



Good Friday
25 Years of Walking
p4



Helping Restore
With Smart Choices
p5



Hospitality
for Habitat 2011
p5

HABITAT HERALD

Our newly renovated newsletter!

PO Box 10505 – Portland, ME 04104 – 207-772-2151 · www.habitatportlandme.org

Fall 2011

Women Build 2011 – Building a Brighter Future

Ladies it's time to take out your nail aprons and dust off your hard hats!

Yes! For the first time in 5 years, we are excited to be kicking off a Women Build project on South Street Freeport this fall. This project will provide the opportunity for women to address the affordable housing needs in our community by coming together as volunteers and donors to build a simple, decent and affordable home with a single mom and her two daughters.

In August and September we invited women to attend informational meetings in Freeport to learn more about they how they can raise the support needed to raise the walls on the Women Build house. We were excited to have received such a great response, with many interested in swinging hammers and leading the way on the Women Building Planning Committee.

(cont'd on page 3)



Hana, future homeowner of the Women Build home in Freeport, must complete 250 hours working on Habitat projects.

What's INSIDE

Executive Director's Report.....	2	25 Years of Walking	4	Donate to Habitat	6
Lessons from A Women Build	2	Hospitality for Habitat	5		
Women Build	3	ReStore.....	5		



Executive Director Report

Stephen L. Bolton

I'm happy to share with you that both of our Westbrook Habitat homeowners are moved in and have settled into their new homes. They enjoyed spending the last days of summer on their front porches, watching their kids play.

Your kindness and generosity goes a long way to help us make sure our homeowners have an affordable housing payment, which will allow them to pursue new and exciting opportunities for themselves and their families. Affordable homeownership means that they are no longer faced with the decision of choosing between their housing payment and other basic needs such as food, clothing and medicine.

For the Brown family it means that Danine can go back to school to complete her degree and her kids, Caitlyn, Zackary and Matthew can stay in the same school system. She will be able to raise her kids in the same community she grew up in, not having to worry about moving because of rising rent and utility costs.

Just a couple of houses away, Abdi and Ayan are grateful for the changes this new home has already brought to their life. Moving from an apartment to their three bedroom house, they're still getting used to how quiet it is and the freedom they have to let their kids play outside. Abdi is now only a short ride away from work and Ayan will be able to care for her young family while continuing her college courses at SMCC.

For both families, it means stability, security and a lifetime of memories in their own home. You made that possible. We can't thank you enough.



What will
you build?

"You have no idea how much of a difference this [new housing payment] will make for our family. It means that I can go back to school and start saving for my kids to go to college someday. It will open a lot of doors for us."



**Official newsletter publication
of Habitat for Humanity
of Greater Portland**

Editors: Amy E. Dowler,

Sonya Messer

Contributors: Stephen Bolton,

Nicole Bosarge, Kate Callahan,

George Ellis and Alexa Plotkin.

Photo contribution by:

Susan Matthew

Graphic Designer: Jayme Proctor

Habitat Office: 83 Bell Street,

Portland, ME 04103

(207) 772-2151

www.habitatportlandme.org

Equal Opportunity

Housing Agency, Equal

Opportunity Employer



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

WOMEN BUILD: WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can help by making a donation online at: habitatportlandme.org.

Check out our website for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities or contact Kate Callahan, Volunteer Manager and Events Coordinator at 207-772-2151 or email Kate at womenbuild@habitatme.org



**Our goal is that
75% of the volunteers
constructing the
South Street
Women Build home
are women.**

Women Build 2011 (cont'd from cover)

Over the next several months the Women's Build Planning Committee members will learn about Habitat, and be asked to assist in planning Women Build events and fund raisers; conduct outreach in local communities; help us with a marketing & PR plan; identify and refer in-kind donations from contractors and suppliers; recruit volunteers and much more.

There's still plenty of time for you to get involved and we're hoping

that you will join us in this highly gratifying undertaking. It is a rewarding process that will be completed within one year's time. If you have ever thought about getting more involved with Habitat, this is your perfect opportunity!

Ask any woman who has participated in a previous Women Build project and they will share that it was a wonderful, affirming event for them.

3

Lessons from a Women Build

by Kathy Gottfried

I learned that...

wearing makeup is futile since the sweat removes it in the first hour
you don't need to shave your legs when you work on a construction site

I ached and sweated in places that I didn't even know existed

males watch and stare in wonder when they see a group of women building a house those same males will disperse immediately if you do a group wave

the difference between a professional and a novice is that a professional knows how to hide her mistakes

once you've done a job once, you're considered a professional

there is great strength in numbers

to never underestimate the power of a woman, no matter how small or fragile she looks

women, whatever their occupation, can accomplish anything they set their minds to

you don't have to be perfect at something to get the job done

just when you think you can't, you can



HFH/Ezra Milstein

25 Years of Walking helps HFH

Twenty-five years ago the community's of Cumberland, North Yarmouth and Yarmouth put on their sneakers in support of Habitat for Humanity – not to build, but to walk. The walk has become an annual tradition, raising funds in support of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland and directly sponsoring the construction of three homes in Cumberland and Yarmouth.

In 1987, Betsy Whales and Sally Bancroft joined forces with churches in the tri-town region about the possibility of holding a 20 mile Ecumenical walk on Good Friday. Their hope was that the towns would be able to participate in a build together while celebrating community.

“We approached several churches looking for way stations or rest stops for walkers. Volunteers were sought to make food for the day. “Our idea was met a bit quizzically, you want to do what?” Sally remembers. “But after that first year, way stations at Tuttle Road United Methodist, 1st Parish UCC or Cumberland UCC and were so grateful for the sustenance & hospitality provided, the volunteers understood.”

Over the years the community has gained in support of Habitat for Humanity and the Good Friday Walk. Melody Pickett has

opened her home as a way station for over 20 years along with help from Mary Miles.

Many know her as the “Hot Cross Buns” way station.

Mary is grateful for offering a much needed rest because she remembers how she felt as a single parent qualifying for a FHA mortgage.

The stability and security of homeownership compelled her to get involved with Habitat.

Many of the people who serve on committees, or volunteer in other ways, have been involved for 25 years. Frank & Linda Jones, Jean Swan, Carol Hayes, Martha Dunlap and the Fowlers are just a few of the many hands that have built up this walk year after year. Nita Dehais, has been the treasurer of the Good Friday Walk steering for over 15 years, each year handling registration, helping to create maps and making sure all the t's are crossed and the i's dotted.

Jim Bailinson, first learned of

Habitat in 1976. “When moving to Cumberland 16 years ago, the Good Friday walk became a spring rite of passage for our family”, Jim says. “My son and I would have a fundraising competition, my daughter would help out at Melody’s way station and for the last 10 years my black lab Edgar has walked with me”.

Sally and Betsy had dreamed that one day their efforts would result in the construction of homes within their communities. Their dream became a reality in 2005 when the first Habitat home in Cumberland was completed with land donated by the town. Two subsequent homes were finished in the next couple of years. “The years those homes were built we raised our biggest dollars at over \$38,000 each year!” remarked Nita.

The towns have not only embraced the Good Friday Walk, their dedication and commitment of the Good Friday Steering Committee has helped to weave the annual into the tradition and culture of their community.



Hospitality for Habitat 2011

When most people think of affordable housing and Habitat for Humanity, they don't conjure up visions of stunning ocean views, intimate candlelight dinners, down comforters and special coffee and muffins in a rocking chair on a quaint front porch. But thanks to the Maine Innkeepers Association, and 34 participating Inns, Resorts and Bed and Breakfast's throughout



Maine, hundreds of people were able to do just that. The 8th Annual Hospitality for Habitat campaign was held in May, offering 50% discounts on room rates in exchange for \$35 donation checks made out to Habitat for Humanity.

The 2011 results surpassed 2010, with more participating establishments and visitors taking part in the program. A total of \$15,475 was collected during the four week program. The proceeds are distributed to the 10 Habitat for Humanity affiliates around the state of Maine.

Greg Dugal, Executive Director of MEIA commented on how they're looking forward to offering the program in spring 2012. Kudos to Greg Dugal, the Maine Innkeepers Association, participating establishments, and hundreds of participants who supported this program. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! If you or someone you know, would like to schedule a spring getaway and help Habitat, go to: www.maineinns.com.

Helping the ReStore with Smart Choices

With the volume of home improvement materials discarded in the US every year on the rise, it's now more than ever that people are recognizing the inherent value and benefit of Habitat for Humanity ReStores. By choosing to donate to, shop at and support ReStores, you can change the world we live in by reducing fossil fuel consumption, reducing landfill waste, while giving families the opportunity for first time home ownership.

Since 2006, The Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland ReStore has supported the building of 11 homes by recycling a total of 84 tons of material and raising over 1 million dollars in revenue. Through the sale of donated new and gently used building materials and furniture, the ReStore is able to serve the community by providing quality products at affordable prices while lessening the burden of unwanted viable materials.

The ReStore also serves as a means for our partner families to complete required "sweat equity" hours. Sweat equity is the unpaid labor invested by our partner families in building their own Habitat homes and working in the ReStore. Sweat equity increases the personal stake of each family member in their home and fosters a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, as well as community members who volunteer alongside them, both on the jobsite and in the ReStore.

Here's how to get involved:

TO DONATE

Call the ReStore at:
(207) 221-0047
or e-mail us at:
restore@habitatme.org
to let us know what
you'd like to donate.

TO SHOP

Located at
83 A Bell Street
Portland
Open: Wed-Sat 9-5
to the general public.

TO VOLUNTEER

Contact Alexa
at the ReStore
(207) 221-0047
or e-mail:
alexa@habitatme.org.

5



**A Discount Retail
Outlet
Open to the Public**

Donations Wanted for a Greener Alternative!

Donate your new and gently-used building materials, tools, and appliances for a greener alternative to landfills. Proceeds benefit decent, affordable homeownership.

Currently seeking new and gently used:

Appliances, Furniture, Cabinetry,
Windows, Doors, Sinks, Tubs,
Toilets and other miscellaneous
building materials .

Pick-up service is available. All
donations are tax-deductible

**83 Bell Street, Portland, ME
(207) 221-0047**

**E-mail: restore@habitatme.org
www.habitatportlandme.org**

HOURS: Wed-Sat: 9AM-5PM

**Habitat for Humanity®
ReStore**



In addition to working with volunteers, a financial donation would help us greatly. We accept anything you can offer. A donation in either a small or generous amount would be greatly appreciated.

You can use the enclosed envelope, or you may safely donate online by going to: www.habitatportlandme.org and clicking on the "Donate Today" button.

We appreciate your financial support!



"We are so happy to have our own home and so grateful to Habitat for giving us this opportunity. We worked really hard and now we can enjoy the peace and quiet of our new neighborhood."

Return Service Requested

PO Box 10505 • Portland, ME 04104



NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #18
Portland, ME