

Building Faith in Columbus

February, 2010



He must not seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.
1st Corinthians 10:24

Dear Friend,

The Building Faith in Columbus newsletter has undergone a redesign in an effort to make it more pertinent and effective for our readers. These changes will continue as the year goes on as we receive feedback from our readers. The most important update that you won't be able to see in this issue is that we will now be sending this newsletter out bi-monthly as opposed to the quarterly editions we sent in 2009. It is my hope that with these more timely mailings, you will feel more included as a vital facet to our ministry. Please, enjoy this first edition of the New Building Faith in Columbus Newsletter and never hesitate to offer your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Ethan Beiler
Faith and Youth Relations Coordinator

God's Work at Habitat for Humanity

[SHACK CITY to be built again!](#)

[Tithing to Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[HFHI to help 50,000 families in Haiti](#)

Youth to be Homeless for one night, raise awareness that lasts forever.

In the three years since the fundraiser's inception, [SHACK CITY](#) events have raised over \$42,000 for the Thrivent Builds Campaign! The event brings youth groups from around the Greater Columbus area to experience the hardships faced by the homeless everyday.

The Thrivent Builds campaign began world-wide in 2005 as a partnership between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International. In the five years since, Thrivent Builds has constructed over 2,000 homes for families in need of adequate housing all over the world. Thrivent first partnered with Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus in 2007. Thrivent Builds has now completed six houses in the Columbus area and will be break ground on our seventh and eighth homes later this spring!

SHACK CITY 2010



[SHACK CITY](#) provides high-school aged youth the opportunity to live for a night in a cardboard box and experience the challenges faced by the homeless every day. The event is open to youth groups from churches and schools in the Greater Columbus area. Funds raised by participants will be used to build two Habitat for Humanity houses sponsored by the Thrivent Builds program.

[SHACK CITY](#) will be built the evening of April 24th on the Village Green in Worthington.

Get Involved!

[Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus](#)

[Volunteer!](#)

[Donate to SHACK CITY!](#)

[SHACK CITY on Facebook](#)

[ReStore on Facebook](#)

[Learn about Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Local Thrivent chapters are responsible for raising ten percent of the cost of the homes built. [SHACK CITY](#) has been the premier fundraising event for the Franklin County Chapters of Thrivent Builds.

This spring's [SHACK CITY](#) will be constructed the evening of Saturday April 24 beginning at 7:30 PM. To get involved, contact Ethan Beiler at ebeiler@habitat-columbus.org or by calling 614-364-7015.

From Greater Columbus To Cote d'Ivoire...



Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus has recently begun directing our tithe to Habitat for Humanity Cote d'Ivoire. The affiliate sends a portion of the sponsorship dollars for every house built in Columbus to the nation on Africa's west coast. HFHGC had been sending its tithes to Habitat for Humanity International for disbursement to international affiliates.

In December, Richard Yao, director of Habitat for Humanity Cote d'Ivoire visited Columbus to share conversation and ideas with E.J. Thomas, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus. Mr. Yao was graciously hosted by Dave and Susi Bezaire, our volunteer [Global Village](#) trip leaders. While HFHGC was only one stop of many on Mr. Yao's tour of United States affiliate, he was a sincere and appreciative guest, but most of all, very passionate about the work that Habitat for Humanity is accomplishing in his country.

Mr. Yao was able to make strong impression on everyone he met with in Columbus during his short stay. In January, E.J. proposed to our board of trustees that we begin to assist Mr. Yao in his work and the board approved to send our tithes to Cote d'Ivoire from that point forward.

Habitat for Humanity builds more than houses. In Columbus, we have now built 220 homes and our tithes have helped erect 227 homes worldwide since 1987. The number of relationships built in that same time period is too numerous to even begin to estimate. HFHGC builds long-lasting relationships with its partner families, partner churches, partner corporations, volunteers, city officials, state legislatures, schools, non-profits, and on and on. The affiliate could not be happier to begin a new relationship in service with Richard Yao and Habitat for Humanity Cote d'Ivoire.

Habitat for Humanity International to help 50,000 families in Haiti.

Habitat for Humanity International has a four phase plan in place with a goal of assisting 50,000 families to rebuild their lives after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the western hemisphere's poorest country on January 12. Despite the destruction caused by the earthquake, Rendell Day, a chaplain for Habitat for Humanity International remarked on the 'resiliency of the Haitians. They were trying their best to get their lives back to some sense of normalcy,' after his recent trip to Haiti.

The earthquake, with an epicenter just outside of the capital city of Port-au-Prince, affected 3.7 million people - and displaced 1.1 million Haitians. Habitat for Humanity's multi-year plan for recovery is designed to help the greatest number of people possible. It will take the cooperation and increased effort of Habitat affiliates, corporations, individuals, and faith groups to carry out the recovery efforts in Haiti. According to Pastor Day,

Currently Recruiting Partner Families

Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus is currently accepting pre-screening Applications for families who may qualify for our ministry.

The goal is to provide home-ownership opportunities for low to moderate income level working families, with a stable source of income, a willingness to complete over 200 hours of sweat equity, and who currently live in substandard housing.

[Learn more about what it takes to qualify and download the pre-screening application.](#)

Prayers and Thanksgivings

We are grateful that Grace of God Lutheran has pledged their Lenten midweek services' offering to Habitat for Humanity.

We celebrate that Jason Hackworth, a HFH house lead, and his wife, Beth, were blessed with their first child, Landon Joseph Hackworth, on December 15th.

Pray that we are able to connect with families who are in need of our help.

As Habitat begins to do more ReBuilds as part of the country's Neighborhood Stabilization Program, pray that entire communities can begin to recover as a result of our work.

As always, we are so very thankful to our volunteers, but we are especially thankful to those who have been volunteering throughout this unrelenting

"Habitat's plan for response is very encouraging! We are there for the long term and our plan to start with the shelter kits and then transition to long term ministry is something that will work." This response includes an appeal to affiliates in the U.S. asking them to meet the challenge of donating \$650 for every house constructed by the affiliate in 2009, 10% of a ReStore's February gross revenues, or \$2,000. Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus has contributed \$8,450 to the efforts; that is \$650 for each of the 13 houses built in Columbus in 2009.

"We here at Greater Columbus have been richly blessed over these past several years, and it just seems right to provide assistance - over and above what we've committed this year for tithe to Cote d' Ivoire - as a way to show our support for the rebuilding efforts in Haiti," says E.J. Thomas, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus. "We are very pleased to lend our hand to the effort."

Phase one is already underway as HFHI prepares and delivers 10,000 emergency shelter kits to families in Haiti. These kits, at a cost of \$250 each, contain tools for immediate basic repairs on homes only minimally harmed or to construct a temporary shelter.

The second phase will focus on the continued clean up of the area; with Habitat's disaster response team helping citizens salvage materials that can be recycled and continue repairs on minimally to moderately damaged homes. Habitat will begin to provide Transitional housing for families. These are small shelters, costing \$1,000-\$2,500, that offer protection from the elements - which is increasingly important as the rainy season approaches - and meet the basic needs. During the ongoing recovery process, these structures can be incorporated into more permanent housing for residents.

Phase three will see the construction of core houses. At a cost of \$4,000 - \$6,000, these homes are designed according to international building standards to provide adequate space and separate sanitation facilities. These core houses, resistant to earthquakes and hurricanes, are designed in a way that allows for easy expansion over time.

In phase four, Habitat for Humanity will increase the number of resource centers available to Haitians. These centers will provide construction training, tool loans, courses in financial literacy, and other services to ensure the long term development of the island nation. Habitat for Humanity has been present in Haiti for 26 years prior to the earthquake, and will continue to be present until every Haitian has a simple, decent, affordable place to live. The dedication of the Habitat Haiti staff and the HFHI staff serving in Haiti is unbelievable. The local staff is still coming to work even though they have personally been affected by the earthquake. Their faith was inspiring," says Pastor Day.

It is important to note that Habitat for Humanity International cannot yet send international volunteers to Haiti. To be notified when Habitat begins to recruit volunteers, take the [Haiti volunteer interest survey](#). This survey will collect your demographic and basic skills information and will sign you up for a periodic e-mail with updates (you must agree to receive the update newsletters.) regarding Habitat's response in Haiti. What is really needed now, according to Pastor Day are "prayers for the country, our staff and our response. Habitat has the opportunity to make a great impact on the recovery and restoration of the country. If we do this right the Lord will be honored and needs will be met."

winter.

Heritage Christian Church worked throughout 2009 to migrate parts of their ministry into the Linden neighborhood. The newly constructed Habitat home of the Saeed family is the most visible achievement of Heritage's work in the neighborhood. We pray the church's success continues in 2010.

Home Dedication

Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus will dedicate its first home of 2010 on Saturday, March 6th at 9:00 AM. The house at 978 Lockbourne Rd. is sponsored by The Fund for Humanity and Community Development for All People.

All are welcome to join us in celebration!

Affiliate, is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Habitat affiliates work locally in communities around the world to select and support homeowners, organize volunteers, and coordinate house building. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 300,000 homes worldwide, providing shelter for more than 1 million people in nearly 90 countries. In the Greater Columbus community, Habitat has built more than 220 homes since 1987.

Sincerely,

Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus