



Habitat for Humanity®

Seattle/South King County



Khadra helps to fill in the foundation of her home in Rainier Vista.

GREEN BUILDING

The snow and freezing temperatures are gone, spring flowers are bursting forth and construction on our Rainier Vista Phase 1 four-plex and two duplexes at High Point Phase 2A is blazing forward. Retaining walls are being installed on the second building site at High Point that will eventually be home to eight families. Construction will begin on two more homes in Pacific in April and seven homes in White Center's Greenbridge community in June.

As we strive to do our best for the environment and our homeowners, Habitat is integrating green and sustainable methods and practices in our building of these new homes. Specifically, we focus on four key areas that provide the most benefit to our homeowners – air quality, energy efficiency, water efficiency and durability. We are



Happy hammering volunteers make headway at High Point.

also focusing on things that are free such as recycling and reducing construction waste. In this and future newsletters we will be talking about how these areas translate specifically in the green building decisions we make. Our guiding principle is to ensure that the Habitat homes are simple to operate, low maintenance, durable and affordable.

Indoor Air Quality

To improve air quality in our new homes, houses are supplied with hard surface prefinished flooring which allows for easier cleaning and reduced toxins inside the home. We also use low VOC paints, sealants, caulks and adhesives to reduce the toxic chemicals in the house. Whole house ventilation systems and exhaust fans on timers are installed in the bathrooms and laundry room to ventilate the moist air to prevent mold growth in the homes. These measures are increasingly important as the incidence of asthma in low-income families is high.

Water Efficiency

To reduce water usage indoors we are installing low flow faucets in the bathroom, kitchen and shower

as well as a front loading washing machine. Outdoors, we landscape with drought tolerant plants that are well mulched and use minimal turf to reduce water usage and its associated cost.

Recycling

We have implemented an improved recycling plan at the jobsites. All of the waste (construction and lunch) is placed into well labeled bins indicating whether it is recycling, compost or garbage. Everything is tracked as it leaves the jobsite to help us understand the quantity and contents on the jobsite and to try to reduce it.

Coming Soon

Future issues of the newsletter will continue our spotlight on green building and sustainability.



CEO MESSAGE



Marty Kooistra CEO

In the Fall 2008 newsletter, I discussed our assets and the challenges that lie before us, identifying what I believe are our eight most critical mandates. This article is part

of a series elaborating on those mandates.

“We must continue to do our core program with excellence by further enhancing the quality of our lending and building products and by emphasizing sustainable practices for the built environment.”

The impact of our work depends upon the quality and durability of our most foundational products. While both lending and building (including renovating) have always been central to our performance and impact, each has taken on renewed importance in light of today’s urgent current economic and climate change issues. Environmental, community and family sustainability are core goals of our program, and they must be treated in the context of organizational sustainability.

In the lending realm, we must ensure that we extend credit to households that cannot obtain loans through other means (in formal terms, our loan is the one of last resort). To state this in a more positive way, we help as many households as possible find their most appropriate housing. (We realize that a Habitat for Humanity loan and home will not

be the most appropriate solution for everyone, and we are committed to processes that direct everyone where they need to be). We also make certain that the households we do select for our program can truly afford our housing products.

In the realm of housing production, the opportunities and needs are no less urgent or compelling. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the residential sector accounts for 21 percent of the nation’s energy use, the average U.S. household contributes twice as much greenhouse gas to the environment as the average vehicle, and each household spends an average of \$1,900 annually on energy bills.

We recognize the interrelation between these issues, the quality and impact of the houses we build and the well-being of the families and communities we serve. As a result, our affiliate is committed to using and advocating for sustainable practices for the built environment.

Sustainable building results from the integration of first and lifecycle costing and the best combination of proven and innovative approaches to site development, water and energy conservation, durability and healthy indoor air quality.

Words and images about green, sustainable and responsible building are everywhere these days. It may cause you to wonder whether our affiliate’s commitment is a necessary one or if we are merely caught up in an exciting fad that distracts us from our mission. I believe our affiliate’s

demonstrated leadership in these building practices will be a cornerstone of our community impact. I also believe that nothing could be more consistent with the mission and principles of Habitat for Humanity.

First, “connecting the dots” between a person’s habitat and his or her quality of life, and doing so with durability and affordability, is crucial to eradicating poverty. Secondly, creation care is an essential aspect of stewardship. And third: sustainable practices literally transform families’ lives, and nothing is more central to Habitat’s mission than that.

Our progress and vision. I’m proud of how far along we are. Today, we’re already building to Energy Star, Built Green and Evergreen standards. In the near term, we will achieve LEED Gold certification on each home. I’m eager to challenge our staff and volunteers, donors and the broader community to help us achieve Net Zero standards by the year 2030.*

I’m especially heartened by this community’s obvious passion for sustainable transformation in the built environment. We invite you to receive or provide training by volunteering with us. Attend or lead a workshop on a related topic at our Home Improvement Outlet. Visit our website and send us an e-mail with your thoughts. Partnership is another cornerstone in the Habitat for Humanity mission, and through it, we learn from you for the betterment of us all.



*For specifications associated with various sustainable building standards and certifications, you may find the following sources helpful:

- Energy Star: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Dept. of Energy. www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new_homes.hm_index
- Evergreen Sustainable Development Standard: Dept. of Community, Trade & Economic Development, State of Washington. www.cted.wa.gov/site/1027/default.aspx
- LEED: Rating Systems U.S. Green Building Council. www.usgbc.org
- Net Zero: World Business Council for Sustainable Development (www.wbcsd.org) and Architecture 2030 (www.architecture2030.org).

WELCOME TO BOARD OFFICERS

Please welcome our Board Officers for the '08-'09 term. All Board Officers are members of the Executive Committee, chaired by our Board President, David (Dah-veed) Frum. David is a partner Architect at Clark/Kjos Architects who joined our Board in January 2005 and has helped on the Interfaith Committee in the past. Our President-Elect is Sam Sperry from Sperry Communications. Former Associate Editor for Editorial page of Seattle-Post Intelligencer, he also serves on the Home Improvement Outlet Committee and Governance Committee. Other Board Officers include Vice President Linda Stalzer, Project Manager of The Dwelling Company who chairs the Home Improvement

Outlet Committee, Bob Pascal, Lawyer and Banker of HomeStreet Bank serving his third consecutive term as Board Secretary, Mike Quamma, VP of Treasury of Boeing Employees Credit Union, and Diankha Linear, our Immediate Past President who is a Lawyer and Corporate Counsel at Expeditors International of Washington, Inc.

We thank all Board Officers for lending their expertise and being an ambassador to our community network!

HABITAT'S YOUTH TEAM



Youth Team Coordinators recruit members at University of Washington on World Habitat Day

The Habitat for Humanity Seattle/South King County Youth Team has been meeting regularly to formulate big plans for 2009. The present Habitat for Humanity Youth Team consists of representatives from Seattle University, University of Washington and Youth Build.

The Youth Team is actively engaging local high schools in

projects benefiting the mission of Habitat for Humanity. Recently, Youth Build students built and the Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Habitat for Humanity Chapter painted and decorated centerpieces for the annual Habitat for Humanity Seattle/South King County Benefit Breakfast.

In October, Habitat for Humanity Youth Team representatives and Habitat for Humanity chapters participated in World Habitat Day working to generate a greater collegiate awareness of homelessness in our community. The Youth Team looks forward to involvement and participation in the "Act, Speak, Build" Advocacy Campaign in April as well as the April 25 Community Day of Action in the Federal Way neighborhood, West Way.

Interested in getting involved? Email Katherine at katherineperr@gmail.com



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GET CONNECTED!



HYP is on Facebook! Connect with other Greater Seattle young professionals (ages 21-40ish) on Facebook. Keep up with new friends you met out at the build sites or just keep informed of upcoming events. Type "Habitat Young Professionals - Seattle" in the Search field and join this group. To contact HYP, you can send an e-mail to seattlehyp@gmail.com

HABITAT WELCOMES DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

HUD VISITS HIGH POINT



HUD Regional Director, John Meyers, making announcement of Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program at High Point in December.

On a cold, snowy December 17, our build site at High Point in West Seattle welcomed not only our regular dedicated volunteers, partner families and site staff, but also the regional HUD staff, Associate Director of Communications at Habitat International, the local media, and numerous leaders in affordable housing in the Seattle area.

The event was intended to stage an announcement from then HUD



Celebrating the raising of the wall of one of the High Point duplex units during the announcement by HUD.

Secretary Steve Preston, who was unable to fly in due to weather conditions. In Secretary Preston's place, HUD Regional Director John Meyers announced their \$26.5 million sweat-equity grant recipients, namely Habitat International, Housing Assistance Council, and Community Frameworks. This grant, called Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) will fund at least 1,540 homes for

lower-income, first-time buyers nationwide.

Habitat homes which are part of an award-winning multi-family development in High Point are an example of homes partially funded by SHOP grants. Thank you to all who showed your support by raising a wall together and signing best wishes on wall studs for the two duplexes currently being built at High Point.

STROM JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER VISITS RAINIER VISTA

On December 10th students from the Stroum Jewish Community Center, Mercer Island Early Childhood Education Program visited the Rainier Vista construction site. The students and their parents toured the site

and Allen Larson, Site Supervisor shared the Rainier Vista house plans with the group. The students created original house plans for the occasion and shared them with the volunteers during lunch. The visit's intent was to

acquaint the students with construction practices and availability of affordable housing in the Seattle area. The students will collect funds in the next few months to be contributed to Habitat Seattle/South King County.



Children from the Stroum Jewish Community Center listen to Allan Larson, Site Supervisor, describe house plans for the Rainier Vista four-plexes.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL BENEFIT BREAKFAST BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE!

WHO: YOU and fellow Habitat Supporters

WHAT: Inspirational program educating attendees about how Habitat for Humanity is transforming our community. We will hear from our CEO, a partner family, and "The Three Amigos," an interfaith team which host a local radio program.

WHERE: Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Downtown Seattle

WHEN: 7:30 am on March 17, 2009 (St. Patrick's Day)

HOW: RSVP to jgross@seattle-habitat.org or call 206-292-5240

HOME IMPROVEMENT OUTLET CELEBRATES 1ST ANNIVERSARY

Time flies when you're having fun—especially at the Habitat for Humanity Home Improvement Outlet! February marked the one-year anniversary of operation at the Seattle location. If it has been awhile since you were in or if you haven't made it down yet, now is the time!

Volunteering at the Outlet is another way you can contribute

to providing more low-income homes in Seattle and South King County. Become a regular volunteer and part of the Habitat team!

The Outlet would also like to commend both our donors and patrons. To date the combined contribution of these groups has helped divert over 315 tons of material from the landfill!

TO THE RESCUE! TOOL REPLACEMENT

Thank you to the many generous donors of tools and cash in the wake of two separate site related thefts late last year. We were able to replace four skill saws, the reciprocating saw, one of the three power saws, the router, the roto hammer, a jigsaw, one of the pneumatic pin nailers, one of the self leveling laser transits, both hand grinders, the compressor, a generator and a plethora of other tools, blades and bits. Thanks especially to Normandy Park University Congregational Church, Beverly Skeffington, John Skeffington, Dianne Blakely, Barclay Dean Architectural Products, Bill Dana, Donald Smith, Marcus Hutchins and Mulford Crane!

Habitat is taking action to mitigate future losses. We are taking advantage of a national partnership with Dewalt tools and investigating an electronic monitoring system that mounts on our tool storage units. Dewalt security banner signage to help alert would-be-thieves about these systems are also on their way. As our new projects receive temporary power poles, we are installing motion sensor lights to illuminate the sites, making any off hour activity more conspicuous. Although we have not replaced the lost lumber trailer yet, when we do, we will be putting a locked boot on it when it is left on a job site.

BUY QUALITY HOME
IMPROVEMENT
MATERIALS AT GREATLY
REDUCED PRICES!



Come shop at our Home Improvement Outlet or donate materials from a remodel
– visit our website at seattlehabitatoutlet.org
All proceeds help build Habitat homes.



Second Use accepts used material donations on our behalf - doors, windows cabinets, lighting, etc. To find out more, call Second Use Building Materials, Inc. at (206) 763-6929, or visit them on the web at www.seconduse.com.

This is a great way to keep used materials out of the landfill and help us build decent, affordable housing.

WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE YOU BEEN WITH HABITAT?



Have you been on a Habitat for Humanity Global Village trip? We'd like to hear from you! Please send an e-mail to Paul Heric (pheric@seattle-habitat.org) with your name, your Global Village trip completed, dates of your trip, a short statement of your experience, and a photo or two of you (or your group) at work. We hope to showcase your Global Village volunteer experiences.

Habitat for Humanity Seattle / South King County supports Habitat's international housing efforts through the International Tithe Program. How does this work? Ten percent of all

unrestricted donations given to Habitat goes to build homes overseas. Currently we support Habitat work in Bolivia, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Philippines, and Tajikistan.

Habitat for Humanity International's Global Village trips give participants a unique opportunity to become active partners with people of another culture. Team members work alongside members of the host community, raising awareness of the burden of poverty housing and building decent, affordable housing worldwide.



Mary Mullen at work on a Global Village project in Mexico, January 2008.

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION EFFORTS CONTINUE AT WESTWAY NEIGHBORHOOD IN FEDERAL WAY



Before remodel of Westway rehab.



After remodel of Westway rehab.

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THANK YOU

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations whose donations help us build decent, affordable housing (Gifts of \$250+ received between October 1, 2008 and December 30, 2008).

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The John C. & Karyl K. Hughes Foundation
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

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Lenore Hanauer Foundation
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Microsoft Giving Campaign

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Victoria Owen Klein Family Foundation
Washington Mortgage Lenders Association
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Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties
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Gayle Woods
Eric Larson and Kathryn Zufall-Larson

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



photo courtesy of Sandra McCloud

Our Mission

Habitat for Humanity of Seattle/South King County works in partnership with God and people everywhere to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which people can live and grow.

M A R K Y O U R C A L E N D A R

WWW.SEATTLE-HABITAT.ORG — OR CALL 206-292-5240

Tuesday, March 17 – Benefit Breakfast, 7:30-9:00 a.m. (See page 5 for details)
Saturday, March 21 – HYP Construction Day at Rainier Vista, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday, April 25 – Community Day of Action at Westway in Federal Way
Saturday, May 23 – Construction sites closed in observance of Memorial Day Holiday
Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day Holiday

*“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”
– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*