



On the Job with Habitat

A New Construction Volunteer Dives Right In

By Joe Hodson

SOMETHING ABOUT THE IDEA of volunteering to help build a house half frightened me. I suppose I could have blamed a fraction of my psychosis on the fact that I can't fix our running toilet at home. Ironically, though, I've always held on to this romantic notion of one day being dreadfully handy, but in a far-flung, quasi-*Little-House-on-the-Prairie* setting, where no toilets run at all but are simply holes in the ground.

These warm, nostalgic feelings must be what prevailed when, in a weak moment, I signed up for the Habitat for Humanity project Heritage Church is sponsoring. I received swift response, too, by email, lending to the weight of what I'd done. The email stated that everything was official; I was to report to so-and-so address at eight-thirty sharp. I was to wear hard-soled shoes, jeans or suitable shorts, and anything I didn't mind getting dirty.

A few days before I was to show up for duty, I nearly got sidetracked by my phobia of tape measures, with their snarls of fractions and inches. I considered backing out. But then I tried talking some sense into myself: Don't fall to pieces, Man. Surely the Habitat people will assign someone of your caliber the trained-monkey's job of pushing around scraps with a broom.

(Continued on page 5)



Homeowner Azad Saeed secures the first wall of his home on Manchester Road—the site of Joe Hodson's first Habitat volunteer experience.

Leaving a Legacy:

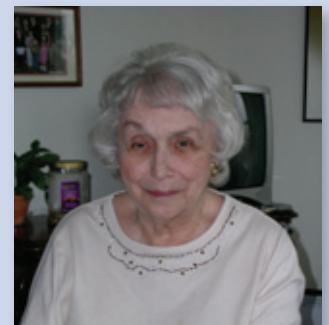
Re-imagining the Future with Gifts of a Lifetime

Each of us yearns to live a meaningful life, and to be remembered for our contributions to the world after we are gone. But how many of us actually take the necessary steps to ensure that our values will be preserved and shared after our death? How many of us act on our yearnings and work to re-imagine the future? This past year, three different visionaries honored their life's efforts and passions by making legacy gifts to Habitat for Humanity.

Camille McKee was born in Los Angeles, CA, and raised in Ohio, graduating from West High School in Columbus. She returned to the west coast, married, and raised six children. While living in Blythe, CA, she visited the home of a domestic employee and was appalled at the worker's substandard living conditions. She became an activist for the less fortunate in Blythe, eventually obtaining a HUD grant to improve the housing situation there.

Later in life, Camille returned to Ohio and continued her community involvement by helping to create the community

center at St. John Catholic Church, which helps provide hot meals, clothing, and adult education to those in need. Throughout her life, Camille believed deeply in the difference one person could make in the lives of others. In a fitting tribute to her legacy of care and outreach, Camille left a bequest of \$200,000 to Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus when she passed away in early May 2009. The affiliate will continue Camille's service to those in need by using her generous gift to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for families here in Columbus, and we expect to break ground on the first of these houses before year end.



Donor Camille McKee, whose bequest will help Columbus families

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The Builder

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CEO's Corner:

*Spirit of Thanksgiving Is....
Giving, Thankfully*

Each year as we approach that traditional November Thursday, thoughts drift toward travel, family get-togethers, and turkey with all the "fixin's." And when dinner is on the table and those we care most about are gathered all 'round, a prayer will be offered to acknowledge those things that each of us considers blessings in our lives.



I suppose our life experiences over the last year will bring a few of those blessings to top of mind. Those we may have enjoyed for many years may actually slip our consciousness, not to be recalled while our heads are bowed before dinner, and that's human nature. As such, allow me to share a thought or two and suggest what each of us can ensure is on our list, especially if that Thanksgiving table is sitting in a nice warm home that we've lived in for a while. So, here goes....

Think about offering thanks for the home that has kept everyone you love safe and secure for the years you may have dwelt within it. Whisper a word of thanks for those we as Habitat for Humanity have built homes for this year... those partner families who, before 2009, may never have really thought a home of their own would be, well, theirs. Let's offer up thanks for all those who have provided the resources, so that we could build those houses, along with our sincere appreciation for all the volunteers who made construction of them possible. You'll recall that our Habitat volunteers and staff don't just build in the warm months when it's most comfortable to be out on site with hammer in hand, but also during the grey days of winter when construction still carries on, while we plan our builds for the coming warmer seasons.

2009 has been a great year for our Habitat affiliate in just about every area of our ministry and, for the ability to successfully perform our mission this year, we give thanks. For the coming year we whisper a word of hope that Providence will help guide the way for an even better 2010.

And, as the blessed season of Christmas approaches, let us give thanks for our God above who gave us his only son for our sake. In my opinion, the most important message that Jesus left us with was, "Service to others." Such thought is embodied in our Habitat ethos and, personally, I am thankful for all of you who carry Christ's message forward in helping put a roof over those less fortunate, but no less deserving, whom we "serve" every day.

Happy Thanksgiving!

-E. J. Thomas

Feel the Joy...

This holiday season, be a part of the joy that a Habitat house can bring. Every gift, no matter the size, means a world of difference to a family in need of simple, decent shelter. Every gift changes a life. Won't you join us today?



Wall-Raising Ceremonies

The Roth Family – 157 Oakley Ave

Penny Roth and her children peek through their future living room window at her July 11th wall-raising. Her house is sponsored by the Northwest Adopt-A-House group, Northwoods Consulting Partners, and Integralink/Cobalt.



The Wright Family – 2811 E. Ninth Ave

Volunteers from the Clintonville/Beechwood, Dublin, and Worthington Adopt-A-House groups raise the initial wall on Monti Wright's home on August 1st.



The Saeed Family – 1441 Manchester Rd



Volunteers from Heritage Christian Church stand proudly with the Saeed family at their wall-raising event on July 25th. The Enterprise Foundation and Discover Financial Services also joined Heritage as first-time sponsors.

The Head Family – 990 Lockbourne Rd



Felichia Head poses with Walmart managers and volunteers at her wall-raising ceremony on August 21st.

Dedication Ceremonies

The Rios Family 544 S. Ashburton Ave



Lourdes Rios receives the keys to her home from Abbott SVP Don Patton at her dedication celebration on August 13th.



The Truss Family 1115 Fairwood Ave

Proud homeowner Thomas Truss accepts the keys to his new home from AEP house lead Jim Rosing on September 12th.

The Allison Family 945 Heyl Ave



On September 26th, the Allison family is all smiles in front of their new home, sponsored by Retirement Marketing Specialists, Easton Community Foundation, Mifflin Presbyterian Church, and the New Albany Habitat Partnership.

Leaving a Legacy (continued from cover)



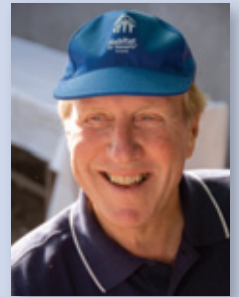
Long-time friend and donor John Russell at the John G. McCoy Circle dedication in August 2008.

John Russell was a man of wisdom, generosity and drive, and as Director of Corporate Communications for Bank One, he first became involved with Habitat in the 1990s through the bank's corporate sponsorship program. After his retirement, he chose to honor his wife Susan's memory by sponsoring construction of a Habitat home in her name. His legion of friends showed up on the job site to help build "Susie's house," and the Breeze family was welcomed into their new home just before the holidays in 2006. With his spirited focus and jovial nature, John soon became a tireless advocate for Habitat.

John's untimely death in August of this year was a blow to all who knew him. As was his character, John left a legacy for the affiliate to continue the work he so believed in. His \$50,000 bequest will be used to pull another Columbus family out of poverty housing and into the comfort and stability of homeownership. "John was the epitome of 'service to others,'" said CEO E.J. Thomas. "His memory and his message will never be forgotten by this affiliate." Resource Development Director Sue Melnyk worked closely with John for many years, and says "As a banker, John really understood

the investment that donors make in Habitat, and how that investment keeps paying dividends as mortgage payments are recycled and used to help future homeowners. He also had a really huge heart, and so we were doubly blessed to have him as an advocate for Habitat."

Habitat for Humanity International's own Board chair Ron Terwilliger recently made a legacy commitment to the organization he is helping to lead. As reported in the September 2009 issue of *Habitat World*, Terwilliger explains, "In my professional life, I've seen housing strengthen health, education, families, communities and economies. Since housing is such a special focus of mine and it's so fundamentally important to human beings and families, I thought that's where I would leave the balance of my wealth." Terwilliger, who retired as CEO of Trammell Crow Residential in 2008, hopes that his gift will spur donations of all sizes. "I think that the need is clearly going to continue to be there and to grow," he says. "We need all the help we can get because the families we're serving need all the help we can provide."



HFHI's Board Chair Ron Terwilliger, who recently announced his own legacy gift.

By arranging to include Habitat in their wills, these three very special donors will help ensure that the organization's tremendous momentum and impact will continue after their lifetimes. "Hundreds, perhaps thousands of families will be forever changed because of these legacies and these lives," says E.J. Thomas, "And for this, we extend our most fervent and heartfelt appreciation."

Charitable gifts of any size are welcomed by Habitat, and will help ensure that our work to build affordable homes, empower families and develop communities will continue as long as there is a need in Franklin County. For more information on legacy gifts, please see the accompanying article on the newly created Millard Fuller Society, or contact the Resource Development Department at 614-364-7032.

Legacy Commitment Response Card



Knowledge of your legacy commitment and gift amount helps us plan for the future.

Please check where applicable:

I have included Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus...

In my will Through my retirement plan Through a trust By other means _____

The estimated amount of my legacy commitment is (optional): _____

I wish to be a member of the **Millard Fuller Society**.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus understands and acknowledges that your commitment may be modified or changed at any time.

Mail to: Resource Development Department, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus, 3140 Westerville Rd., Columbus, OH 43224

On the Job with Habitat (continued from cover)

So I was slightly stunned when I arrived on the job and they thrust serious tools into my hands. They equipped each of us eleven volunteers with a hammer, nails, an apron and a tape measure to boot. Jason, our fearless leader, then broke us into task forces.

Those undaunted by heights were placed in charge of the second-story flooring. Another group disappeared around back. The three of us—Steph, a veterinarian, Darren, the second in command, and I—were assigned the very important job of nailing boards to the front of the house. Azad, the homeowner, pounded away at the floor sheeting and seemed wholly unconcerned that I'd been turned loose on his house with a claw hammer. In fact, he donned a shirt with the words "No Worries," smiled a lot and said things like, "Thank you, my friend."

Later, I sat on the ladder and was noting the volunteers who wore shiny, clean new boots like mine (Target; \$24.99), when Darren handed me his tape measure. "Let's measure the length across," he said of a section of house. "What do you have?"

"Um," I said. "Nine feet and some—maybe?"

"How many inches?"

Aw man, why did everything have to be measured in inches around here? Three-quarters, seven-eighths—fractions swirled around my brain like mad. After a lengthy pause, I finally gave what passed for a satisfactory answer.

"That's about what I got, too," he said.

It didn't take long to warm up to Darren. He was smiley, patient, and eager to give me pointers here and there. Finally, I felt safe enough to let my dark secret out of the bag: reading tape measures wasn't exactly my forte. He assured me it was no big deal. And that was the watershed moment. I wasn't then stripped of my task and banished to some meaningless line of busywork, such as standing guard at the Port-O-Potty. Nope, Darren kept me on the job just the same. What was there to worry about? This was kind of fun.

After we finished up the business with the house front, I set out with my hammer and apron full of nails in restless search for something else to construct. I eventually joined the happy bunch around back that were just getting instruction from Jason on building window and door frames. Then he cut us loose.

Our work area was the singeing, hundred-and-twenty-degree concrete floor of an unfinished garage. It had neither roof nor walls, and the sun beat down with such mean intensity that the 50-SPF sun block on my nape turned to goo. Evidently, my deodorant was on its way out, too. But I was so thrilled with the work I was doing on the two-by-fours that I hardly even noticed these minor inconveniences. It felt good to sweat, to blister, and, in my case, to stink. Out here, I could feel the hair on my chest growing by the minute. The women, perhaps, would describe it differently.

When lunchtime came, Jason prayed and then we, like ravenous animals, mauled the mini-buffet that had been kindly brought in by a woman and her daughter. I took my plate and found a little shade on the floor of what one day could be Azad's living room. Jordan leaned against the wall beside me. He was already

considering volunteering again, maybe when they do interior work. The women gathered on the porch. Azad plopped down on a stack of plywood next to Doug, who'd been running the saw all morning. Jason was perched in the window with his grub and tool belt, and soon we struck up a conversation about our wives, who are both expecting.

I chewed my brownie, inhaled the scent of sweat and sawdust, and took in the progress of our work—not too bad. This must be what it feels like to be handy. I looked at my new boots—a scuff! It was official: I was a homebuilder. If this kept up, maybe someday I could face my running toilet. "When will your house be finished?" I asked Azad.

"In December," he said.

Weather and volunteers permitting, Azad and his family will be moved in just in time for Christmas.

A Night to Remember

The New Albany Women's Network (NAWN) hosted its annual "Evening in New Albany" gala in late August, with proceeds from this year's event benefitting Habitat for Humanity and the New Albany Habitat Partnership's 2010 house. HFHGC CEO E.J. Thomas and Resource Development Director Susan Melnyk are shown here with proud New Albany Habitat Partnership Co-Chairs Lu Klaiber and Steve Schehl, after being presented with \$25,000 from NAWN President Shannon Gabor.



Congratulations Stephanie!

Stephanie Johnson – daughter of HFHGC homeowner, Laura Stover—was named Homecoming Queen at Brookhaven High School, where she is a senior. Stephanie plans to attend college next fall.

Empowering Families: Workshops Planned

The Family Services department has begun a monthly series of workshops for Habitat partner families. The classes—taught by Habitat staff and volunteers—will cover a range of topics designed to help Habitat homeowners save money, learn home maintenance basics, and guide them to a more financially secure future.

September saw such topics as “Grocery Shopping on a Budget” and “Computer Basics”, while October classes dwelt on “Internet Safety” and “Home Decorating and Household Cleaning” tips.

“Owning a home for the first time can be daunting for many families,” says Mortgage and Family Services Coordinator Lindsay Miller. “We want to make the transition to homeownership as smooth as possible, and provide our families with the tools to be successful now and break the cycle of poverty.”

Each adult workshop (except for computer trainings, due to space constraints) will have a similarly-themed class for kids too.

“Kids’ workshops will occur at the same time and place as the training their parents are completing,” explained Miller. “Our hope is that this will aid families who struggle to find child care, and teach the kids the valuable tools their parents are also learning!”



Family Services workshops will be held at Habitat’s main offices, except where noted.

For more information on the workshops, or to volunteer your services for a future topic, please contact Lindsay Miller at 614-364-7011 or lmiller@habitat-columbus.org.

Family Services Homeowner Workshops

- DECEMBER** *December 3: 6p.m.—8p.m.*
Photography Basics, at the Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus office. Kids’ creative workshop to run simultaneously.
- JANUARY** *January 27: 6p.m.—8p.m.*
Resume Writing, at the Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus office. Kids’ writing workshop to run simultaneously.
- FEBRUARY** *February 20: 10a.m.—3p.m.*
Cooking on a Budget 3: Beef 5-Ways, at First English Lutheran Church (1015 E. Main St.). Kids’ cooking workshop to run simultaneously.
- MARCH** *March 13: 11a.m.—2p.m.*
Gardening Basics, at the Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus office. Kids’ gardening workshop to run simultaneously.

DONATE a CAR
to help build homes.

Habitat for Humanity
Cars for Homes™

877.277.4344
www.carsforhomes.org

Vrrroom!

Cars for Homes™ Surpasses \$6 Million

As FY09 ended in June, HFHI’s Cars for Homes™ program reached a major milestone when the amount of unrestricted revenue distributed to affiliates, life-to-date, passed \$6 million. Despite the ongoing recession and potential competition from the “cash for clunkers” federal stimulus funding, Cars for Homes™ revenues still increased over the previous year, and more donors than ever supported Habitat for Humanity through vehicle donations. This translated to \$2,093 for the Greater Columbus affiliate for the quarter ending in June!

To donate a used vehicle to the Cars for Homes™ program, call (877) 277-4344, or visit www.carsforhomes.org.

Remodeling for the holidays?

Don’t forget to shop or donate to

Habitat’s ReStore

3140 Westerville Rd., Columbus, 43224

(614) RESTORE

Monday—Saturday 9am-6pm

EMH&T Golf Scramble Above Par

On a beautiful day in early September, approximately 80 golfers teed off at Northstar Golf Resort in Sunbury as part of EMH&T's first fundraising event to benefit Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus. With registrations, tee sponsorships, and a small auction, the 18-hole scramble raised \$10,000 toward the New Albany Habitat Partnership's 2010 house. Special thanks to HFHGC Board member Travis Eifert and Brian Quackenbush, both of EMH&T, for organizing a first-class event.



Shack City raises \$7500 for Thrivent!

A chilly October night saw about 80 youth brave its elements to raise \$7,500 for Habitat and Thrivent Financial for Lutheran's *Thrivent Builds* program. The kids constructed a Shack City out of cardboard and tape, and experienced just how difficult it would be to live in substandard housing conditions. The event was held at Messiah Lutheran Church in Reynoldsburg with five churches and one school participating.

Harmony for Habitat

In a unique fundraising cross-over, Habitat for Humanity and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra joined forces to host piano prodigy Tiffany Poon of the Juilliard School at Habitat's ReStore in early October. Tiffany performed an impressive program of Bach, Mozart, Chopin, and Liszt for a rapt audience, and went on to perform at ProMusica's season opening concert at the Southern Theater the same weekend. Our ReStore has never sounded so good!



Welcome New AmeriCorps Members!

The Greater Columbus affiliate welcomed four new AmeriCorps members in late August. They are (clockwise from upper left): **Joel Grimes**, *AmeriCorps*National Direct* (Construction Crew Lead); **Ethan Beiler**, *AmeriCorps*VISTA* (Faith and Youth Relations); **Katie Ramunni**, *AmeriCorps*VISTA* (ReStore Community Relations); and **Tara Satterfield**, *AmeriCorps*National Direct* (Construction Crew Lead).

The AmeriCorps is commonly described as a domesticated Peace Corps. Both the National Direct and VISTA programs provide a modest living allowance and education award to members while they receive an approximate year of training specific to service activities. Joel and Tara will work directly with volunteers and families on construction sites, and Ethan and Katie will provide indirect service creating infrastructure and working on special projects for the affiliate.

For more information about Habitat's AmeriCorps program and opportunities, see the "Get Involved" section of our website (www.habitatcolumbus.org) or call Volunteer Director Deb Light at (614) 364-7020.



Introducing ...The Millard Fuller Society

Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus Legacy Club

You are a faithful supporter of Habitat, and you believe passionately in our mission to build affordable homes, empower families, and develop communities. You have answered the call to serve—whether by hammering and painting, giving financial gifts, or advocating on our behalf. If you would like to further ensure that your values are passed on and your hard work will continue to make a difference for families in need in Columbus, please consider joining our newly created *Millard Fuller Society*.

The *Millard Fuller Society*—named after Habitat’s visionary founder—was designed to recognize those individuals who make a planned gift to Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus, realizing that the work to eradicate poverty housing will likely continue beyond their lifetimes. There are only two requirements for membership in The *Millard Fuller Society*. First, make arrangements to benefit Habitat after your lifetime—whether in the form of a bequest in your will or a plan that provides life income and income tax benefits like a gift annuity. Second, contact us and let us know about your plans, or fill out the response card inside and return it to our offices. It is not necessary to specify a dollar value for these plans, but having some idea of the details allows us to plan for the future and is appreciated.

With careful and creative planning, your estate gift can result in increased retirement income; reduced income, capital gains and estate taxes; and most importantly, a legacy of decent houses for those in need. Please contact Resource Development Director Susan Melnyk at 614-364-7031 or smelnyk@habitat-columbus.org if you have questions about your planned giving options, or to tell us how we can be of service.



Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller

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affordable homes, empower families and develop communities

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