

Celebrating Our 2010 Build-A-Thon!



Prospective homeowner Maribel Sanchez joined us often to see the progress. "I can't sleep. I wake up having to pinch myself to make sure it is real," Maribel told us. "Everyday I drive by to see where my house is being built"

Housing Finance Authority, Ensign Bickford Industries/Ensign Bickford Aerospace and Defense, Franklin Painting, Keystone Equipment Finance Corporation, Memorial United Methodist Church, MetLife Foundation, New England Financial, Private Capital Group, Saint Mary's Church in Simsbury, ReMax Premier, St. Catherine of Sienna Men's Club, and Webster Bank.

A special thanks to our snack providers: **Church of Christ Congregation UCC in Newington, June Hodges from Second Baptist Church in Suffield, Nick Noyes from Avon Congregational Church, and Carol Crowe.**

The need for affordable housing is greater than ever, and it is imperative that people living and working in the capitol region come together to create change for the families, neighborhoods, and communities in which we all serve. Please keep us in mind next year as we start planning for the 2011 Build-A-Thon!



Please see page seven for more pictures of this great event!

On Tuesday, May 4, Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity kicked off its annual Build-A-Thon on Sexton Street in New Britain, marking the beginning of a five day building blitz that spanned across three houses in an increasingly revitalized neighborhood.

Each year, hundreds of individuals from various faith groups, small businesses, major corporations and foundations join forces to participate in our biggest fundraiser of the year by building simple, decent, affordable housing in the greater Hartford community.

Now in its 17th year, the 2010 Build-A-Thon raised over \$60,000.00 to help eliminate poverty and sub-standard housing in our community. At the building site, we saw nearly 150 sponsors, volunteers, homeowners, staff and board members work tirelessly to frame all three Sexton Street houses by the end of the week. While rain forced us to cancel building on Saturday, May 8, our dedicated volunteers returned in June to see the Build-A-Thon through to its end.

Thanks to all our partners in the community who collaborated with us by sponsoring this great event and building at the work site: **Advance Mold & Manufacturing/ Vision Technical Molding, the Aldo DeDominicis Foundation, the Arnott Family, Cabrera Services, Carmon Community Funeral Homes, Caterpillar, Connecticut**

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Community Partners and Collaborations!

Women Build Week



On Saturday, May 1, Hartford Habitat celebrated National Women Build week on Sexton Street in New Britain.

Almost thirty women volunteers from across Connecticut and as far as Massachusetts traveled to New Britain to further Hartford Habitat's mission

of building affordable homes and revitalizing neighborhoods, proving that raising walls and using power tools are skills not exclusive to men.

The Mother's Day timeframe was selected for its significance to many women volunteers and Hartford Habitat homeowners. Single mothers and their children make up a staggering number of those in need of adequate housing. More than 12 million children, or one in six, live in poverty housing in the United States alone. To date, women volunteers have built nearly 1,700 Habitat homes nationwide. Locally, Hartford Habitat has built six Women Build houses.

Thanks to all the women, including the Glastonbury High School campus chapter and the Hartford Habitat Women Build Committee, for participating in this exciting program!



2009 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Welcome New Board Members!



On Wednesday March 10th, Habitat Board, staff, volunteers, and supporters gathered to celebrate the Affiliate's accomplishments during 2009.

We would like to welcome the new members of our board:

Lucy Anne Hurston, Sallie

Toussaint, Matthew Cooper, R. Scott Orsey, Lisa A. Chirichella and John P. Malloy. We would also like to welcome our new Executive Board: Pam Carpenter, President; Vanessa Rossito, Vice President; Sara Taylor, Secretary; and Ed Kindelan, Treasurer.

Congratulations to all and we look forward to a very successful 2010!

YOUTH INTERFAITH EVENT

Over 100 youths gathered at the Berlin Mosque on March 14th in support of the House of Abraham project. The event reinforced the slogan "Building More Than a House" by gathering youth of different faiths to promote diversity and peace building.



Participants were exposed to three different Abrahamic faiths: Christian, Jewish and Muslim. Together, they learned the importance of "home", participated in ice breakers and crafted fleece blankets which were presented to Lorna Christie and her family at the House of Abraham dedication in June.



Hartford Habitat Dedications

Guilford Street, Hartford

On Saturday, June 26th, Hartford Habitat proudly dedicated six of seven homes on Guilford Street in Hartford with six deserving families. This neighborhood build in the Clay Arsenal area of Hartford began last summer and was recently completed with the help of hundreds of volunteers, including our Weekday Saints.

The proud homeowners are Komi & Stella Akoumani of 32 Guilford, Dawne Gittens of 36 Guilford, Hattie Lee of 38 Guilford, Marilyn Cortez of 43 Guilford, Bernadine Wilson of 45 Guilford, and Raymond & Karen Smith of 49 Guilford.

We are excited to see these six families begin their new lives in their new homes and beginning to make lasting memories with each other in a safe neighborhood!



This “*neighborhood build*” would not have been possible without the financial and volunteer support of our partners at: Carrier, Travelers Foundation, the Ensworth Charitable Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, Greater Hartford Jaycees, Aetna Foundation, the Fisher Foundation, George A. and Grace L. Long Foundation, Prudential Retirement, the McPhee Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and the Phoenix Foundation.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the dedication!



House of Abraham 2

Christians, Jews and Muslims came together once more on Sunday, June 27th, to celebrate the completion and dedication of the second House of Abraham and the new home where homeowner Lorna Christie and her family will live.

The House of Abraham is a unique program that encourages interfaith cooperation among Christians, Jews and Muslims, and encourages diverse communities to work together to build affordable housing. These faith communities have participated in opportunities, both on and off the worksite designed to foster open dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths. Barriers are quickly broken down, individuals find new respect for one another, and together everyone can celebrate a common heritage.

We would like to thank all of the faith organizations who came together to support and work on this amazing project. Our third House of Abraham is currently in the planning stages!

To get your faith organization involved in the House of Abraham project, please contact our office at (860) 541-2208.



Building More Than a House...

Celebrating Our Families

Hartford Habitat celebrated its first "Habitat Family Day Picnic" on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at the newly renovated Pond House at Keney Park in Hartford.

Over 45 homeowner families, along with Board members, volunteers, community partners, and staff attended the picnic and helped us celebrate our 20th year of serving families in the greater Hartford community.

The picnic culminated our 20th anniversary celebration by bringing together one of our first homeowners, Gail Martin Craig of Barbour Street with our newest homeowners, Lorna Christie of 34 Guilford and Dawne Gittens of 36 Guilford.

The picnic consisted of organized field day games such as basketball tournaments, balloon tosses, tug of war, potato sack races, and relay races. It was such a

wonderful sight to see all of the families participate and have a good time!

The staff and volunteers from Hartford Habitat's Family Services Department would like to thank everyone who joined us and made the first "Habitat Family Day Picnic" a fabulous event! It was a joy to see the attendees having fun, relaxing and celebrating family.

We also want to give a big "Thank you!" to all the families that helped during the event, orchestrating everything from field day activities, games, entertainment, setting up the food stations, serving food and cleaning up.

Special thanks to our homeowners Nina Garrett, LaShawn Smith, Joie Brackett, Cureene Blake, Shereeria Shelton, Jonna Washington, Donna Reynolds and Tracy Thomas.

We would also like to thank Taste Buds in East Hartford for catering the event, the Hartford Fire Department for providing a fun and informative safety trailer, and MetLife for helping fund the event.

We are especially grateful for Joy Knowlin's involvement. Joy is a MetLife employee and Hartford Habitat homeowner, who was very instrumental during the planning of the Family Picnic event and is very supportive of our vision at Hartford Habitat. Joy helped organize the event sponsorship through MetLife and has helped advocate funding for two other Habitat events in the past! Thank you for all you do for us, Joy!

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



Habitat Family Accomplishments and News

Meet the Sexton Street Families!



Maribel was born in the Dominican Republic and first came to the United States as a competing athlete. She has now lived in the U.S. for over 16 years and has worked as a carpenter at a company in Southington for over eight years. She has two beautiful daughters, Leomaris and Rosalese. Leomaris is 15 years old and attends New Britain High School. She is an honor student, a great athlete, and a great example for her younger sister.

Rosalese is eight years old and attends Jefferson Elementary School in New Britain. She is a bright child, loving and caring. She loves animals and in the future, she wants to become a veterinarian.

The Silvestre Family

Maria and Valentin met in Queens, New York and recently moved to Connecticut to be closer to family. They have two beautiful children, Europa, age 8, and Valentin III, age 6. They both attend DiLoreto Magnet School and love to play the piano and practice Tae Kwon Do. The Farmington Club employs both Maria and Valentin, and in 2007, Valentin was honored as Employee of the Year.



The Tellez Family

On behalf of our Affiliate,

we would like to announce and congratulate....

- **Mr. Alffe Blake**, was elected to the Hartford Democratic Town Committee.
- **Dabely Jose**, daughter of **Altagracia Jose**, graduated from New Britain High School and is considering Central Connecticut or Goodwin College.
- **Tammie Roman**, received her Associate's Degree from Capital Community College as Valedictorian. She is currently enrolled at Central Connecticut State University to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.
- **Dominique Johnson**, daughter of **Tamanda Johnson** of Swift Village, recent graduate of Southington High School Class of 2010, who will be attending Tunxis Community College in the fall.
- **The Garand Family**, reported that their oldest son completed his Master's Degree from Full Sail in Florida, a graphic art and design program.
- **Rasheda Lockett's** daughters, **Johnika and Reynesha**. Reynesha is graduating from Manchester High School and Johnika will graduate from Tuskegee in 2011.
- **Kayla Velez**, daughter of **Annette Velez**, and her AAU basketball team, who won the State Championship in New Haven.
- **Daniel and Jenny Sullivan**, the proud parents of **Danny Sullivan**, who just graduated from Manchester High School and will be attending Post University in Waterbury in the fall.

- Last, but definitely not least, we are very proud of our very own **Ana Valentin-Jackson** from Manchester who earned a B.S. in Communications with a minor in Business Administration this May. Ana has been part of the staff at Hartford Habitat since 2001, and is currently the Marketing and Special Events Manager.

In Ana's words: "Hartford Habitat works. All I needed to get my family from the situation we were in, was a hand up – and there were many people willing to help! I am where I am today because I did my part to not let any of those people down, especially my girls who now have a foundation to keep going. We need to do whatever is necessary to spread the word that Habitat does work!"

- **Congratulations to each of our families for their commitment to continue improving their lives!!**



Hartford Habitat Happennings!



StanleyBlack&Decker

Pitching In Together!

Join the fun as the New Britain Rock Cats and Stanley Black & Decker help us raise funds to build more houses in our communities!

New Britain Rock Cats vs Bowie Baysox

Thursday, August 26, 2010

Starting at 5:30pm *

Download
flyer and order
form online!

Tickets:

\$ 15.00 per person (Includes admission and picnic*)

\$ 5.00 per person (only general admission)

A portion of the ticket price will go benefit Hartford Habitat.

New Britain Stadium, New Britain, CT

*All-you-can-eat buffet style picnic starts at 5:30pm, followed by the game at 7p.

Next AIM

The next Applicant Information Meeting for prospective homeowners will be Saturday, September 18th at 8:45 AM at Asylum Hill Congregational Church 814 Asylum Street, Hartford

SAVE THE DATE! Building On Faith Week



October 12-17, 2010
West Clay Street, Hartford

The event will bring volunteers, devotional leaders, snack and lunch providers, staff and Board members together for a week to build a house and lift our spirits. To get your faith organization signed up, please contact 860-541-2008.

Sticks for Bricks is Almost Here!

The 16th Annual "Sticks for Bricks" Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, August 30, 2010 at Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford.

Over the last sixteen years, the golf tournament event has raised over \$500,000 to help us continue "Building More Than a House" in the areas we serve.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Download your registration form today from the "Special Events" section of our website:
www.hartfordhabitat.org.

For more information on the event, please contact our office at 860-541-2208!

Follow Ana's blog,
<http://avjupdates.blogspot.com/>
as she documents her experience leading to her participation in the

2010 JIMMY & ROSALYN CARTER
WORK PROJECT
Washington, DC
October 3-8, 2010



**BUILD
-A-
THON
2010
SEXTON
STREET,
NEW BRITAIN**



**TO SEE MORE PICTURES, VISIT
OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.HARTFORDHABITAT.ORG**

Collegiate Challenge 2010

Collegiate Challenge is a Habitat for Humanity International youth program that provides the opportunity for college and high school students to use their vacations to help build Habitat homes.

Collegiate Challenge is the one of the country's largest alternative "spring break" programs. More than 170,000 students have taken part in the program since its inception. This spring break, 12,000 students traveled to 210 locations between February 14 and April 10. Students participated in the building process at the stage that the affiliate was in when they arrived.

In addition to building, most students involved in Collegiate Challenge raise money to help fund Habitat houses. Previous fundraising examples include: hosting events, letter-writing campaigns and receiving grants from their schools.

During Collegiate Challenge's 21-year history, students have raised more than \$16 million to build Habitat homes. During spring break 2010 alone, participants donated \$1.5 million dollars to Habitat affiliates.

This past spring, more than 25 students from Emma Willard, Minnesota State University and SUNY Brockport came to volunteer with Hartford Habitat during their spring breaks. The students had a blast painting and doing construction in houses on Guilford Street.

Thank you all so much for your help! We really appreciate it!



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