

Mark Your
Calendar!
Upcoming
Events
See Inside!



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Greater Portland

Fall 2010



Post Office Box 10505 - Portland, Maine 04104 - 207-772-2151 • www.habitatportlandme.org



LEGO-MAY-NIA a Huge Success!

Can you name your favorite building material? We can, and so can anyone who participated in Habitat's event YOUth Can Build in May. LEGOs.

Over eighty kids and adults converged upon Center Court at the Maine Mall on Saturday, May 1st for five hours of building. In use were the colorful interlocking bricks instead of wood and nails, and their imaginations instead of a blueprint. The event was meant to spread the word that Habitat for Humanity is active here in this community. All proceeds went to Danine Brown's house in Westbrook.

Following the tradition of YOUth Can Build events from the past, this year's event provided a fun forum for youth ages 5-16 to compete against each other in different age categories. Wearing orange tool aprons, kids ran from table to table, where they

(continued on page 5)

Greater Portland Takes Big Steps to Support Habitat Spring Walks Net Over \$50,000.00



On Friday, April 2nd, participants in the Good Friday Walk came out to walk routes in Cumberland and North Yarmouth. Frank Jones, joined father and daughter team Karen and Chuck Thorp. Karen and Chuck continued on to run the 20 mile route.

It wouldn't be spring in Maine without the annual walks to support HFHGP, and this year was no exception. It is no exaggeration to note that Habitat would be unable to meet its goal of building 5 houses a year without the income from these walks. This year's total was \$50,407. But equally, if not more important, are the relationships bred and nurtured within each community as volunteers and participants support potential Habitat

homeowners, one step at a time.

As always, Cumberland led the way with its traditional Good Friday walk under beautiful skies and clear roads. Sacred Heart, First Parish, First Baptist, United Methodist, White Pines Community, Universalist Unitarian, North Yarmouth UCC, St. Bartholomew's and Cumberland UCC churches all joined together to organize, walk, sponsor and volunteer under the superb leadership of Sally

Bancroft and Nita Dehais. Next year, HFHGP looks forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of this wonderful walk with these wonderful churches.

Next came the Windham walk on April 24, and again, Mother Nature provided a picture-perfect day. The loyal supporters of HFHGP gathered at the Windham Hill UCC church hall with balloons flying. Kudos to Terri Moore and Manuel Sone for providing wonderful and enthusiastic leadership. *(continued on page 3)*



habitatportlandme.org



Meet the Habitat staff. (Front row - from left to right: Amy Dowler, Alexa Plotkin, Stefanie Millette; Second row: - from left to right: Kate Callahan, Nicole Bosarge, Connie Wendell, Steve Bolton, Daniel Wallace; Back row - from left to right: Steve Barmore, George Ellis, Ben Davison).



Many Hands E-News Updates: Have you signed up yet?

Launched in May 2010, our email newsletter provides monthly updates on our affiliate programs. Read about home builds and events in addition to highlighting the generous contributions of our volunteers and donors. This is also a good place for you to learn about what happening in our ReStore.

Not signed up? It's quick and easy. Simply visit our website at www.habitatportlandme.org and click on the blue button in the upper right of the main page.

Board of Directors

Michael Sheehan
President

Jonathan Campbell
Vice President

David Kamila
Secretary

David Martines
Treasurer

Debra Abbondanza

Charlie Crane

Janice Hall

Elise Kiely

Jana LaPoint

William Leete

David Martines

David Petersen

Donna Talarico

Staff Members

Stephen L. Bolton

Executive Director

Amy E. Dowler

*Associate Executive Director &
Director of Family Services*

George M. Ellis

Development Director

Benjamin Davison

Construction Manager

Steve Barmore

ReStore Manager

Kate Callahan

*Volunteer Manager
& Director of Youth Programs*

Nicole Bosarge

Office Manager

Alexa Plotkin

Part Time ReStore Staff

Stefanie Millette

*Education & Special Projects
Coordinator*

Asa Gorman

*Construction Crew Leader,
AmeriCorps*



(continued from Front cover)
 Falmouth chose the merry month of May for their walk. Both humans and canines were again invited to raise awareness at its 2nd annual Pet Walk for Habitat. All five Falmouth churches Foreside Community, Holy Martyrs, Emmaus Lutheran, Falmouth Baptist and St. Mary's partnered with Planet Dog, Charlie's Friends Kennel, General Store for Pets and Falmouth Veterinary for fun, funds and fellowship under not so beautiful skies. Still, enthusiasm abounded and we thank Anne Lafond of St. Mary's for her leadership this year. Next year, the walk will be led by Foreside Community Church.

Not to be outdone, the Portland Interfaith Community wrapped up the walk season on May 23 with a barbecue at St. Pius X and

walk around the "boulevard" of Back Cove. Beautiful weather attracted scores of supporters, much to the delight of the organizers from St. Pius X, Thornton Heights United Methodist and First Parish Churches, Temple Beth El, the Pagan Community and St. Luke's Cathedral. Profound thanks to co-chairs Tony Doman and Judy Kimball.

As we look forward to a beautiful Maine autumn and brace for the winter, a family in Freeport will enjoy their school year and Christmas in their own home. In addition, three other "Houses of Steel" are under construction in Westbrook. It wouldn't be the case without every step taken by the 300 plus walkers this spring. Thank you all for your support and involvement.



Volunteers attended a Lowe's Women Build Clinic this summer at the Brighton Avenue store in Portland. Monthly clinics have been scheduled; please visit our website to learn more about how you can sign up.

Lowe's Women Build Clinic Series

Attention Ladies! Are you looking to brush up on your building skills or start from scratch and learn the basics of home repair and construction?

In July we kicked off a series of monthly Women Build clinics in partnership with Lowe's. Clinics take place on Saturday mornings and will cover a different topic each month.

To sign up for an upcoming clinic, please email Kate Callahan at:

volunteer@habitatme.org.





Eighth graders from Falmouth High School take a break from landscaping at our volunteer housing in Windham.

Mark Your Calendar!



News from the Youth Corner

It has been a privilege to serve HFHGP as an AmeriCorps-Youth Program Coordinator this year. As the homeowners and builders of tomorrow, youth deserve to be informed about shelter as a basic need, and to be given the knowledge and skills that will empower them to own their own home someday. Although liability laws make it impossible for anyone under fifteen to work on a construction site, youth are no less important to Habitat's mission. In the past, Habitat has been proud to offer safe experiential learning and service opportunities, as well as guest speakers from Habitat who visit classrooms and schools across the county. We will continue to provide these services, and also offer two new services for youth and youth leaders during the upcoming year. The first new service will be an online Learning Resource Exchange where educators can download or share lesson plans and materials available through the Youth link at habitatportlandme.org. The second service is a furnished house in Windham, perfect for service-learning retreats.

I am pleased to announce that I will remain on the Habitat team after my AmeriCorps term. My goal is to make the 2010-2011 year even better for the leaders and youth that HFHGP engages. If you are interested in discussing how we can make this goal a reality within your community, please be in touch.

In partnership,
Stefanie Millette
Youth Program Coordinator/
AmeriCorps CRC

Creativity Contest

Our 25th Anniversary Creativity Contest for youths ages 5-18 is coming up. Deadline is December 12, 2010. Create an essay, poem, or picture addressing one of these prompts: What does "home" mean to you? Why do you think having a home is important to all people around the world? Why do you think it is important for affordable housing/Habitat for Humanity to be a part

of your community? Describe any thoughts, feelings, memories and/or experiences that come to mind when you hear the words, "Habitat for Humanity". All participants will receive a certificate of achievement. Winning work will be published, and winners will be offered the opportunity to present their work at key HFHGP events. Contact: youth@habitatme.org for more information.



Stefanie sits with a herd of giraffes in our work shop. Several youth from area schools and churches lent a hand decorating each one. Many have been sold to support our youth outreach program.



(continued from front cover)

traded blocks and compared building strategies. Teams varied from industrious individuals to sets of siblings to trios of friends. One team wore matching green t-shirts with their team name emblazoned on the front. Judging began at 4pm, and the judges (Steve Bolton, Executive Director, Ben Davison, Construction Manager and Gerard Giordano, LEGO Expert) reported that this year presented the biggest challenge they'd ever faced as far as judging goes. Trophies were handed out for the best "Traditional" and best "Creative" house in each age category amidst wild applause.

Deviating from previous years, this year Habitat

spiced things up by changing some components of YOUth Can Build. The biggest two changes of YOUth Can Build this year were the consolidation of the event into one day from two days in previous years, and the addition of three incredible performances by Portland Middle Schools' Orchestra, Yarmouth High School Chamber Choir, and the Windham Chamber Singers.

Habitat can't wait to dive back into blocks in 2011, and we welcome any youth or adults who would like to help out with the planning and execution of events. We are always seeking donations of DUPLO and LEGO blocks, so please keep us in mind when cleaning out your toy space.

**Mark Your
Calendar!**



Lego Competition

The 4th Annual YOUth Can Build! LEGO® building competition will be held at the Maine Mall Center Court. Date is January 15th with a snow date January 22nd. Look for details to be posted on the Youth page of Habitat's website.



Development Corner 2010

During the months since our last newsletter, the entire Habitat staff has been working diligently to raise funds, complete homes, select families, coordinate volunteers, and stay ahead of the many demands that go into providing safe, decent, affordable homes for Maine families. Wonderful progress has been made on all fronts.

Our efforts to develop and expand relationships with Maine companies and businesses has continued to progress. Businesses seem to be recognizing that it takes more than volunteers to be able to build our Habitat houses. We continue to have companies provide financial support and also book workdays on our sites as part of our Corporate Team Builder Program. We understand that they appreciate the opportunity to give back to the communities that support them by helping to provide affordable homes.

Living in Maine, it is no surprise to see so many individuals who are still anxious to support Habitat's efforts by making a personal financial donation to Habitat. The encouraging results of our annual appeal campaign affirmed that the generous spirit of Mainers has lived on even through this much talked about economic recession. Mainers still are anxious to reach out and support others in need in Maine.

We have been blessed with the availability of land to build on. We are also very fortunate to have literally hundreds of volunteers who are willing and anxious to come out and work on each house. Our greatest need continues to be raising the funds which allow us to keep on building homes. Our extra challenge this year is that we have committed to building more homes than we have in the past. Given the housing needs that continue to emerge, this was the only response we could accept.

We are hopeful that you can find it in your heart and your budget to support Habitat as we work to meet the needs for affordable housing in Cumberland County.

George Ellis
Development Director



A Discount Retail Outlet Open to the Public



- Donated by individuals, contractors and businesses
- Donations help us build more homes for Maine families in need

- New & lightly used building materials, fixtures, furniture, appliances, tools and surplus items

- Helps the environment by rechanneling usable materials away from our landfills

- 50-90% Savings off retail prices on home improvement materials

- Tax deduction: donors may receive a tax deduction when donating new or lightly used building materials or furnishings while helping improve our community.



HOURS:

Wed-Fri: 10AM-5PM

Saturday 9AM-4PM

Location:

83A Bell Street

Portland, Maine 04104

For more information:

Web: www.habitatportlandme.org

Email: restore@habitatme.org

207.221.0047

DONATE • BUY • VOLUNTEER



Steve Bolton, Executive Director, accepts a check for \$13,435.00, from Greg Dugal, Executive Director of the Maine Innkeepers Association. These funds were dispersed among Habitat affiliates throughout the state of Maine.

Hospitality for Habitat: Making a Difference in Maine Communities

Hospitality for Habitat attracted a record number of travelers to Maine this spring despite ongoing concerns about the economy, according to Greg Dugal, Executive Director of Maine Innkeepers Association (MEIA). The Seventh Annual Hospitality for Habitat took place this year. The program, designed by Maine Innkeepers Association, raises funds for Maine chapters of Habitat for Humanity through deeply discounted spring room rates. This year's results were a record and the most successful yet, raising optimism among Innkeepers for a good tourism season.

This year 33 MEIA member properties, with support from their guests, raised a total of \$21,500 for Habitat for Humanity. This far exceeded donations from any prior year. Direct donations to local chapters of Habitat for Humanity were \$13,435 to help fund housing for Maine families. In addition, the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport raised approximately \$8,000, which was sent to Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Georgia for distribution to their Haiti chapters. The annual Hospitality for Habitat program offers visitors to Maine a 50% discount on room rates in May in exchange for a donation check for \$35 made out to Habitat for Humanity.

"This program has gained momentum each year since 2004, the increase of over \$5,000 in donations this year was exceptional," noted Dugal. "We are pleased to see so many visitor's to Maine now look forward to, and make plans to visit the state in May to take advantage of the discounted room rates. This terrific response can also be seen as a very encouraging sign for a good summer tourism season."

In addition to the incredible effort of the Harraseeket Inn, this year's top fund raisers participating in Hospitality for Habitat were the Village by the Sea Hotel & Conference Center in Wells with over \$4,000 in contributions, the Newcastle Inn in Newcastle, the Beachmere Inn in Ogunquit, the Mira Monte Inn and Graycote Inn in Bar Harbor.

"Our guests, owners and staff enthusiastically support the program, and were pleased to surpass last year's

(continued on next page)

(cont'd from previous page)

contributions,” said Gail Phillips, General Manager/ CFO at Village by the Sea Hotel & Conference Center. “We’re thrilled to be able to contribute to such a worthy cause and help Maine families in need. Our guests, as well as staff, are already looking forward to Hospitality for Habitat May 2011”.

The Maine Innkeepers Association, a leading provider of tourism information to both Maine’s lodging industry and its visitors, represents nearly 700 B&B’s, camps, cottages, hotels, inns, motels and resorts across Maine, and their suppliers. Through communication, education, promotion and government affairs, the Association helps its members achieve prosperity and deliver a quality product to the consumer. Maine Innkeepers Association is located in Freeport, ME. Web: www.maineinns.com.

2010 Participating Inns thank you for your support!

- Bar Harbor*
Graycote Inn
- Mira Monte Inn*
Bass Harbor
Bass Harbor Cottages and Country Inn
- Bridgton*
Pleasant Mountain Inn
- Pleasant View*
Too B&B
- Camden*
Camden Riverhouse Hotel
- Cape Elizabeth*
Inn by the Sea
- Deer Isle*
Pilgrim’s Inn
- Ellsworth*
Twilite Motel
- Freeport*
Best Western Freeport Inn
- Brewster House B&B*
Captain Briggs House B&B
- Harraseeket Inn*
Hilton Garden Inn Downtown
- White Cedar Inn*
Harpswell
Common Table Harpswell Inn
- Kennebunkport*
Captain Jefferds Inn
- Ocean’s Edge*
Colony Hotel
- Maine Stay Inn & Cottages*
Nonantum Resort
- Lincolnville*
Inn at Ocean’s Edge
- Newcastle*
Flying Cloud B&B
- Newcastle Inn*
Ogunquit
Beachmere Inn
- Meadowmere Resort*
Ogunquit Inn
- Sebasco Estates*
Sebasco Harbor Resort
- Waldoboro*
Blue Skye Farm
- Waterford*
Lake House Inn
- Wells*
Village by the Sea Hotel
- York Beach*
Sunrise Motel

Home Sweet Home for the Cote’s

August 24, 2010, Mikki Cote and her son Eli, welcomed Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland staff, board members, community reps and volunteers to their new home on West Street in Freeport. The occasion was the dedication ceremony for the Green Bean house, Habitat’s latest home to be completed in Freeport. Mikki lived in Freeport for a few years, renting an apartment. She fell in love with the community and hoped to raise her son there. She never thought she’d have an opportunity to own a home. After being selected in July 2009, Mikki immediately started working on Habitat builds, including her own home. Since then she has earned more than 300 hours, well beyond the minimum. She completed course requirements in first time home buying, home maintenance, and budgeting.

As the dedication came to a close, Mikki tearfully thanked everyone who had made her dream a reality, including her mother and father. She said “we love our home, words cannot express how grateful I am.” During those many months while the house was under construction there were times when Eli, age 6, joined her on the work site, helping in the yard. He once told his mother “he couldn’t wait to spend their first night in their new house.” They now sleep in their home every night and enjoy taking their dog, Moxie, for walks around the neighborhood. Coming home doesn’t mean just turning the key to their front door, it means living in a community that has embraced them and helped them to build their home.



Mikki Cote and her son Eli stand with Habitat volunteers and staff at her home dedication on August 24th. (Front row, left to right: Eli, Mikki Cote, Amy Dowler, Alexa Plotkin, Kate Callahan, Steve Bolton; Back row, left to right: George Ellis, Ben Davison, Dan DeSimone.)



This is the Green Bean on its original foundation on Cross Street in Freeport. Donated by L.L. Bean in 2008, this 1930’s cape was deconstructed and later moved only minutes away to its lot on West Street gifted to Habitat by the Town of Freeport.



Completed in August, the Green Bean is an extremely energy efficient home, and it is estimated that the new homeowner will save hundreds of dollars a year on utilities.

Our thanks to hundreds of volunteers and many partners who made Green Bean house possible.

- Applicator Sales and Service
- Atlantic Title Company
- Bill’s Heating
- Bill Moore
- Bowdoin College
- BZ Electric
- Coastal Winair
- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
- Correct Building Products, LLC
- DLMC Foundation
- Dow
- Enterprise Engineering
- Fairchild Semiconductor
- Freeport Cafe
- Freeport Steering Committee
- Fromage, LLC
- Graybar
- Hancock Lumber
- HC Crooker & Sons
- Hilton Garden Inn of Freeport
- Home Depot Foundation
- Hopkinson & Abbondanza
- Horizon Residential Energy Services
- Hunter Douglass

- Hunter Panels LLC
- Larson Windows and Doors
- LL Bean
- MB Bark
- M.R. Brewer
- Maine Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction
- ME Traditions
- MJR Electric
- Newman Concrete
- Porter Drywall
- Price Structural Engineering
- ReVision Heat
- Rotary Club of Freeport
- Rufus Deering
- Scott Dugan Excavating
- Sherwin Williams
- Simply Divine Brownies
- Smith Appraisal
- Square D
- State Farm Insurance
- Taggart Construction
- TD Bank
- Town of Freeport
- Twin Electric
- Whirlpool
- Wilbur’s of Maine Chocolate Confections
- Woodside Foundation
- Yale Locks

Special Thanks

Silver Hammer Awards

Debra Abbondanza
 Liberty Atienza
 Jeremy Benn
 Steve Bradford
 Bob Cuzner
 Shannara Gillman
 Gerard Giordano
 Don Gotelli
 Pam Griffin
 Janice Hall
 Judi Hutzler
 Bill Laidley
 Jana Lapoint
 Bill Lewis
 Kim Matthews
 Amy Murphy
 Michelle Nappi
 Jill Peters
 Janice Hall
 Judi Hutzler
 Bill Laidley
 Jana Lapoint
 Bill Lewis
 Kim Matthews
 Amy Murphy
 Michelle Nappi
 Jill Peters
 James Pratt
 Samantha Savaun
 Keith Wehmeyer
 Dana Weste



Instead of the traditional Golden Hammer awards, HfHGP staff handed out Silver Hammer awards this year in honor of the affiliate's 25th anniversary.

Silver House Awards

L.L. Bean
 Maine Interior Decorators
 Associations



**Donating to Habitat
 Just Got a Little Easier.**

Please visit www.habitatportlandme.org
 today to make your online contribution. Now accepting
 Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express
 for one-time or recurring gifts.

[donate online today!](#)

This newsletter is published by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland, an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Our mission is to eliminate poverty housing in the Greater Portland area. Habitat is committed to the development and uplifting of families and communities, not only to the construction of houses with people in need.

Phone: (207) 772-2151
 Email: info@habitatme.org
 Web: www.habitatportlandme.org

Newsletter designer: Jayme Proctor
 Editor: Sonya Messer

Looking for more information?

Visit our Web site...
www.habitatportlandme.org
 The Web site for Habitat for Humanity International . . . www.habitat.org