



# The Builder



## THE END OF ONE CHAPTER, THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER

E.J. Thomas, HFHGC Executive Director

Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman invited me to attend a demolition of a house in the Franklinton area recently to jump start his new initiative to rid the city of abandoned homes. This event was held prior to the National Homeownership Kickoff event held at a Habitat home in Franklinton.

Mayor Coleman spoke to the blight such structures create in neighborhoods, ones otherwise called home by hard working residents of central Ohio. He and others from the city's Department of Development strive to rid Columbus of what are clearly scars on the neighborhood landscape, and such efforts are commendable.

I had the opportunity to speak at this event and reflected about what Habitat is really all about. Our base of volunteers, donors, Adopt-A-House sponsors, contributors to the Build It Again Center all create one very valuable commodity: hope for the future.

That day represented the ending for a structure that had ceased to be habitable. Poised behind me was a piece of heavy equipment whose hydraulic-powered jaws, suspended five feet in the air above the roof,

were ready to reduce what was a dilapidated house into splinters and dust in about 15 minutes. It was the end of one eyesore in the neighborhood but it was something much more. A demolition is an ending in the traditional sense of the word, but with all that everyone does for the Habitat team, this tearing down can be viewed as the first step in the building up process.

That is our mission: to take that which is down and lift it up, whether attitudes about substandard housing that need to be highlighted for our policy makers, or families that need and deserve to be lifted out of perpetual rental in run-down apartments and given the chance to own their own simple, decent and affordable home.



Mayor Michael B. Coleman speaks at the National Homeownership Kickoff Month event, with homeowner Tirhas Belay and E.J. in the background.

The poem, House of Love, written by the daughter of a new Habitat homeowner,

reflects this message of hope. The flame provided by us at Habitat ignited a spark resulting in a new home on Schultz Avenue for her family. Nature is instructive, for where one season ends, another begins. The same can be said for the spirit of renewal, growth, and hope our organization offers, much as the spring that follows desolate winter.



Yohanna reads the poem she wrote about her family and their new Habitat home at their recent house dedication ceremony.

### *House of Love* Yohanna, age 12

*My house was given to me by God through Habitat for Humanity. But they gave us so much more than a house and a key, they gave us new hope for a new life.*

*And for those who help build the house they help build a new family which they are now apart of.*

*You just didn't give us a place to live for today but for generations to come. And thanks to you we can begin to create new memories here.*

*My house is now a house of love. The rooms were built with care. The walls were colored with tenderness. And the garden will grow with love.*

**THANK YOU  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!**



## HABITAT BUILDS FIRST NEW HOME IN FRANKLINTON

Franklinton is the oldest community in Central Ohio, founded in 1792. The home located at 49 Schultz Avenue is the first new home built in the Franklinton area in over 40 years. HFHGC volunteers spent over 4000 hours to complete construction. This "Building on Faith" house was the site of the 2006 National Homeownership Month Kickoff Event on May 31 sponsored by HFHGC, The City of Columbus, HUD, The Columbus Board of Realtors and The Columbus Mortgage Bankers Association.



John Byczkowski accepts the award on behalf of Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

## 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

*Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus held its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2006. Over 200 guests attended this event and helped us celebrate our successes in 2005 including the completion of 16 new homes, including nine on the Hilltop and five in American Addition, the formation of the New Albany Partnership and the expansion of Habitat's Build It Again Center.*

*Nineteen organizations were recognized as corporate and community donors for their support of Habitat's mission. Bridgette Wellington, a homeowner and advocate, was the recipient of the 2005 Kinship Award. John Russell received the first annual Visionary Spirit Award.*

*The evening was made possible by the generous support of our sponsors: WesBanco Bank, BMI Federal Credit Union, 84 Lumber, Fifth Third Bank, and Michael Matrka, Inc.*



E.J. and Hal Keller of the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing.



E.J. and Chuck Lombardo of Retirement Marketing Specialists.



Habitat homeowner Bridgette Wellington, Kinship Award recipient.



John Russell, Visionary Spirit Award recipient.



Representatives from AEP and AEP-Ohio, Jane Harf, Jim Rosing, Scott Moore and John Harper accept their award.



E.J. presents an award to Maysa Barmore and Jeff Meredith of Nationwide Insurance.

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### 1987-2007

**Next year, Habitat For Humanity-Greater Columbus will be celebrating 20 Years of working in partnership with God and people to build affordable homes, empower families and develop communities**

We will be forming a 20th Anniversary Task Force later this year. If you have any news articles, memorabilia, stories, or want to be part of helping plan the 2007 event, please contact Nicole Hypes at [nhypes@habitat-columbus.org](mailto:nhypes@habitat-columbus.org) or call (614) 364-7032.

**DONATE your VEHICLE to help build homes.**

Call 1-877-277-4344 or Visit [www.carsforhomes.org](http://www.carsforhomes.org)



## SPOTLIGHT ON HABITAT DONORS

*What do you need to create a Habitat house? It takes a partner family, construction volunteers and financial resources. Funding comes from a variety of sources including corporate and individual donors, community and faith partnerships, and grants. There are many different ways donor relationships are established—faith partnerships grow from various congregations coming together, business support can come from one individual who inspires company decision makers to get involved, and individual donors' motivations are as varied as the individuals themselves.*



House sponsors **Alan and Bobbie Weiler** attended the wall-raising ceremony for the new home at 1072 E. 19th Avenue. The generous sponsorship from the Weiler family is covering the full cost of construction. “We feel fortunate to do something like this for a deserving family,” said Bobbie Weiler. Their children, grandchildren and even family members from out-of-state were able to attend the wall-raising as well. The house will be completed this fall.



The **Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati** has been a supporter of HFHGC since 1999, both financially and through the community involvement of their employees. By way of grant funding, they have pledged over \$150,000 toward new construction projects this year. In addition to the presence of John Byczkowski, Assistant Vice President, Communications, at the Annual Meeting, we were honored to have Carol M. Peterson, Senior Vice President, Housing and Community Investment, as featured speaker at the National Homeownership Kickoff event held in May.



The **Northwest Partnership**, established in 1990, has started construction on their **15th Habitat house**, located at 1733 E. 25th Avenue. Adopt-A-House groups pledge support of a home to provide the key elements needed to complete a build: funding, volunteers and on-site leadership. The following congregations make up the Northwest Partnership: Covenant Presbyterian, First Community Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Northwest Christian Church, Riverside United Methodist, Saint Agatha Roman Catholic, Saint Mark's Episcopal, Trinity United Methodist, and the Upper Arlington Lutheran Church.

## PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

*Your estate plan can provide a variety of ways to help provide decent shelter for families in need.*

**Wills and Family Trusts:** A gift to Habitat in your will is a meaningful way to create a memorial that lives on to help families avoid the indignity of poverty housing. Simply ask your attorney to include a bequest in your will to the Greater Columbus affiliate.

**Gift Annuities:** You'd like to help, but need the income, or you may have highly-appreciated stock that pays a low dividend, but you don't want to trigger the capital gains tax. Whether funded with cash or stock, a gift annuity will provide a handsome cash flow, portions of which may be tax-free. You'll also get a partial tax deduction now.

**Gifts of Stock:** If you have some shares of long-term appreciated stock, you may consider donating. By simply transferring these shares directly to HFHGC, you'll get a full tax deduction for the entire market value, avoid capital gains, and continue to do your part in helping to create a better world.

*If any of these Planned Giving options are of interest to you, please contact Susan Melnyk, Resource Development Director via email, [smelnyk@habitat-columbus.org](mailto:smelnyk@habitat-columbus.org) or by calling (614) 364-7031.*

**FAMILY ADVOCACY AS PARTNERSHIP**

Dawn M. Daniels-McNear, Family and Community Outreach Director

One of the definitions of a partnership is a *contract between two or more persons who agree to pool talent and money and share profits or losses.* The family advocate/support component of Habitat for Humanity is the truest sense of partnership. Complete strangers come together with the expressed goal of pooling resources, compassion, shared experiences and talents with the hopes of a shared profit: homeownership. For the family advocate/support committee to effectively work you need three things:

- 1) A Habitat partner family willing to learn from someone but also willing to share of themselves
- 2) A volunteer who believes that they have something to give but also something to learn and
- 3) A cause for both of these people to rally around; that cause would be homeownership, with Habitat for Humanity as the vehicle.

Typically when people think of Habitat, they think of building homes, but the family advocate/support committee is in the business of building life skills. While the house is supported by floor joists the partner

family is being supported by an advocate who is available 24 hours a day. When the mechanicals are going into the house the advocate is making sure that the family has all of the mechanics for successful homeownership. When the lot is being transformed into a home an advocate is helping to transform a renter into a homeowner. The advocate's sole responsibility is to make sure that the concept of partnership is "gotten": partnership between the family and the house sponsor, partnership between the family and the new neighborhood, partnership between the family and the advocate and most importantly the partnership between the family and Habitat. Once the concept of partnership is truly understood, everyone feels that they have something to contribute, something of worth to share. Habitat is one of the few places where a high school student, a company president, a politician, a stay-at-home mom, a plumber, a retiree, a housekeeper and a fast food employee can work side by side and feel appreciated for their individual talents and gifts. Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus is partnership at its finest and in its finest form!

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GREATER COLUMBUS HERO**



Sara Adams has volunteered for a number of organizations over the years. In 1999 she began a quest for a different volunteer opportunity and has been at HFHGC ever since. Sara's chance to make a change came from responding to a "Volunteers needed" ad in the Columbus Dispatch. At first she wanted to volunteer in construction, which she has had a chance to do over the years. Dawn Daniels-McNear, the

Family and Community Outreach Director, says this about Sara, "When I started with Habitat four years ago, Sara was the person who knew all the inner workings of the family services department and she made sure that I did not fail. Initially we had a volunteer/staff relationship, but I can confidently say that Sara is like a member of my family and the Family Services Department would not run as smoothly without her." To Sara, the best part of volunteering is "knowing that I have helped someone - be it staff or families, however little." Thank you, Sara, for all that you do!

*Currently there are 14 active advocates and eight advocates waiting to be partnered with a family.*

"Our advocate, Margaret Smith, always checked on us and made sure we were taken care of before we moved into our Habitat home. Margaret made sure all our concerns were addressed. She's a blessing to us and we can't say enough about how she has impacted our lives. She guided us through the Habitat process and will continue to be a part of our lives."

-Margaret Fitzhugh and Margaret Nunley, Habitat homeowners

*Three advocates are also Habitat homeowners.*

"I wanted to be a family services advocate so I could interact one-on-one with a Habitat family through their entire build. I am finding out that by giving support and friendship to Anika (my partner family), I am receiving back just as much or more through the fulfillment it is giving me. I am very grateful to have been paired with her.

I admire Anika for her courage and determination to succeed at providing a home for her children and I am learning so much through this process. I look forward to continuing to grow our friendship through all of this."

-Connie Heatt, Habitat Family Support Advocate

*Barb Rigo has been a family support advocate for over 10 years, making her the longest serving active advocate.*

**DECONSTRUCTION-ANOTHER NEW BEGINNING!**

Stephanie Harris, BIAC Development AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member and E.J. Thomas, HFHGC Executive Director

“Deconstruction,” the term of art applied to taking a house apart and salvaging as much of the useable materials as possible, is a valuable concept for Habitat’s Build It Again Center (BIAC), and for several reasons. When BIAC volunteers remove items from a house slated to be subsequently demolished, they come away with a complete product. Since we know the source of the used item, we’re in a position to be able to represent that it is in good working order. This information instills confidence in our store shoppers and, thus, has the effect of increasing the retail value of such construction materials. Additionally, if the item comes apart in pieces, we are able to package everything together to ensure a complete unit, whatever it may be.

And customers aren’t limited to just visiting the store when looking for that special construction item. Patrons have the option of driving to the deconstruction site, and once there, can remove and pay on-site for the item themselves. This saves our regular Center employees a considerable amount of labor and time.

For those looking for a different Habitat experience, deconstruction provides our affiliate with a good way to recruit volunteers who wish to get involved. After all, deconstruction requires a low level of skill and it is a lot of fun tearing things apart! The practice also benefits our community because it helps preserve landfill space, so there’s a high ‘feel good’ quotient with regard to giving back.

We have deconstructed everything from a house that is ten years old, to a 5,000 sq. ft. mansion, to a restaurant, to just dilapidated houses. On the horizon is the concept being explored with a potential partner that relocates houses, so there’s plenty more out there in the way of ideas for increasing the BIAC’s reach while helping the community at large.

Overall, deconstruction has generated around \$100,000 for the BIAC and has helped Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus immensely.



Prior to the opening of two Carmax stores in Columbus, twenty of their associates spent a Saturday helping BIAC volunteers and staff remove and transport items from a site to the BIAC.



Volunteer Harold Ball removes a door from a recent deconstruction site.

Items brought in by our deconstruction crews aren’t typical of the materials we normally see donated to us. As an example, not many people donate an entire kitchen set, or a whole furnace, and such complete units contribute to increased value generated in the Center.



**Bargain! Building Materials**

Shop for Great Deals. Open to the Public.

Remodeling this summer? Don't throw out those old cabinets, donate them to Habitat's Build It Again Center! Need flooring? Check out the BIAC – you might find what you're looking for at a great price. Visit often-our inventory frequently changes! Store hours are Monday-Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-4 and closed Sunday.



*Thank you to the following for their generous donations to Habitat’s Build It Again Center from March-May 2006.*

- AP Siding / Bob Evans / Color Consultants LLC / Comprehensive Facility Services / Dave Fox Remodeling / Davidson Builders / Dublin Retirement Village / Fifth Avenue Lumber / Handyman Connection/ Home Depot / Home Lighting / Hytec Tops / Lowe’s / Northern Lights One / Otterbein College / Stairway Solutions / Team Hoey, LTD. / Upper Arlington Library/ West Virginia Electric Supply Company / Window World*

*Many donations to the BIAC come from local Columbus businesses. We also receive donations from surrounding counties and even other states. As an example of a non-Buckeye donation, each year Herb Colker, owner of the West Virginia Electric Supply Company located in Huntington, West Virginia, provides a semi-truck load of electrical supplies and lighting items. We appreciate all donations we receive, from near and far!*

## HOUSE LEAD PROFILE: JOHN AND DIANA PARISH

Erik Lambert, Construction Director

It's a large commitment to agree to be the House Lead on the build of a home for HFHGC. We have been blessed with many individuals who have been willing to put forth the time and energy to do just that. This is a job that entails both mental and physical demands, but as they all would share, the rewards and payoffs are well worth the effort involved. One of our current builds, 1307 Puritan Avenue, has a husband and wife House Lead team. Not only do they volunteer as the House Leads, but you'll find their children there on Saturdays too, hard at work with all the other volunteers.

The Habitat story started for the Parish family back in 2000 when Diana signed up for a work day through Nationwide Insurance, her employer at the time. Diana and her husband, John, came out and enjoyed the experience so much that they made the decision to be involved on a regular basis. John brought to the table extensive construction knowledge from his career, and Diana contributed great organizational and people skills. Working together over the years they have shared and strengthened these skills with each other to the point of becoming a strong husband and wife House Lead



The Parish Family from left to right: Micki (daughter), Diana (mother), Josh (son) and John (father).

team. By the summer of 2002, they were comfortable and experienced enough to take on the role of House Leads on Habitat build project. Since that time, they have completed two houses as Leads and are now working on their third project.

The current project they are working on has produced another generation of active family participants. John and Diana's adult son, Josh Parish, is lovingly described by Diana as a computer geek, and works in tech support for a local company. Diana says that as far back as they can remember, Josh never liked being outside, let alone hands-on building a house out in the elements. Last year, his Mom and Dad were filling in as Leads for another regular House Lead who could not be onsite that particular

Saturday, and we were short staffed here at Habitat. They invited him to help out by driving a box truck to the site with materials for the build. Later that day, Josh had a 'Saws All' in his hand, and he has been on-site each Saturday since the start of this build. His skills have increased immensely, and it has given him and his father a great opportunity to bond.

The family affair does not end there as John and Diana's daughter, Michele ("Micki") has also joined in. Micki's first Habitat experience was with an out of state build, and it did not go well for her. Working on a mission trip recently with her parents in the hurricane affected area of the Gulf Coast last year changed her perspective. It was there that she had the realization that she could do and accomplish much more than she ever thought she could.

Earlier this year, she was with her church at another of our sites here in Columbus where she was involved in the construction of the porch beams of a house. Under the direction of great leadership, her confidence was bolstered. Micki has been out onsite most every Saturday with the rest of the family and has found her niche with Habitat.

I am certain that the Parish family working together on the building of this house will be an experience they will all remember and cherish for a lifetime.

Erik Lambert, Construction Director

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, PART 1

The Construction Department has a volunteer Construction Committee that offers advice and assistance in making decisions about construction design, techniques, materials, and policies. A subcommittee was formed from this group specifically to design and implement changes to our house plans. The committee is made up primarily of long-term construction volunteers, staff, and professional architects and draftsmen. It has two projects: revise current plans and create new ones.

**CURRENT PLANS:** We will be adding panelization drawings to the plans to improve the wall building process, making it easier for large groups of people to build simultaneously, and it will also eliminate waste due to a more efficient use of materials. Additionally, panelization will allow us to build wall panels off-site in a secure and controlled environment. This will reduce loss due to theft from our building sites. Inherent to the process are accurate, easy to follow, detailed drawings of specific parts of the

construction of the home to aid us in the consistency of our builds. Finally, we will be developing some new mechanical drawings, which are now being required by the City of Columbus Building Department.

Information about the NEW PLANS will be in the next edition of [The Builder!](#)



## AMERICORPS MEMBERS EXPERIENCE BLITZ BUILD, TEXAS STYLE

Deb Light, Volunteer Services Director

Ball caps and work boots were exchanged for cowboy hats and cowboy boots as five AmeriCorps\*National Direct members and one staff person from HFHGC joined over 300 AmeriCorps members from 35 affiliates nationwide for the 2006 AmeriCorps Build-A-Thon in Dallas, Texas, May 14th-21st. During the "Boot-Scooting Build-A-Thon," AmeriCorps members blitz-built ten houses, alongside local corporate volunteers' additional ten houses. Over the week, members had the opportunity to learn new building techniques, connect with other AmeriCorps members, and experience a new culture.

The Build-A-Thon component of the AmeriCorps program gives members the chance to come together and be a part of something great on a more accelerated and concentrated level. This effort served to remind each member of how widespread his/her contribution is to the growth and capacity building of affiliates nationwide, which can sometimes be forgotten in the day to day routine. Mike Torsell, Construction Superintendent, shares, "We were given a great opportunity to be in the company of an array of amazing people,

who for the most part, share the same goals, aspirations, and altruistic nature. I'm incredibly grateful for that opportunity, and for the friendships that resulted."

As the week progressed, apprehensive feelings of new building styles and concerns over the ability to lead others quickly faded into confidence and self-assuredness. Construction Superintendent, Amanda Williams reflects, "I began to recognize my talents as a builder and happily discovered how much I've actually learned this year." Annie Marsico, Volunteer Development Coordinator, adds, "I was apprehensive as to what I would be able to accomplish on a build site since I work in the office, but as the week went on, I was able to swing a hammer, overcome previous fears, get up on the roof, and see the tangible results of my efforts."

The AmeriCorps members' Dallas experience satisfyingly surpassed initial expectations. Tony Andersson, Construction Leadership Coordinator, reveals "For all the seemingly constant complaining about this or about that, I don't really remember what we were whining about. What I do remember is having a great time and building a home for someone who needed it—and I think everybody feels the



The HFHGC AmeriCorps members from left to right: Mike Torsell, Amanda Williams, Deb Light (Volunteer Services Director), Kelly Carpe, Tony Andersson and Annie Marsico.

same way." For our Volunteer Superintendent, Kelly Carpe's, take on the blitz build, she expresses, "In Dallas, I did more hands-on labor than I ever thought I was capable of, but that was the best part of it. I didn't think I could hit a nail, but I did it. I didn't think I could get up on a roof, let alone shingle it, but I did. I didn't think I could have such a memorable experience working with volunteers of all skill levels and ages, but it was incredibly memorable. And most of all, I didn't think I could do all of the above and have such an amazingly good time, but I did!"

Long, hot days, rustic living accommodations and sore muscles became the accepted norm of the blitz build, but twenty new families receiving homes by week's end made the temporary inconveniences all worth it.



## Interested in joining the Columbus AmeriCorps team?

Now recruiting for six AmeriCorps positions for the 2006-2007 service year:

Affiliate Development VISTA Member  
Construction Leadership Coordinator

AccessAll Program VISTA Member  
Two Construction Support Leaders

Two BIAC Support Leaders

For more information on the AmeriCorps program and positions available, visit [www.habitatcolumbus.org](http://www.habitatcolumbus.org) or contact Deb Light at [dlight@habitat-columbus.org](mailto:dlight@habitat-columbus.org) or 614-364-7020.

## UPCOMING HABITAT EVENTS



Visit the Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus site at the 2006 Ohio State Fair proudly sponsored by AEP-American Electric Power. This year, we will focus on the many facets of Habitat, to include Habitat's Build It Again Center, Family Services, the many roles of volunteers, special how-to clinics, and the overall mission of Habitat!

Stop by the lawn of the DiSalle Center daily from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. to experience all Habitat has to offer.

Volunteers are needed in a number of areas before, during and after the Fair. If you are interested in volunteering this year, please contact Nicole Hypes via email, [nhypes@habitat-columbus.org](mailto:nhypes@habitat-columbus.org) or by calling 614-364-7032.



**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CLASSES**  
Our next leadership class will begin July 15th. For more information, contact Tony Andersson at  
Tony Andersson at  
(614) 414-0427x7035 or  
[tandersson@habitat-columbus.org](mailto:tandersson@habitat-columbus.org)

### 2006 VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION DATES

Held at 3140 Westerville Rd. on the following Saturday mornings. Pre-registration is required.

Sept. 9	Oct. 7
Nov. 4	Dec. 2

For more information about Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus and upcoming events, visit our website:  
[www.habitatcolumbus.org](http://www.habitatcolumbus.org)

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