Construction Manager.

Eugene comes at a time when a lot of excitement is brewing at MCHH – the Cooper Plaza Project is finally underway, the way has been cleared for nine vacant houses to be acquired, and the Construction Trades Training Program is being restructured.

In his spare time, Eugene likes to spend time with his wife and three daughters doing outdoor activities, and having his girls pitch in on home renovation projects whenever possible.

Best wishes to John and welcome aboard Eugene!

Team Habitat Build Days



Team Habitat Build Days provide a way for corporations to give back to the community while having their employees work together in a challenging environment. Crews from GMAC Mortgage and United Water hung sheetrock at Sherry Richardson's house. Later, as we worked on two adjacent houses in the 800 block of Line Street, Association Headquarters employees got to release some energy by swinging sledgehammers and getting the property ready to be rehabilitated. United Water employees returned to start framing the interior walls, with Susquehanna Bank employees finishing up where they left off. Eaton sponsored four days during which employees from different area offices had the opportunity to work together to demolish the interior of one house and hang sheetrock in the other house. Eaton also provided the electrical service panel and breakers for the house they were working on. With the Cooper Plaza Project starting up, opportunities will arise for more teams to get involved. If your company is interested in sponsoring a Team Habitat Build Day, contact us at volunteer@habitatcamden.org to get started.

Collegiate Challenge 2010–Lesley University

During the week of March 7th, nine students and one advisor from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA came to Camden in search of a meaningful way to spend their spring break. Upon arriving, they toured the city, including a visit to a homeless day shelter, and "tent city" to get a better understanding of the city that would be their home for the week.

The students were overwhelmed by the needs they saw: "I had seen poverty in other countries, but seeing it in my own country was very different and eye-opening." Another student said that "even though I had heard about the poverty of Camden, nothing could have prepared me for the shock of seeing the city and realizing just how much help is needed."

This introduction to the extreme poverty that exists in the city only fueled the students determination to work harder on their spring break. They painted the interior of a row house on Line Street and also helped repair the brick walls at the adjacent property. When asked if they would recommend a Camden trip to their peers, the group unanimously responded that they would, describing it as "truly rewarding" and "an amazing, enriching and educational experience."

ReStore Update

(Donate, Deduct, Shop & Save!)

Have you visited the ReStore yet? Are you remodeling your home this Spring? Perhaps installing a new kitchen or know someone who is? Do the kitchen cabinets still have good life in them? Well then, donate them to the ReStore so that someone else can enjoy them! We also sell out of appliances on a regular basis, so if you have a washer, dryer, fridge or range that is in good working order, and 8 years old or younger that you are looking to replace, donate your perfectly good ones to the ReStore! Volunteers find many ways to help in the store, from picking up donations to cleaning and repairing donations to organizing the shelves.

To sign up you can use the VolunteerUp website, accessible from any of the pages on www.habitatcamden.org or call Dan at (856) 486-0040.

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A little goes a long way!

Ever wonder what kind of difference pocket change can make? Millbridge Elementary School in Delran held a Pennies for Palaces fundraiser on MCHH's behalf. Teachers incorporated Habitat for Humanity into the curriculum and students solicited change from family and friends. They raised $2,750 during two weeks in December. Way to go Millbridge Elementary School!

Get your school collecting Pennies for Palaces today! Email volunteer@habitatcamden.org to get started!

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Become a Fan on Facebook of Metropolitan Camden Habitat for Humanity®

Join our Cause on Facebook: "Rebuilding Camden, NJ with Habitat for Humanity"

Watch for new merchandise arriving at the ReStore on Twitter

Yes

I want to help MCHH provide first-time homeownership opportunities to struggling families in Camden. I am enclosing my tax deductible contribution of:

Name _____

Address _____

_____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____

Or use our website http://www.habitatcamden.org/donate.html if you'd prefer to make your contribution by credit card.

- **Developer $500**
- **Craftsperson $35**
- **Project Manager $250**
- **Carpenter $25**
- **Contractor $100**
- **Friend $_____**
- **Foreman $50**

In recognition of your gift of $50 or more, MCHH is pleased to send you a golden hammer lapel pin.