



Habitat Happenings
A Newsletter for Habitat Families
January 2011

A New Year starts and marks a new beginning

January is a new start for many of us. We organize, and commit that this is the year we will do our best; we get this feeling of excitement about all the new and challenging possibilities that will come our way.

Happy New Year

On behalf of the Hartford Habitat, we would like to wish you a healthy, fulfilling and prosperous 2011.

Filing Income Taxes for Free

VITA offers free tax filing assistance from sites in Hartford, Manchester.

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (\$38,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Please take advantage of this free service in comparison to the \$150.00 that some public firms charge to file income taxes. Please contact CRT for more information. Days and hours of service may vary with location.

Hartford

CRT 1229 Albany Avenue 560-5128

CRT 25 Main Street 560-5782

CRT 395 Wethersfield Ave 560-5800

CRT 555 Windsor Street 560-5750

Manchester

Manchester Human Services
479 Main Street, Manchester
(860) 647-3095

Financial-Mortgage Counseling

If you are currently delinquent on your mortgage and would like to petition the board for assistance. Please attend our meeting on Thursday, February 3, 2011 at the Habitat Office-780 Windsor Street-Hartford. We will begin promptly at 5:30 pm. Please RSVP with Tracy 541-2208 ext. 115

Martin Luther King Community Day at Wadsworth Atheneum

On Monday, January 17, the Wadsworth Atheneum, 600 Main Street, Downtown Hartford will once again celebrate Martin Luther King Day by offering free admission from 10am – 5pm. the day will include numerous performances and activities dedicated to the memory of Dr. King

Welcome New Habitat Homeowner:

Family services would like to welcome the following new families to the Habitat Family:

- *Maribel Silvestre*
- *Jamaira Ocasio*

Save the Date: Habitat Family Picnic
May 14 or May 21(rain date) at the Keney Park Pond House at the Edgewood Street Entrance in Hartford. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer on the 2011 planning committee.

Giving Back

If you are interested in partnering with a prospective family please contact Tracy 541-2208 ext. 115

Bundle up for warmth

It's getting cold, staying warm is important. Here are some tips & warnings you can use to have fun and stay safe when the snow starts to fall.

Things you'll need:



Start with lots of layers. Make sure your shirts are long enough to adequately cover your stomach and hips.

Layer t-shirts and long-sleeve t-shirts, and top with a sweater or sweatshirt. It is best if these layers are easily removable, too.

Next, put on your scarf. Ideally, a nice thick scarf should be worn underneath your coat as an extra layer of protection at the neck. It should not let any air in from your chin to your chest.

A good winter coat is an invaluable investment. Down or a synthetic replacement is optimal, but if your coat is quilted, thick, and closes at the wrists, waists and neck, you'll be fine

Put on sturdy mittens or gloves. Gloves are obviously best if you'll be taking part in an activity where your dexterity is important--driving or snowball fights, for example. Either tuck your gloves into your sleeves, or pull them tight over

the sleeves, but do not let any room for air or snow to get it in.

Cover your feet with one or two pairs of thick wool or cotton socks that can be pulled up to the calf. Cover with a pair of high, waterproof boots.

And finally, a tip your mother has been telling you for years. A good hat really can make the difference between staying warm or shivering in the cold.

Warnings:

If your feet, hands, or other parts of your body get wet from snow or rain, head back inside and change into a warm, dry alternative.

Even when bundled up, staying out too long in the cold is dangerous. If your feet, hands or other body parts start to tingle, burn or lose feeling, go inside IMMEDIATELY!

