

Bike for Homes

In an amazing feat of will, endurance and faith, Mike Logenutz and Jim Boge rode their bicycles all the way *ACROSS THE UNITED STATES* to raise money for Habitat for Humanity Lake County. And they will continue to raise funds through the end of 2011. You can still support them.

Early in the year, Mike contacted Habitat with his idea for the ride and raising funds. Mike and his cousin Jim planned to ride from San Francisco to Boston in 40 days between May 9 and June 30. And they did!

They started every day with this prayer:

"I will exalt You, my God the King; I will praise Your Name forever and ever. Every day I will praise You and extol Your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom ... Let every creature praise His Holy Name forever and ever." Amen.

– Psalm 145:1–3, 21

"The journey is part of the gift."

Youth United

Our Youth United year is off to a great start. In late August the phones started ringing and emails started flying in as the school year started. The amazing young supporters of Habitat for Humanity were ready for action.

Katie Janak, our new VISTA Development Coordinator, immediately organized our Fall Youth United Kickoff Meeting. Students from five school groups filled the room with high energy early on a Saturday morning.

The team shared stories of successes and brainstormed new ideas as they reviewed the Youth United functions: Education, Advocacy, Fundraising and Building. Members reviewed the HFHI Standards of Excellence for Campus Chapters and Youth United Program. Everyone agreed that we want the best program.

Exciting fundraising plans include Oakton Community College's Shanty Village, a Polar Bear Plunge, a 5K Run, music and sports events and some that haven't even been thought of yet. Members will share great ideas, stories and pictures on our new Habitat for Humanity Lake County Youth United Facebook page. The build events will bring members together.

The efforts of these amazing, creative, passionate and wonderful young people of our community lead to amazing things. Both **New Trier High School** and the **Youth United Program** are strong components of Habitat for Humanity. Students learn about poverty and housing needs and do something about it.

The new Youth United house will start soon. The **Youth United** house is sponsored by an ever-growing number of schools and youth groups



Youth United Kickoff Meeting in October



Mike and Jim had no escort so it was just the two of them biking through the cities and farms, downhill and uphill for hours and hours and hours. They found food and lodging with strangers – and ate a lot of peanut butter sandwiches. They made friends, fixed flat tires and soothed sore muscles every day.

Jim and Mike already raised \$20,000 for Habitat. You can read their amazing journal at www.bikeforhomes.com.

We thank them for their extraordinary effort and invite you to support their hard work by donating at www.habitatlc.org.

from our community. They include Campus Chapters from **Northwestern University, Oakton College, Trinity International University** and the **Kellogg Graduate School of Management. GreekBuild**, a partnership of the 39 fraternity and sorority houses at Northwestern University, is an integral part of this group.

High school partners include: **Evanston High School, Grayslake North High School, Lake Zurich High School** and **Stevenson High School**.

New Trier High School will build their twelfth house in the 2011–2012 school year in their annual tradition of giving back. They will raise \$100,000 through their March carnival, community outreach and other events. What an amazing high school with such a deep culture of service.

Isn't it inspiring what the young people in our community can do? In the past 10 years, our awesome young people built 16 houses! They are not fearful – they don't ask why they **can't** get this done – they just **do it!** **You** and **Your School** can be a member of this amazing group offering a hand-up to a family in need.

Construction volunteers must be **16 years old** to work on the site and we need one adult for every four youths. We welcome younger folks to arrange visits to the site to bring their donations and to go on a tour.

- **Younger kids:** Have a Habitat birthday party and ask your friends to help build a house or share your Christmas, Hanukah or tooth fairy money
- **Youth centers, scout troops:** Plan a fundraising event to buy a toilet or a door, then tour the site to deliver your donation
- **Rotary, Kiwanis, Exchange Clubs:** Make a donation to support your local youth, so they can build
- **Businesses:** Provide matching funds and mentor our youth – our leaders of the future

Don't be left out. Call today. Youth United needs YOU and your energy, your passion and your insight.

Contact development@habitatlc.org or call 847-623-1020. Visit www.habitatyouthprograms.org to learn more about the hundreds of ways youth can be involved.



Your Car = Habitat House

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV, or motorcycle and help local families have a decent place to call home. Your donation is tax deductible. It's quick and easy. Within days of your call, your vehicle will be picked up and the paperwork completed. This is an easy and great way to help Habitat build homes! Call toll-free: 1-877-277-HFHI (4344) or visit www.carsforhomes.org.



ReStore Quiz (everybody wins)

✓ **Question: Does the ReStore take furniture?**
Answer: YES! We accept new and gently used furniture (except mattresses) from your home or business

✓ **Question: Does the ReStore accept electronics?**
Answer: YES! And just in time. Starting January 1, the law forbids dumping electronic waste in the landfill. We take CPUs, printers, monitors, keyboards, phones, televisions, VCRs and more. Our partner, ARCOA dismantles the donations and recycles the parts locally and donates funds back to Habitat.

✓ **Question: Will I be able to find what I am looking for at the ReStore?**
Answer: YES! Thanks to the hard work of many people the ReStore is remodeled, repainted with donated Valspar paint and looks fresh and new. MG Design Associates donated signage so departments are labeled and it is easy to find everything. And our staff members are ready to help you. Come visit us.

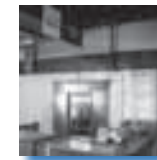
✓ **Question: When is your next event?**

Answer: Grand Reopening in January. Sign up for our E-Builder for updates on new items, special sales, coupons and an invitation to the festivities by visiting www.habitatlc.org/restore.

So what do I win?

- You win a tax donation when our truck picks up your treasures from your remodeling job, your demolition or your business!
- You win a great bargain when you purchase items for your home, business or your next project at the Habitat ReStore!
- You win because you help keep tons of material from the landfill by donating and purchasing from the ReStore!
- You win because your purchase helps *serve more families* and their housing needs!
- You win with the *money-saving coupon* included in this newsletter, so you can shop with us right away!

You always WIN with the Habitat ReStore
DONATE and SHOP with us!



Cashier checkout



Electronics recycling



Furniture department

Location: 3545 Grand Avenue, Gurnee (¼ mile east of Route 41 on the south side of Grand Avenue)
ReStore Hours: Tuesday–Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Donations: Call 847-249-3160 or visit www.habitatlc.org/restore for drop-off info. We have limited pickup service.



315 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
 Waukegan, IL 60085

Address Correction Requested



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NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

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Annual Celebration

Friday, Feb. 17, 2012
 6–8:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Maple and Douglas in Libertyville

Bring a dish to pass. Habitat will provide chicken and beverages.

BUILDER Habitat

BUILDING HOMES • BUILDING COMMUNITY

www.habitatlc.org • 847-623-1020

Building Homes – Serving Families

“How many houses have you built?” When affiliates get together, that is the question. For Habitat for Humanity Lake County, the number is 139. We've built 139 homes since our founding in 1989.

Today we answer a new question, **“How many families did you serve?”** In response to the changing economy and to build capacity within our organization, Habitat for Humanity International led affiliates through a major shift in thinking and asked us to do more. More? How? We're already attempting to work with fewer staff, more accountability and higher competition for funding. What more can we do?

To serve more families we will still build **new** houses. We have land available to **build 14 new houses** in Waukegan, North Chicago and Zion. Regularly, we receive offers of house donations. As the needs of the community intensify, Habitat responds. We appreciate the professionals who volunteer to examine properties, structures, surveys and title reports to determine the suitability of the donation. These properties become demolition/rebuild or rehab sites.

Rehab houses are increasingly part of our toolbox. With thousands of vacant houses in Lake County, we now rehab vacant house properties for new Habitat Partner Families. This new work brings new issues including lead paint. Any house built before 1976 requires lead testing and remediation – a new cost for us. We subcontract the testing and, fortunately, our team was trained in lead remediation thanks to a grant from CITI. A donated rehab house isn't free!

Some older houses we accept are best demolished due to the high cost of rehabilitation. **Demolition** brings a new issue – asbestos. We subcontract asbestos testing and abatement, adding \$3,000 to \$8,000 per house. Demolishing a house costs between \$15,000 and \$20,000. This is *before* we start building. A donated house isn't free!

HFHLC joined Habitat International's **Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative** (NRI), which created new ways of serving families including Weatherization and A Brush With Kindness. We focus on target neighborhoods near our new construction work. Initially, our focus was on the Washington Park Neighborhood which surrounds Carter Crossing. In this new program, homeowners complete sweat equity by working with Habitat and attending an education class. Habitat places a small lien on the home to ensure our investment benefits the current homeowner.



Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative trailer – Donated by CITI



1717 Lyons Court – After rehab on lot donated by City of Waukegan

Your donation of \$1,200 will sponsor one family and will allow Habitat to complete work for one family with either Weatherization or A Brush With Kindness.

Weatherization is a one- to two-day *interior* upgrade of an older house not built by Habitat. We add insulation to the attic and basement; install outlet covers, caulk, aerators, CFL bulbs and other features to reduce the energy costs. By working together with the homeowner we educate them and serve the family by creating a better structure.

A Brush With Kindness is a one- to two-day touch on the *exterior* of a house to repair, patch, caulk and paint homes. It also includes landscape improvements such as clean-up, repairing the grade of the dirt away from the house, small patio repair and planting. We serve families by helping them improve their home and prevent further decay.

We thank the Sponsors of the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative including **CITI, Valspar** and **Dow**.

We **THANK** the 2011 House Sponsors: **Thrivent Builds Homes, Baxter, Hewitt, Youth United/GreekBuild, New Trier High School, The House That Spreads Love, United Stationers, Glencoe Interfaith Builders, Presbyterian Partners** and **Building on Faith** and **CDW**.

THANK YOU to our ongoing partners for materials and service donations and discounts: **Schneider Electric, Whirlpool, Dow, Hunter Douglas, Valspar, Benton Lumber, LPI, Richard's Building Supply, McKinney Steel, Fiore Landscape, J. Hershey Architecture, Northern Illinois Survey, Nielsen Madsen and Barber, North American Title, Libertyville Bank and Trust, the City of Waukegan, the AmeriCorps** program and all who contributed time, talent, services, discounts and other support.

Board of Directors		Leadership	
President	Todd Shelton	Executive Director	Julie Donovan
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		AmeriCorps Crew Leader	Tracy Longsdorf
		AmeriCorps Crew Leader	Stuart Hunter
Habitat Builder			
Writers/Editors	Julie Donovan, Cassie Bertke		
Layout	Graphic Design Services <i>Newsletter Design donated by Abbott's Creative Network</i>		
Mission			
Habitat for Humanity Lake County is a Christian housing ministry which welcomes all people dedicated to serving families by building, rehabilitating and repairing homes to create decent, affordable, healthy housing with families in need, while empowering families to help themselves. HFHLC builds partnerships with diverse members of the community which break down the walls that divide and builds a sense of community among all people. HFHLC seeks to make our affordable housing effort a matter of conscience and action.			

Thank You and Good-bye to Brenda Porter
 In September 2003, Dr. Brenda Porter joined us as Family Services Coordinator. With a mix of tough love combined with respect for Habitat families, Brenda strengthened our program immensely. When Brenda called, the families appeared, to bring documentation, to work on their budget or to talk through an issue. Often they arrived to share good news of a promotion or improvement in their lives. Some came for a shoulder to cry on and received a tissue, then a swift instruction to get back out there to fix what needed fixing. She inspired many people to become more than they thought they could be.

Brenda streamlined many of the processes related to Family Selection and Family Education. Over 75 volunteers served our Family Services Program under Brenda's helm. She added diversity to our volunteer leadership and a most amazing array of talented individuals, all in place to ensure that Habitat families succeed!

We celebrated her retirement in June as Brenda moved to Nevada where she now enjoys beautiful sunsets and the calmness and beauty of the desert.

Hello to Anita Cavazos
 In October, Anita Cavazos joined the HFHLC staff as Family Services Coordinator. Anita brings 16 years of experience in the mortgage industry with thousands of loan approvals under her belt, including helping families with hard-to-approve mortgages. We appreciate her extensive background and training in this field as our industry becomes increasingly complicated.

Prior to her years in the mortgage business, Anita worked for the Wood Dale Police Department as a Community Resource Coordinator. She helped residents with their needs and referred them to community resources. She also ran programs for gang members to inspire them to improve their lives. Anita's personable manner comes with the tough love needed for our program. We are also excited to have a Spanish speaker on staff ... *Bienvenida, Anita!*

Our future is bright with opportunities. We welcome you to step forward with us.

Subscribe to the HFH Lake County E-Builder to stay informed through cassie@habitatlc.org.
 Sign on today to www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org.

A Word From the Executive Director

"Lift up your hearts to the Lord, in praise of His mercy. Sing out your joy to the world. His love is enduring."
 — Psalm 66



Enduring.
 God's love is indeed enduring. Every single day I know He is right here with me – encouraging, inspiring and loving me even when things aren't going so well.

What would I do without such a gracious and loving God? Where would Habitat for Humanity be without our awesome, amazing and loving creator?

This past year included many ups and downs. I couldn't seem to get things started on certain projects. For every step forward we took a couple of steps backwards. I questioned my decisions. I wondered if I could do the job.

I knew God was with me and all of us all the way. Was he testing us? Yes. Was He challenging us? Yes. And he was there.

I didn't like it. But he endures, so I endured. I obeyed and I hoped. I have faith in our God's goodness and enduring mercy.

As this year draws to a close, our lives are full of joy. Our hearts are lifted high as we tell families they have an address. We are singing as we tell sponsors we are starting their houses. We may even dance a little.

We are full of joy as we celebrate the enduring love of our Lord.

Sing with us and lift your hearts as we enter this season of Thanks-giving to our God and celebrate His coming.

In partnership,

Welcome AmeriCorps/VISTA Members



We are blessed with inspiring young people who will serve with us for the next year through the AmeriCorps/VISTA program. This national program offers members an opportunity to serve America along with a small living allowance which brings them to an appreciation of the reality of living in poverty. They receive an education award of approximately \$5,000 upon completion of their service.

- Katie Janak,**
VISTA Development Coordinator
- Alex Delaney,**
AmeriCorps VISTA NRI Construction Support Coordinator
- Tracy Longsdorf,**
AmeriCorps Crew Leader
- Stuart Hunter,**
AmeriCorps Crew Leader



Building Community

In 2011, through our **Neighborhood Revitalization Program**, Habitat partnered with the City of Waukegan to focus on the Washington Park Neighborhood which surrounds Carter Crossing, our subdivision on 11th Court and 12th Street. The City and Habitat invited residents to a community meeting to talk about their neighborhood. The City of Waukegan shared plans for street improvements and info about their program. Participants learned how they can help improve their community and their ideas were heard.

In September, city officials, residents and Habitat completed an extremely busy cleanup day. Seven dumpsters were filled, yards sparked and people talked to each other on sidewalks. Since then both the City and Habitat started work including the NRI homes, focused on A Brush With Kindness and Weatherization. Eventually we will move into additional neighborhoods.

In the adjoining blocks, Habitat neighbors continue to improve their yards with magnificent landscaping through the support of our **Gardening Together Program**. Volunteers and businesses donate plants and yard tools to the families. Mentors work with the families for 3 years to help them learn how to improve their yards. Take a ride through Carter Crossing on 11th Court and 12th Street west of Washington Park Street and you'll see how the families have built a beautiful community.

And community is more. It is volunteers coming together to help strangers. People come to Habitat not knowing anyone, then leave as friends. Volunteers serve at the site, at the ReStore, on the board, in committees and in our office. They develop relationships that stay with them. Habitat builds understanding across lines that divide as people learn about each other and understand the needs of the community. This builds trust and hope that the world will be a better place because of their efforts – because they care.



Handmade sign made by residents in target neighborhood: Please don't dump trash



Boy filling dumpster at neighborhood cleanup



Diane working in garden on Gardening Together day



Congressman Dold on workday at Ardalina and Lawrence's house on Ash

Be green and let Habitat remove you from our snail mail list – contact cassie@habitatlc.org
 Subscribe to the HFH Lake County E-Builder or "friend" us on Facebook to stay informed – www.habitatlc.org

Building Lives

Most important to Habitat for Humanity are the lives built through our work. Families apply to our program with a dream of becoming homeowners. Through two years of hard work, education, budgeting and support, the families grow in many ways. They balance their budget and begin saving. Many go back to school, and then receive promotions at work. They learn how to build a house. After they move in we continue to see changes, ever so slowly, through the years. Thank you to the thousands of volunteers who make a tremendous difference in the lives of Habitat families.

Conversely, the lives of Habitat volunteers are also strengthened. Volunteers come to help and go away finding *they* are stronger also! From board members to summer interns to fundraising volunteers to construction workers – each person is touched by the work of Habitat for Humanity. Some learn skills. Some build friendships. Some obtain references for jobs. We all grow from helping each other.

Nine happy families realized their dream in May when they *closed* on their homes after several years of hard work doing sweat equity. They had all completed their 25 classes, volunteered in the ReStore, built their homes and partnered fully with Habitat. Doug Stiles, our pro bono attorney, enjoyed the closings right along with staff and the families.

In 2011, Terry Harris, Homeowner #3, made her last mortgage payment on her 20-year mortgage – early! Over the years since 1992, this single mother of five, from the projects, went through a multitude of family and health issues leading to job losses and much struggle. What a joyous day it was when she handed us her final mortgage payment.



Shamika at graduation from Habitat Nominee classes



Summer interns – Jeanie, of the Waukegan High School SHINE Program, and Susy, of the Bank of America Leadership Program



Clara accepted her deed from Doug Stiles, pro bono attorney



Terry paying her last mortgage payment

Building Homes – Building Community – Building Lives We welcome you to serve more families with Habitat

You make dreams come true. You improve entire communities. You change lives.

YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you!