



the Builder

SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

As Paterson Habitat approaches 30-year mark

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www.patersonhabitat.org

973-595-6868

Taking stock of where we're going and where we've been

By Barbara Dunn
Executive Director
Paterson Habitat for Humanity

30 Years/300 Families...that's a snapshot view of Paterson Habitat's progress as we approach the beginning of our 30th Anniversary year in October. Over the course of 30 years we have partnered with 300 low-income families—bringing homeownership to most and helping others preserve and repair their homes. All these families touched by Habitat join us in reviving Paterson's most distressed neighborhoods.

Our donors and volunteers have made this possible. We're grateful for that support and proud of everything it's helped us achieve. As we approach the significant milestone of our 30th year, it's a natural time to reflect on where we've been, where we're going and what we've learned along the way.

We're still living by the core values that launched us three decades ago as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We still believe that a safe and decent home for every family is a building block of a civil society. So partnering with low-income families to help them build and own homes of their own remains an essential part of what Paterson Habitat is all about.

It's not that there haven't been changes over 30 years, for one thing, the scope of the challenge has increased. Every year the need for decent affordable homes has soared along with the cost of building them.

(Continued on inside)



Paterson Habitat team in Bay St. Louis, February 2014. This is the 7th rebuilding trip to this coastal town in Mississippi since Hurricane Katrina.



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Barbara C. Dunn, Executive Director & Resource Development Director	101
Oscar Bashualdo, Accounting Manager	102
Dave Juliana, Chief Financial & Operations Officers (CFO/COO)	103
Linda Wilson, IT & Database Manager*	104
Doris Ruiz, Office Manager*	105
Volunteer Coordinator*	106
Jessica Ramos, Family Services Admin*	108
Kerri Schaefer, Faith Relations & Youth Coordinator*	110
Jessica Ramos, A/P Processor*	110
Sara L. Ruiz, Communications & Marketing Manager	112
Lydia Ramos, Family Services Manager	113
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Gina Damiano, Resource Development Manager	120

* denotes part-time staff

FTE = 17

Construction:

Diana Vasquez, Construction Project Assistant.....	115
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Jose Torres, Senior Site Foreman	
Bernard Combs, Site Foreman	
Adelis Ramos, Site Foreman	
Peter Brovarone, General Contractor	

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Lucia Fitzgerald, ReStore Director	202
Walt FitzPatrick, ReStore Manager	205
Isis Haylett, Assistant Manager	201
AmeriCorps Volunteer:	
Samuel Jean, Volunteer Coordinator	201

Travel with purpose



30th Anniversary Year Global Village Trip to Asia

Nepal: November 13-22, 2014

Everest Build III: Hundreds of volunteers will build 100 houses in a week! When families, affiliates, communities and nations come together, we can work faster than ever to build a future where everyone lives in a decent home.

Because this is the Everest Build, you will get to see some of majestic Nepal, which is home to Mount Everest, the Himalayas, and a rich ancient culture. Get your hands dirty on the worksite, meet the families whose housing situation you are improving, experience the country like an insider, and do it all alongside a team of like-minded volunteers. No experience required!

Paterson Habitat is sending a team and we invite you to join us in this once in a lifetime experience. **For more information, contact Barbara Dunn, director@patersonhabitat.org.**



Faces of Nepal



www.patersonhabitat.org

973-595-6868

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Taking stock *(Continued from page 1)*

While wrestling with that challenge we've also expanded our efforts to improve the quality of life in whole neighborhoods. These efforts continue long after a Habitat house is built. The last few years have forcefully demonstrated the value of partnerships with other non-profits, civic associations, government agencies and our long-time partners in the faith community.

Through it all, the homeowner partner has remained central to our work. We begin with a family in need of better housing. We know from experience that a decent home is the basis of a better future for everyone in the family – a better future

because of improved health, educational outcomes, and financial security. Each year we send out a mailing that showcases a homeowner family. It's our way of telling you in detail what a new home means to them. Each family's story is unique, but all our families share the desire for their children to have new opportunities and a better future.

We don't expect the next 30 years to be easy. But with the continued help of our friends, we'll continue our progress one family, one block and one neighborhood at a time.

Improving our communities: Four big strategic priorities

With all we've learned over the past 30 years as a prelude, here is our 4-pronged strategy for improving our communities:

Eliminate abandoned/ blighted properties—



Nothing discourages the revival of a neighborhood more quickly than unsightly, abandoned buildings. Focusing on the 4th Ward, we are moving to rehabilitate these buildings or demolish those beyond repair.

Increase homeownership opportunities—



The families we help to become homeowners are making a long-term investment in the communities we're working to restore. Building comfortable, energy-efficient homes with them and helping them master the challenges of home ownership remain an essential part of our strategy.

Improve the quality of life for current residents—



Some of our original homeowners families are now seniors, and we're helping them weatherize their homes by bringing them up to the energy-efficiency levels that we didn't know about 20 or 30 years ago. We're also making home façade and streetscape improvements that make the neighborhood more attractive and welcoming.

Work with community partners—



These partnerships have already involved us with City Green, in creating community vegetable gardens, in the 1st and 4th Ward neighborhoods. Habitat is also a partner in the citywide Cease Fire anti-violence movement and with the United Way on food access projects. The opportunities for future partnerships are endless as we team up with other organizations on shared goals.

TRANSFORMATIONS Summer Street gets a new neighborhood.





ReStore going strong for second anniversary

Want to build a better world by shopping for bargains? People do just that Wednesday through Sunday at the ReStore, Paterson Habitat's unique retailing outlet that sells donated high-quality household furnishings and building materials at bargain prices.

Conveniently located at **415 Hamburg Turnpike in Wayne**, the ReStore marks its second anniversary in May, and it's celebrating in style with yearly sales growing by 30 percent. All proceeds go to support the work of Paterson Habitat. First time visitors are often surprised by the high quality of the items on sale and the variety. You can find high-end furniture, antiques, appliances, doors, windows—virtually anything that goes inside a house or on it. There's even a recently opened hardware section.



PHFH Youth Volunteer of the Year, Amanda Dohnert

The ReStore is powered by the energy of the volunteers who run it. They include Allison Dohnert, a senior at Wayne Valley High School who has been named Paterson Habitat's Youth Volunteer of the Year. New volunteers are always welcomed, as are donated items for sale.

"We'd also remind Habitat supporters that the ReStore is a great place to shop for their own needs," said Lucia Fitzgerald, ReStore director. "Everybody likes a bargain, and when you pick up a bargain at the ReStore you're expanding your support for Habitat."

To learn more about the ReStore go to

www.patersonhabitat.org/restore

or call 973-782-6993

DONATION HOTLINE: 973-782-6996

A Reflection: "Building the Kingdom of God"

By Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity International

We always say in Habitat for Humanity that we are doing a lot more than just building houses. We are building and seeking to be a part of building God's kingdom on earth. We are seeking to build relationships and we are challenging people to reach out and help others as others have reached out to help them.

As we move forward in this work, and I think this has been one of the secrets of success of Habitat for Humanity, every person who receives a home through this ministry, is recruited to become a part of passing it on to others. Passing it on is what Habitat is all about. I think that the greatest gift that you can give to anyone is the gift of a vision....

This is an excerpt from Millard Fuller's book "Kingdom Building" written in 1984 – the year that Paterson Habitat for Humanity was formed.

Practical creativity blooms in the 4th Ward

An NJIT architecture student's winning design is being converted into a unique new home in the heart of our 4th Ward Redevelopment Area. The initial design for the house under construction at 59 Godwin Avenue was created by Jason Morales as part of a design competition sponsored by the Habitat Studio at NJIT's College of Architecture and Design. The Habitat Studio is a project launched by NJIT professor Darius Sollohub and Jak Inglese, a professional architect whose firm (Inglese Architects & Engineering) is well known for creating innovative, energy-efficient practical designs for modestly priced urban homes and other buildings.

Before Jason graduated last year he had an internship at the Inglese firm, where his design for the Godwin Avenue house was refined and made construction ready. The house is designed to reflect the realities of limited budgets and volunteer construction crews. Jason and other students from the Habitat Studio program met with Habitat homeowners and volunteers to get their opinions on how current home designs could be improved.



Jason Morales, NJIT Student architect of 59 Godwin Avenue.



59 Godwin Avenue

The Godwin Avenue house is Paterson Habitat's first split-level home, designed for maximum light and easy flow between rooms. It reflects Habitat's green environmental requirements, and meets Energy Star® Version 3 green building standards. This makes it an energy-efficient, durable home that will be affordable to maintain, with lower utility bills for the homeowner family.

It is a tribute to the creative partnerships that are helping us raise the quality of life in the distressed 4th Ward, one house, one block and one neighborhood at a time.

SAVE THE DATE

October 16, 2014

Friends and Family Dinner

That's when friends old and new will gather for a celebratory dinner to begin Paterson Habitat's 30th year. We'll be savoring some precious memories and looking ahead to an exciting future, which your presence at the dinner will help support.

Please join us for this very special evening at The Tides, North Haledon. Invitations to follow this summer.

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30th Anniversary Year

Calendar of Activities beginning October 2014



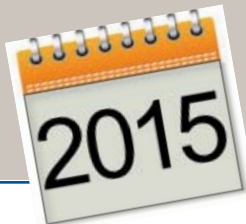
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
World Habitat Day

NOVEMBER 6-8
Interfaith Build 2014

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16
*30th Anniversary
Friends and Family Dinner*

NOVEMBER 13-22
Global Village Trip: Nepal

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Fall House Dedications



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16
30th Anniversary GALA

AUGUST, TBA
Global Village Trip: Africa