

— Back to Building! —

Kitsap Habitat has had its share of challenges building in this economy, as reflected in recent newspaper articles and e-news from the affiliate to all of you. While contributions are always needed, shifts in available resources and a full house sponsorship are helping to put us 'back in the driver's seat' both there and at Cornerstone Place in East Bremerton. That's exciting!

With the support of full-house sponsor The Gavel and Hammer Society, Habitat broke ground for the future Suquamish home of Felicia Oliver-Johnson family on July 18th, with the assistance of attendees from novice to seasoned (see photo at right). Wenzlau Architects and Community Energy Solutions are also contributors



to this home, donating the house design and a solar hot water system, respectively. This home is unusual as just the second two-story house to be built by Kitsap Habitat, and the first to trial solar water heating. Construction for this home is slated to begin in August or early September.

Construction at Cornerstone Place is also on the move, Windermere Real Estate Silverdale stepped up with support to purchase a framing package for a home in this 11-unit development, and spent Friday, July 17th enjoying the hammer-and-nails side of their contribution. With their help and additional resources, work at Cornerstone is planned

for Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays weekly for the next several months. The goal? To have a total of six Cornerstone houses dried in by year's end.

With the dedication of 6247 Center Street in Suquamish August 22nd to help 'punctuate'

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progress (see events page 8 for details), **Kitsap Habitat is solidly back to building!**



The 'www' Look

The transition to an on-line version of the affiliate's quarterly newsletter is now in full swing with this, our second on-line issue!

We invite you to get acquainted with our new electronic newsletter. The layout is the same familiar one you've come to know, presented in a format that can be read on-line or printed for reading directly from any computer.

The perks? The electronic version sports color ads and photos versus black and white, and 'clickable' links to VolunteerUp, additional pictures, newspaper articles and other items of interest. Going electronic minimizes waste and expands our efforts as responsible environmental stewards, with cost savings redirected to what we do best: building homes. That's exciting!

New editions are posted on-line quarterly on the 1st of February, May, August, and November. Our goal is to continue to inform and serve you, our supporters, as effectively as possible.

We invite your feedback. Please e-mail da@kitsaphabitat.org with thoughts, questions, and suggestions. Thank you!

Bits & Pieces

- ◆ Habitat for Humanity as a whole is now ranked the 14th largest builder in the US (up from 16th last year), an amazing achievement in the construction industry given our all-volunteer labor force.
- ◆ Kitsap Habitat is ranked in the top 100 tithers out of more than 2500 US affiliates. In real-time, our tithing translated to the construction of over six houses in Habitat Jordan during the 2008 calendar year. Since 1992, the affiliate has served nearly 63 international families through the tithe program, supporting the breadth and depth of Habitat's mission to build "a WORLD where EVERYONE has a decent place to live."

Thank you!

- ◆ To all our EFT contributors; your monthly commitment helps us build a stronger fiscal foundation!
- ◆ To all contributors: volunteers, in-kind and financial donors, businesses, organizations and churches...simply put, we couldn't do it without you!

Mission Statement

Working with God and people everywhere, Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County develops communities by building simple, decent, affordable housing in partnership with people in need, where they can live and grow into all that God intended.

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— Build-a-Thon —

The AmeriCorps Build-a-Thon or 'BAT' is an annual signature event that brings together AmeriCorps members and alumni in a weeklong blitz build. The event is held across the United States and highlights a different Habitat affiliate each year. This June Habitat for Humanity VISTA/ AmeriCorps members, Kitsap Habitat's three among them, joined with football player Kurt Warner and his First Things First Foundation to help 20 families build houses in Cedar Rapids, the community hardest hit by the Iowa floods of 2008.

In the floods, the Cedar Rapids Habitat affiliate offices and everything in them was destroyed, and their staff was hard hit as well. Ultimately the affiliate was left with one staff member, their ReStore manager. This BAT became a powerful way to highlight the need for affordable housing for victims of the Iowa flooding, celebrate the many contributions AmeriCorps members make to Habitat and other organizations in thousands of communities throughout the country, and do some 'capacity building' all at the same time.

On the capacity building side, BAT site coordinators were enlisted to help build a new database of resources starting with churches and local businesses for the Cedar Rapids affiliate. They not only developed the contact information, they actually made calls, from talking to restaurants about providing lunches at the job site, to simply talking about Habitat for Humanity and asking how each contact thought they could help. They also participated in a 'creative recycling' session, using ReStore materials to create functional art and stimulate thinking outside the box in how building materials can be reused and recycled.

On site, 500 AmeriCorps members from 120 affiliates came together to frame 20 houses, and contributed \$700,000 to the project. The houses will be completed by local volunteers and RV Care-a-Vanners. For pictures and more on this year's event, visit http://www.habitat.org/ameri-corps/build_a_thon.aspx.



— Family Focus —

Meet future Habitat homeowner Dawn Payton: Single mother of 10-year-old Forrest, Dawn lost her mobile home to a flood in 1996, and has moved a lot since then. Decent affordable housing became especially challenging to find after she had Forrest in 1998. She was saddened to expose Forrest to the heartbreak of multiple moves and the loss of friends.



Dawn has worked hard to hold onto the dream of owning their own home, not easy on her fixed income. Dawn is deaf, with limited options due to her disability. A story about Habitat for Humanity in the Bremerton Sun inspired Dawn to apply, all the while asking herself whether or not the 'offer' was true and if Habitat might be an answer for she and her son. When her application was accepted and approved, she was shocked! After many tears of gratitude and prayers of thanks, Dawn's spirits have lifted. She says, "Dreams can come true! My higher power has given me a chance."

Dawn has looked forward to learning how to build a home and making new friends in the process. She is a confessed 'klutz' and a 'blank page' on building skills, but excited and eager to learn, and already a regular at Habitat's Cornerstone Place project helping other families build homes while she waits for hers to begin.

Today Dawn and Forrest's faces are wreathed in smiles knowing that once their house is complete, they will not be moving again. Forrest can make long lasting friends and have a dog to play with in their backyard. Dawn can plant flowers and greenery in her yard (instead of in pots), which can grow healthy roots and bloom safely, says Dawn, "as will Forrest and I in the years to come".

This is Habitat, realizing dreams in countless ways large and small. Dawn is grateful to Kitsap Habitat staff and volunteers who are helping her with a hand up, versus a hand out!

— “Can Do!” —

Habitat is an Equal Opportunity Housing Lender...and builder. Our volunteers and families bring varied skill sets to the table, and all are welcome to contribute on site. As with anything Habitat, it's about creating opportunity and a 'can do' attitude for Habitat partner families and volunteers alike!

Challenges come in many forms, from physical disabilities to overcoming personal fears.

Consider future Habitat homeowner Dawn Payton (see her story on page 3). To some, deafness is a disability, but you wouldn't know it to see Dawn on our worksites. As she learns the home-building ropes, those around her learn too. How does it work? Consider the options...

Sign language interpreters are \$250-400/2 hours plus travel costs, and there are none on the Kitsap Peninsula. If more than two hours are needed, two interpreters are required, making this option cost-prohibitive for the affiliate and for Dawn and others like her. But Dawn knows sign language, reads lips, and always has paper and pen on hand at the ready as needed to ask or answer questions.

Add to that an on-site buddy system and the possibilities are endless. One volunteer works directly with Dawn each day she's there, both for safety and to make sure Dawn gains as much experience/has as much fun on site as any volunteer. The 'buddy' can be a friend or family member, or can be different each time, creating great learning opportunities and experiences for all involved. In the office, going with the flow, replaces the buddy system as Dawn participates in newsletter mailings and similar events, with questions posed on paper and/or simply communicating visually in an informal way.

An interesting side note: during the school year we often have the help of developmentally challenged students from Central Kitsap High School's Life Skills program for newsletter parties. Imagine our delight when one of those students, upon learning Dawn was deaf, hopped up and practiced her beginning sign language skills with Dawn! The counterpart to CK's student group is the 'Step Up' program in North Kitsap County, bringing the vitality, curiosity and heart of similarly challenged students to north end construction sites.

These are just two of many opportunities and answers in our program. New Hope homeowner Marty Burkhart entered the program believing the physical challenges of fibromyalgia would mean her sweat equity hours would have to be completed doing office work. But the Habitat way means families must be on the build site, actively involved in the construction of their homes and working side-by-side with construction volunteers. So out she went, shifting from 'I don't think I can', to "Can do!", and building actively from foundation to roofing in all conditions, personally and literally. Homeowner Portia Santos confronted her fear of heights to climb to new heights while building at New Hope, as did new construction volunteer Maria Flesher (see story next page).

Bottom line? Where there's a will, there's a 'Habitat way'!

Inspired? You too “Can Do”...with auction contributions!

Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County's annual Raise the Roofs Dinner and Auction is Saturday, September 12th. New to our program this year is an on-line 'pre-auction', and we are looking for auction items. Please submit possibilities to Sheila Marie via e-mail at da@kitsaphabitat.org anytime before Labor Day weekend; we'll add them as received:

- We can accept high quality new items like jewelry, artwork, tools, pottery, services...let your imagination run wild.
- Please submit a picture, estimated value or minimum bid, and contact information for each items submitted.
- Submissions will be reviewed before being posted to the Kitsap auction website.
- All proceeds will go towards Kitsap Habitat's mission of building affordable houses with families in need in Kitsap County.

— Volunteer Spotlight —

The first 2009 Habitat International Women Build House and Crew Leadership Training session took place right here in Bremerton, Washington. Training sessions like these are developed to give Habitat's women volunteers a chance to become house and crew leaders – and boost the ranks of skilled leadership at affiliates throughout the United States.

Enter **Maria Flesher**, one of fifteen women to complete the training session held here. On her registration for the training, Maria described her building experience as “basic homeowner maintenance – a beginner volunteer with a great desire to learn and contribute.” She also wrote she would be willing to try anything – anything, that is, except roofing: “I’m just too afraid of heights!”

Session trainers are sensitive to volunteers’ fears, so Maria kept her feet on the ground all that week, learning her way through rolling roof trusses and setting bird-blocking from a support position on the ground.

A mere week later, Maria put her new skills to use volunteering as part of Kitsap Habitat’s National Women Build Week day...and found herself on scaffolding teaching other volunteers how to install bird blocking – terra firma nowhere in sight...and she hasn’t stopped since. The confidence gained through the Women Build training session and on-site learning now has her on rooftops and going strong. Says Maria, “I really want to be involved with recruiting and getting women involved in the Women Build program.”

With that in mind, Maria has declared her workplace Fridays to be ‘Habitat Day’. Known for creative dressing, her Friday outfits incorporate; carpenter jeans, nail apron (complete with tools and Habitat information) and a white cowboy hardhat emblazoned with a Habitat for Humanity ‘Help Build It!’ sticker. Her efforts have led to co-worker interest in attending Lowes construction clinics, working together on a build site, and a high end Sage fly rod for auction at the September 12th Raise the Roofs dinner and live auction.

An active member of this year’s Women Build Team, Maria’s enthusiasm for Habitat simply expands from there: in addition to her company’s donation to the Raise the Roofs live auction, she’s working to help populate the on-line auction and has offered to help with the dessert auction as well. From rooftops to tabletops, Maria infectious smile and upbeat presence are infectious, elevating everyone around her to new heights!



— Volunteer Opportunities —

Volunteer opportunities abound at Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County:

Construction Leadership :

Site Supervisors and Crew Leaders guide volunteers through various aspects of the construction process. If *you* have general construction knowledge and can volunteer one day or more to share your knowledge and skills, Habitat needs you!

Construction Learning:

No experience? That's okay! Volunteer Site Supervisors and crew leaders are on hand to lead and guide Habitat volunteers every step of the way. Join the Habitat team to learn, build, mentor and teach others based on your level of experience! **It's a wonderful way to serve the community, make new friendships, and learn and share new skills.** In our experience the best way to recruit new volunteers is via "word-of-mouth", so be sure to share the Habitat opportunity with your family, friends, and co-workers!

Construction Opportunities:

The weekly volunteer e-mail news and VolunteerUp at www.kitsaphabitat.org are great resources to check current work locations, date changes, and available work days. For additional help or questions call the Volunteer Coordinator at 360-550-2446 or send us an e-mail at volunteercoor@kitsaphabitat.org.

Saturday Lunch Providers:

If you love to cook, or would like to organize a group to provide and deliver lunches to our various build sites, we invite you to give the Volunteer Coordinator a call at 360-550-2446 to schedule a date at 4th Avenue in Suquamish, or at Cornerstone Place in East Bremerton.

Lunches keep our volunteers going as they build safe, affordable homes for individuals and families in need. Consider a steaming pot of chili, sandwiches and chips in a bag, casseroles, pizza, or whatever you choose to bring; our volunteers are always grateful and you will be contributing to this great ministry through food and fellowship. This is also a great way for youth under age 16 to help and get a sense of Habitat on site.

Builders Bargains Store:

Truck drivers, assistant drivers and warehouse workers are needed for five-hour shifts between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday at Builders Bargains, where new and gently used building supplies are sold. Volunteers are also needed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays at our Poulsbo Donation Station. Call Dave at (360) 377-1800 to schedule time at either location.

Habitat Teams:

Focused teams work behind the scenes to help keep Habitat's ministry running smoothly. Volunteers are needed for the:

- **Church Relations Team:** Members strive to inform and engage as many local church congregations as possible in the work of Habitat.
- **Women Build Team:** Members cultivate sponsors and help to organize the build, recruit site leadership, and lend their support as needed for Women Build projects. They are currently fundraising in preparation for the 2nd Annual Women Build Project, and welcome all new members!

Office Work:

Filing, stuffing, folding and mailing jobs are available for those who can only volunteer intermittently. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 360-550-2446 and/or watch our weekly volunteer e-mails for these and other short-term office opportunities.

How to Volunteer:

All new volunteers must complete a New Volunteer Orientation, which includes a safety video and completion of a waiver.

Orientations may be completed on-line at www.kitsaphabitat.org; simply click on "Volunteer" in the upper-right hand corner of the web page and you're on your way. Once orientation is completed, volunteers may register through VolunteerUP on the website to schedule volunteer dates as available.

New Volunteer Orientations may also be scheduled for individuals who do not have a computer by contacting the Volunteer Coordinator at (360) 550-2446 to schedule a date for orientation. The Volunteer Coordinator will then complete your VolunteerUP registration and scheduling.



Using VolunteerUP is vital to helping us plan for appropriate materials and supplies, site supervision, and work to be done each construction day.

Wherever and however you serve, volunteers are also asked to sign in at the beginning of their day (legibly for our data entry volunteers!) and sign out at the end of their volunteer day/time. This helps us to track the amount of time required to complete each home/task, and plan for the future. Thank you!

— Progress Reports —

Cornerstone Place in East Bremerton

Framing is complete on Lot #9; plumbing and electrical installation is in progress.

Lot #10 framing is now underway, and the foundation for Lot #11 has been poured.

The planned work schedule is Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM when the site is active.

Please check VolunteerUP for scheduled work dates!

Center Street, Suquamish

The Williamson house at 6247 Center Street in Suquamish is nearly complete.

Join us for the dedication of this home on site at 10 a.m. Saturday August 22nd ([map](#)).

4th Avenue, Suquamish

Groundbreaking for the first of two new homes in Suquamish was held Saturday July 18th.

Watch VolunteerUp for work dates at this location.

Special Notes

All job sites will be closed Saturday, September 5th in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

Please continue to use VolunteerUp as the method for volunteering and check frequently for updates.

— Imagine —

Equal housing opportunity is government policy, but it often isn't a reality. Have you experienced this? Felicia has. Though landlords technically can't refuse her a place to live based on the number of children she has, they do.

Families deserve to have homes that fit their needs, but this isn't true. When Joe and Nicola lived in North Carolina they were given a third floor apartment, even though the landlord knew that Nicola was disabled and couldn't handle stairs.

Landlords are supposed to provide their tenants with a safe place to live, but that isn't always the fact. Ask Portia...she had a hole in her roof for months. The landlord ignored her persistent calls.

Can you imagine yourself in these situations? Did your ire rise as you read about Felicia, Joe and Nicola, and Portia?

Can you imagine how hard you would work to provide a better situation for your family? These four parents have been doing just that, and making real progress working with Habitat.

Through Habitat Felicia will soon have a home for all of her children. Joe and Nicola will have a one-story home that Nicola can safely navigate in her wheelchair. Portia has already moved into her new Habitat home. That's exciting!

You can help support the efforts of these hardworking parents. A gift of only \$10 will provide four 2x4s to help build homes for families like these. To contribute simply go to www.kitsaphabitat.org and click on the "Donate Today" button at the top of the screen. Imagine, and know that every gift makes a difference!

Events



The Women Build Committee is hosting a Benefit Rummage Sale **SATURDAY, AUGUST 1st** at the Silverdale Reid Real Estate Lot (Corner of Silverdale Way and Bucklin Hill) from 9AM until 3PM. If you have items to donate to the sale please drop them off at the Reid Real Estate Lot the day of the sale between 7 AM and 9 AM.

For more information on the rummage sale or committee meeting please contact Karen Carlson at fourcarlsons@aol.com or call Karen at 360-620-5215.



The Silverdale Beach Hotel is sponsoring a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

AUGUST 8th and 9th, 2009 Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County is one of the designated beneficiaries of this event, which also offers volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering to help support this great effort please call Greg Alkire at 360-550-2446 or email volunteercoord@kitsaphabitat.org. For more info on the tournament visit www.silverdaleshootout.com or call 360-698-1000.



Join the celebration! Habitat for Humanity is holding an All Volunteer Appreciation Picnic **SATURDAY AUGUST 16th** from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Evergreen Park Pavilion in Bremerton.

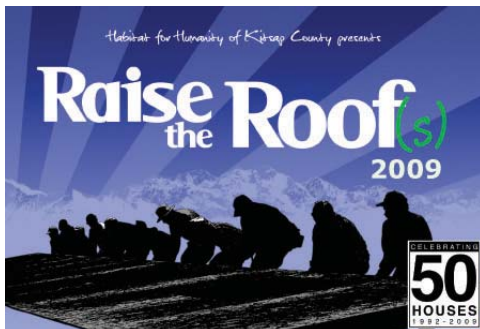
Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, plates and utensils will be provided. Drop in anytime between 4 and 8 p.m., and your own unique 'flavor' to the mix by bringing a side dish, salad or dessert to share...and bring blankets and/or lawn chairs. See you there!



Builders Bargains Customer Appreciation Day 8 AM to 6 PM **SATURDAY AUGUST 22nd**. Come out to store for great deals and this special thank you to new and loyal customers. We appreciate you!



Join as we celebrate the completion of Habitat's 53rd house in Kitsap County! Recipient homeowner Gail Williamson will receive the keys to her new home at the dedication ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. **SATURDAY, AUGUST 22nd** at 6247 Center Street in Suquamish.



Our 2009 Gala Dinner and Live Auction is **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th** at the Bremerton Comfort Inn and Suites on Kitsap Way (visible from the highway). Festivities include music, appetizers, cash bar, an elegant 'sit-down' dinner, and the ever popular dessert and live auctions. Habitat stories, information and healthy dose of laughter will be interspersed throughout the evening at the capable direction of internationally known corporate comedian Rod Sherwood, our emcee for this evening you won't want to miss!

Tickets are just \$35 per person. Please contact Sheila at 360-550-2452 or da@kitsaphabitat.org if you are available to serve as a table captain, if you would like to purchase tickets to attend the event individually, and/or with any questions. We look forward to sharing this lively and engaging evening with you!

Visit our on-line auction and live auction preview at kitsaphabitat.cmarket.com!



Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County complies with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Fair Housing Act, and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act • Federal ID #91-1981992