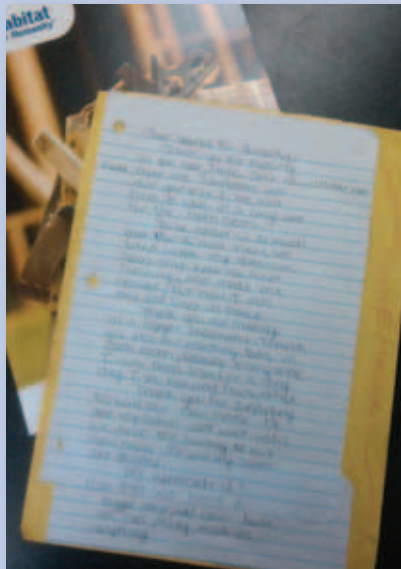




## The Children Give Thanks



On Saturday morning, October 1st, the Elmi family received the keys to their new Habitat ReBuild located in Grove City. During the dedication ceremony, the seven daughters (along with their 7-month-old only brother) read a message of thanks that they had written to share with the guests. The seven girls, ranging in age from 4 to 11, each read a portion of the following letter:

*Dear Habitat for Humanity,*

*Thank you for making us our new house.*

*Since now, in our new house, there are 3 bathrooms and their (sic) used to be 1, we don't have to wait in a long line for the bath rooms.*

*You've helped us so much, that now I don't have to go sleep with my talkative sisters that keep me from sleeping, and make me crowded, but now I can rest and sleep in peace.*

*Thank you for making us a bigger basement. Thank you also for making fans in each room, because every time I come from school or a long day, I'm hot and frusterated (sic).*

*Thank you for supporting to build our new house. Me and my sisters can't wait until we have the journey to our new house. Me and my sisters are thrilled.*

*We appreciate it!*

*Now that we have a bigger, nicer, and cooler house, we can pretty much do anything.*

*Elmi Girls*

## Hammering for America

On September 9th and 10th, Chuck Pursh, a military veteran and credit risk executive for Chase Home Lending in Columbus, joined 35 other veterans who are employees with Chase for a community service project marking the 10th anniversary of September 11th. The veterans volunteered in honor of the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and members of the armed services who have since lost their lives in the line of duty. Members of VETS — the Chase employee networking group for veterans — is helping construct two Habitat homes in the Weinland Park neighborhood. The two homes, located side-by-side on 5th Street, are being sponsored by Chase.

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Ricardo Alonso (L) and Chuck Pursh, both military veterans from Chase, help construct the Gibbs home in Weinland Park.*

# The Builder

A publication of

## Habitat for Humanity Greater Columbus

3140 Westerville Road  
Columbus, OH 43224

www.habitatcolumbus.org  
TheBuilder@habitatcolumbus.org

## Executive Staff

**E.J. Thomas** 364-7007  
CEO

**Michelle Castrogiovanni** 364-7024  
Program Director

**Mike Cosgrove** 364-7013  
CFO

**Lisa Jones** 364-7014  
Family & Community Outreach Director

**Erik Lambert** 364-7023  
Construction Director

**Deb Light** 364-7020  
Volunteer Director

**Beverly Martin** 484-1972  
Marketing & Public Relations Director

**Sue Melnyk** 364-7031  
Resource Development Director

**Jared Van Dyne** 364-7028  
ReStore Director

**Habitat's ReStore** (614) RESTORE  
(614) 737-8673

## 2011 Board of Directors

Kyle Sharp, *Chair and President*

Mike Fitzpatrick, *Vice President*

Scott Moore, *Treasurer*

Melanie Harter, *Secretary*

Greg Smith, *Immediate Past President*

Charisma Acey

Travis Eifert

Rich Harrison

Donna Hunter

James Petrie

Tom Robertson

E.J. Thomas

Wendy Weiler

Kevin Zeppernick

Rachel Putnam, *ex-officio*



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

## CEO's Corner: *It isn't just what happens in Columbus...*

In the hustle and bustle of everyday activities of the Affiliate, it is easy to become focused on just the work at hand. Whether you are a volunteer, sponsor, donor, partner family, partner organization, or staff member, we all often overlook the forest for the trees, or in this case, the neighborhood for the house.



World Habitat Day, which is recognized on October 3rd and celebrated through early November, gives us the opportunity to pause and consider the big picture of the work we do day-in and day-out. As you know, Habitat's mission is to eliminate poverty housing and increase access to safe, decent, affordable housing for all people around the world. On World Habitat Day, a United Nations' designated day, Habitat dedicated its 500,000th house in Maai Mahiu, Kenya and raised the walls on its 500,001st house in Paterson, New Jersey. That's a lot of houses built and many, many families served!

Here in Franklin County, we have completed 235 homes of these hundreds of thousands of houses, and we are working on 9 more to be finished before the end of the year!

In addition to our local work, Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus also tithes each month to support international home building. To date, we have tithed more than \$500,000 which has helped build more than 250 homes in countries around the world including the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa, our current partner country.

Not only does Habitat build homes, but the work we do in collaboration with our donors, volunteers, and partner families improves the lives of our families and children as well as positively impacts the neighborhoods in which we build. It's not just hammers, nails, walls, and homes. It's also about friendships, futures, happiness, and hope!

So the next time you make a financial donation, volunteer on a construction site, help out in the ReStore, serve on a committee, or otherwise support our efforts, please take a moment to reflect. Pause and embrace the significant impact your seemingly small action has on the worldwide effort to eliminate poverty housing and provide adequate housing for all people. Because it isn't just what happens here in Columbus... it's what each one of us is doing that is felt all around the world!

Thank you for all that you do for our local community and the international family that is Habitat!

In partnership,

E. J. Thomas, CEO

### Are You "In the Know"?

Sign up today for the monthly electronic edition of *Tools You Can Use*. Just go to our web site at [www.habitatcolumbus.org](http://www.habitatcolumbus.org) and enter your email address at the "Email Sign-up" to receive up-to-date news and information you can use to stay current and active with the Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus community of families, volunteers, sponsors, and partners! Be in the know... sign up today!

## Habitat Helping Children to Learn to Read through New Partnership

Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus and The Columbus Metropolitan Library have formed a unique partnership to help prepare children for kindergarten. The library's Ready to Read Corps is an initiative that takes the Ready to Read program out of the library and into communities to teach parents and caregivers how to spark reading skills. The primary focus is to seek out parents and caregivers of children who don't come to the library, organize workshops that focus on six pre-reading skills necessary for early literacy, and provide mobile services such as checking out books and signing up children and adults for library cards. Two-person teams of trained staff go into at-risk communities and work with agencies such as WIC offices, food pantries, and Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus to reach parents and caregivers with easy literacy-building activities they can use at home. Parents and caregivers receive a kit that includes puppets, board books, and tips for parents to help prepare their children for school. Representatives have already had contact with a number of Habitat families at our Homeownership Orientations. More information can be found on the Columbus Metropolitan Library's website at <http://ebranch2-prod.columbuslibrary.org/readytoreadcorps/>



## Time to Re-Enroll in Kroger Community Rewards

Kroger Community Rewards makes supporting Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus as easy as "shop, scan, and earn"! Once you've registered your Kroger Plus card and designated HFHGC as your charity organization, a percentage of each of your shopping trips will be contributed to HFHGC every time your card is scanned. Kroger Plus card members must re-enroll each year in order to keep the donations flowing to Habitat. So, if you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to re-enroll your Kroger Plus card and designate HFHGC!



Go to [http://www.kroger.com/mykroger/016/community/Pages/community\\_rewards.aspx](http://www.kroger.com/mykroger/016/community/Pages/community_rewards.aspx)

Select Enroll or Re-Enroll.

Enter our organization number (83648) or search for Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus.

*Since 2009, HFHGC has received more than \$2,000 from shoppers enrolled in the Community Rewards program.*

## Habitat Partner Families Take Advantage of ECDI Down Payment Assistance Program

The Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) offers a Down Payment Assistance Program to help low-income, first-time homebuyers save and earn money for a large purchase. Since 2004, ECDI has been offering Down Payment Assistance funding in the form of an Individual Development Account (IDA) program. IDAs are matched savings accounts that enable low-income families to save, build assets, and enter the financial mainstream. IDAs reward the monthly savings of working-poor families who are building toward purchasing an asset — most commonly buying their first home, paying for post-secondary education, or starting a small business.

In order to be eligible for this program, a homebuyer must be employed and have combined household income at or below

200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Once enrolled, participants open a custodial savings account with ECDI as the custodian. Over six months, the participant can save up to \$1,000 in this account. During this time, the participant is also required to take a financial literacy course and a first-time homebuyer's class, which helps equip them to manage their finances and teaches the basics of purchasing and maintaining a home. Upon meeting all the requirements of the program, including saving \$1,000 over six months' time and taking the required courses, ECDI will then deposit another \$3,000 in the homebuyer's savings account, allowing the new homebuyer to make a \$4,000 down payment on the purchase of their home.

To date, eight Habitat partner families have participated in the ECDI Down Payment Assistance Program.

### *Hammering for America (continued from cover)*

Pursh, a retired Army National Guard officer, was working for Bank One (now Chase) at its Polaris office in 2001 when the terrorist attacks occurred. "When I returned home from work, I started calling the leadership of my unit to see whether we had received any alerts," he said. "Within 60 days, we were mobilized and left for Germany in early January 2002. We ran force protection missions for our bases in Germany so the active-duty Army could train for Iraq and Afghanistan. It's a privilege to work with my Chase colleagues to honor the memory of those who died and those who served."

"This is one small way for us to join in the national movement to honor the memories of the victims of 9/11. Though we didn't know them, their tragedy united a nation and sparked a call to action like none before," said E.J. Thomas, CEO of Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus. "As a former military member, I can embrace the sense of needing to do something to make a statement to show the strength and resolve of Americans. Putting a hammer to work for a local family in need is a fitting demonstration of perseverance over adversity."

# Family Celebrations

## Athie Family



After their wall raising ceremony, the Athie family poses along with CEO E.J. Thomas and visiting AmeriCorps\*NCCC team members. The NCCC team made a stop in Columbus to help Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus for eight weeks. This home is sponsored by Emerson, the Harry C. Moores Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Habitat for Humanity of Ohio, the City of Columbus Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), a U.S. HUD SHOP grant, and an AEP "green grant."

## Talbert Family

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is sponsoring two homes in 2011, including this one for the Talbert family . . . Lucille and her children Joe, Laytonna, and Jeremiah. Over the past five years, Thrivent has provided the funding for ten Habitat homes! This home was also supported by the Franklin County Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and an AEP "green grant."



## Diriye/Koshin Family



This home is one of two homes being sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in the Whitehall area. Here the Diriye/Koshin family pose with house lead David Moore (back, red shirt) and CEO E.J. Thomas (front right) and his daughter Rose (far left). This home is also supported by an AEP "green grant" and Franklin County NSP.

## Gibbs Family and Hoffman Family



An exciting double wall raising ceremony for the Gibbs family and the Hoffman family took place in Weinland Park. Chase is a first-time home sponsor and has provided funding for these two homes! All of the Habitat homes in Weinland Park are also supported in part by City of Columbus NSP and U.S. HUD SHOP.



## Shaw Family



Alyssa Shaw with her two sons, Tyree and Jeremiah, along with house lead Dan Clemens and her mother at the dedication of her home, a ReBuild in Whitehall, sponsored by the Franklin County Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

## Elmi Family

The Elmi family poses for a photo in their new home after a heartfelt dedication during which the girls took turns reading aloud a thank you note they had written to Habitat. Their home was sponsored by the Franklin County Neighborhood Stabilization Program.



## Harrison/Petty Family

Habitat staff, volunteers, and the home's sponsors, Alan and Bobbie Weiler, celebrate the wall raising of the Harrison/Petty family's new home. The home is also supported by the City of Columbus Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and the U.S. HUD SHOP grant.



## McCrary Family



Xavier, Essence McCrary's son, is tucked out after an exciting wall raising ceremony for their new home sponsored by AEP and City of Columbus NSP.

## Meade Family



Kime Meade takes a photo with her sons Jacob, Colin, and Corey. Their new Habitat home is sponsored by the New Albany Habitat Partnership, EMH&T, Discover, Mifflin Presbyterian Church, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, City of Columbus NSP, U.S. HUD SHOP, Habitat for Humanity of Ohio, and an AEP "green grant."

## Lhom Family



Northwest Adopt-a-House Partnership, Habitat for Humanity of Ohio, ADP, Citi, Northwoods Consulting, City of Columbus NSP, U.S. HUD SHOP, and an AEP "green grant" are sponsoring this ReBuild on the west side. New homeowner Yero Lohm poses with his children Kadidia, Oumar, Mohamed and his friends, who will also be new neighbors.

## Sampson Family

Employees of The Columbus Foundation take a day out of the office to volunteer on-site at another home being built in Weinland Park. This home is supported by The Columbus Foundation along with United Way of Central Ohio, City of Columbus NSP, and the U.S. HUD SHOP grant. The Self-Help Home Ownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) grants were awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Habitat for Humanity International and sub-awarded on a competitive basis to the Greater Columbus Affiliate for this and other homes.



## Kelley Family



Kristen Kelley and son Khalil cannot wait to move into their new Habitat home. They pose here after the wall raising ceremony with family members and partner family advocate Denise Davis (right). Kristen's new home is sponsored by the Worthington Adopt-a-House Partnership, the Clintonville/Beechwood Adopt-a-House Partnership, the Dublin Adopt-a-House Partnership, City of Columbus NSP, U.S. HUD Shop, and an AEP "green grant."

## Walker Family



Habitat staff and supporters take a moment for a picture during Shannon Walker's ReBuild commencement ceremony. This ReBuild is sponsored by United Way of Central Ohio, American Home Shield, Kiwanis Club of Columbus, Harmony Project, Wells Fargo, Community Development for All People, and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

## Woodley Family



Lanard Woodley is surrounded by family, friends, and members of the Hilliard Adopt-a-House group, after receiving the keys to his new home. This ReBuild is also sponsored by an AEP "green grant" and City of Columbus NSP.

## Williams Family



New homeowner Roselan Williams celebrates her home dedication with members of Habitat's Women Build team who sponsored and volunteered on her Habitat ReBuild. The Women Build program is sponsored nationally by Lowe's and this house was also supported by the United Way of Central Ohio, Community Development for All People, and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

## CEO Appointed to National Veterans' Committee

HFHGC CEO, E.J. Thomas, was recently asked by HFHI to co-chair the new national Veterans' Initiative Advisory Committee. This committee will focus on the creation and roll-out of Habitat programs for military service members, veterans, and their families. Programming will focus on volunteerism, homeownership, home repair, and employment opportunities, among other potential programs to support the needs of this growing population. In Franklin County, we are currently educating our local veterans and service members about homeownership and volunteerism opportunities through Habitat.



## An Affiliate Milestone to Celebrate!

Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus will celebrate its 25th anniversary throughout 2012. A Family Reunion theme will tie together activities and events to mark this milestone in our Affiliate's history. Watch for more news and information as we begin to roll out more details and ways for you to become involved!

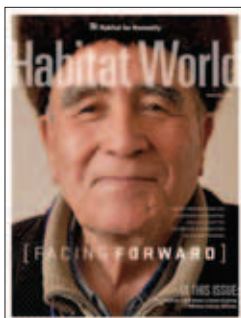
## Affiliate Receives Preservation Award

HFHGC received one of seven 2011 Design and Preservation awards from the Columbus Landmarks Foundation for our historic preservation work in the Weinland Park Community. At an awards ceremony in October, we were presented with the Frederick J. Holdridge Outstanding Group Award which we earned in collaboration with the Weinland Park Community Civic Association.

Over the past several years, HFHGC has earned \$23,312.45 from the *Cars for Homes* program. This is an important part of our fundraising, and we encourage you to help us to spread the word about this program. Donating a car is easy . . . just call the national toll-free number to get started.

## Expand Your View with *Habitat World Magazine*

Many of you may already receive *Habitat World* magazine from Habitat for Humanity International, but you may not realize that you can now sign up to receive special, electronic-only editions that provide even more stories and information. Sign up at [habitat.org/hwemail](http://habitat.org/hwemail).



## Welcome New Board Members



Charisma Acey,  
Assistant Professor,  
Knowlton School of  
Architecture, The Ohio  
State University



Rich Harrison,  
Senior Vice President  
& COO, Safelite  
Group



Wendy Weiler,  
President, Windale  
Farms, Inc.

## Summer Superstars Raffle Winners Announced

Throughout the hot, sometimes rainy, summer months, our Summer Superstar Volunteers earned raffle entries for their volunteer hours. The raffle recently concluded and the following volunteers won Habitat t-shirts, gift cards to area restaurants, and other items.

Jim Dupriest  
Brandon Dickes  
Carl Haueisen  
Scarlett Christiansen  
Al Tague  
Ben Freudenreich

Tom Beck  
Kathy Cunningham  
Jim Sauer  
Jeff Nicholson  
Robert Orellana  
Susie Ecklin

## We're Growing to Help More Families

Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus will open a second ReStore in early 2012 to serve shoppers and donors on the west side of Columbus. ReStore staff and volunteers are already cleaning, painting, stocking, and preparing the new location. Extra donations of new and reusable home improvement materials and home goods are needed now to help fill "ReStore West" with products to sell to our patrons.

If you've been thinking about making some changes around your own home, now is the time to do so and donate your unwanted, reusable goods to the ReStore at our current location at 3140 Westerville Road, Columbus, 43224. Help us have a

successful launch of our second store by encouraging your family, friends, co-workers, and employer to consider what they might have to donate to the ReStore. We accept a wide variety of items; and most homes and businesses have all sorts of usable items to donate that we can sell to help fulfill the mission of providing safe, decent, affordable homes for families right here in Franklin County. For more information and a list of what can be donated, please visit [www.restorecolumbus.org](http://www.restorecolumbus.org).



## Golfers Raise Money for Habitat

Hundreds of golfers participated in three different golf outings this summer to raise funds to support our Affiliate. Events were sponsored by the Dublin Adopt-A-House group, EMH&T, and Women Build. Collectively, these groups raised over \$34,500!



L - R: Women Build Steering Committee member, Melaine Domyan, and WB Chair, Jana Highwart.



L - R: Jill Beckett-Hill, Travis Eifert, Steve Schehl, Pat Huddle, Jason Davis, Daryl Schorsten at the EMH&T event.

## Meet our New Director of Marketing and Public Relations



After four years serving the Affiliate as an outside consultant, Beverly Martin has joined our staff as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations. Beverly

brings years of private sector, government, and nonprofit experience to our team. In addition to operating her own marketing consulting firm for a number of years, she served as the deputy chief of staff to former Ohio Governor Bob Taft, has been a government lobbyist and government relations consultant, and has served in leadership roles on local nonprofit boards. She was also recently appointed by Governor John Kasich to serve as a member of the Ohio Historical Society Board of Trustees. She lives in Hilliard with her husband, Dan, who is the principal at Columbus West High School, and their two children, Alex, a junior at Hilliard Darby High School, and Andrea, a freshman at Ohio University.

## New AmeriCorps Members Arrive



Welcome to the latest addition to this year's Habitat staff: (left to right) **Christina Simms, Sharronkay Lytle, Jennifer Rice, and Thomas Lucas**. These four AmeriCorps members are giving a year of service to Habitat assisting in the areas of construction, veteran outreach, and Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative community outreach.



## Here comes winter!

It's not snowing yet, but it is time to start identifying Winter Warriors who are willing to help build houses during the cold, blustery months of January, February, and March. In addition to helping a Habitat family, winter volunteers can earn one of those cool Winter Warrior t-shirts and hats. Stay tuned for additional information, including new volunteer incentives.

# Help Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus Build More Homes Without Leaving Your Desk!

It's the time of year for workplace giving campaigns . . . the time of year when employers offer employees the option to designate charitable contributions through payroll deduction. Habitat volunteers will be on-site at many businesses in the coming months to share information about Habitat and answer questions.

As you consider Habitat, know that we're proud to be a United Way of Central Ohio Member Agency and a participant in Community Shares of Mid Ohio. In addition, Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus can be found on GuideStar and The Columbus Foundation's PowerPhilanthropy. HFHGC has also earned the BBB Accredited Charity Seal.



**United Way**  
of Central Ohio  
Member Agency



Thanks to the following corporate-sponsored employee giving campaigns:

- Abbott Employee Giving Campaign
- Allstate Giving Campaign
- AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
- Cardinal Health Foundation Employee Giving Campaign
- Community Shares of Mid Ohio
- H&R Block Employee Giving Campaign
- IBM Employee Services Center
- JPMorgan Chase & Co. Employee Giving Campaign
- KPMG Community Giving Campaign
- Kraft Foods Matching Gifts Program
- Medco Employee Giving Campaign
- The McGraw-Hill Companies Employee Giving Campaign
- Truist
- United Way of Central Ohio
- Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign

*Many employers will match tax-deductible charitable contributions made by their employees, retirees, and employees' spouses. Some donate funds for your volunteer hours. Check with your human resources office to see if your employer offers matching gifts or volunteer grants.*

Return Service Requested

Working in partnership with God and people to build affordable homes, empower families, and develop communities  
Greater Columbus  
3140 Westerville Rd.  
Columbus OH 43224



Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Columbus Ohio  
Permit No. 4820