



CHATHAM

Habitat
for Humanity®

Chatham Habitat Happenings

Building houses and empowering homeowners since 1989
March 2007

Fifteen Houses



In Partnership with...

Fifteen Families



Maldonado Family



Erica & Kyonti



Carmona Family



Cardona Navarro Family



Scott Family



Lopez Family



Taylor Family



Burnette Family



Martinez Plata Family



Arroyo Family



Rodriguez Family



Johnson Family



Powers Family



Gomez Family



R & M Martinez Family

“...we took the lessons learned over sixteen years and enlarged our vision of what true service to these families and to Chatham County means.”

Dear Friends of Chatham Habitat for Humanity:

Chatham Habitat for Humanity experienced a year of extraordinary achievement in 2006. The completion of fifteen homes is a formidable task for any Habitat for Humanity affiliate, but setting a goal this ambitious meant nearly doubling our efforts over the previous year. The determination, hard work and commitment from the partner families, the Board of Directors, the staff, and numerous volunteers and financial supporters enabled us to achieve this objective, thereby partnering with a record number of Chatham County families in 2006— ***a total of 60 individuals, the majority of them children, served.***



But we didn't grow only by increasing the number of houses constructed. In this last year as we partnered with more families than ever before, we took the lessons learned over sixteen years and enlarged our vision of what true service to these families and to Chatham County means. Moving from substandard housing into a decent, affordable, energy-efficient home is life changing, but we have come to realize it cannot stand alone as the solution to the many concerns facing those who struggle with the day-to-day challenges of low income. If our goal is truly *homeownership*—not only housing—it will require that we support families in overcoming the array of challenges that prevent homeownership from becoming a foundation for changing lives. To that end, we have committed to a community development and skills-building initiative that will better prepare partner families with the information and tools needed for successful homeownership and the creation of a thriving community.

We at Chatham Habitat for Humanity appreciate your volunteer and financial support. As you read through this newsletter, you will see examples of local accomplishments and our identity as part of Habitat for Humanity International. Through your actions we have become a catalyst for change, both here in Chatham County and throughout the world. Please join us in celebrating the completion of a successful and rewarding year and, as we answer new challenges, join us for an exciting 2007—and beyond.

In Partnership,

Jim Alcock
President, Board of Directors

Amy Powell
Executive Director

Chatham Habitat Annual Report

2006: Year in Review

Families

- 15 families moved out of substandard housing into new Habitat homes.
- Partner families completed 5,250 hours of sweat equity.
- 15 families received homebuyer education certification.
- CHFH counseled 33 families on financial health and mortgage management.
- Westmont Homeowners Association held a street party.

Fund Raising

- Funds were raised to support Chatham HFH's \$1.8M budget through contributions to the *Simple Houses / Profound Impact* Capital Campaign, the CHFH Annual Fund, Home Stores, and other sources.
- The Fund for Humanity remained strong with \$138,000 raised through Habitat homeowner monthly mortgage payments at 0% interest.

Volunteers

- A total of 16,000 volunteer hours at the Home Store, the construction site, and in other program and organizational areas helped Chatham HFH achieve its objectives.

Community Outreach and Advocacy

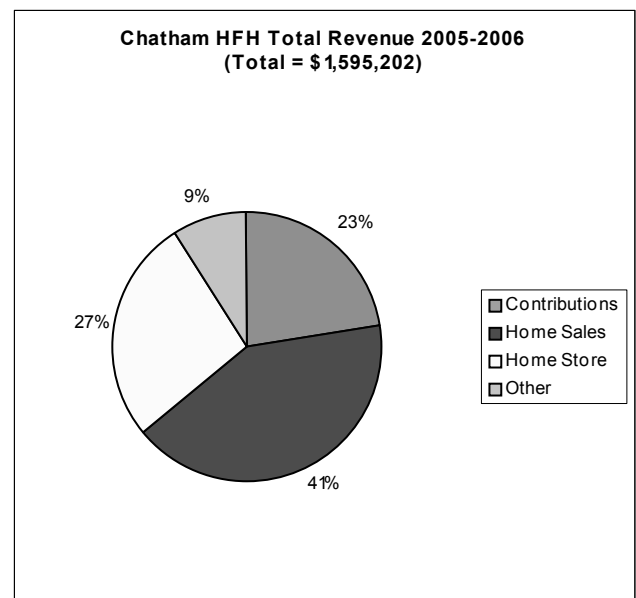
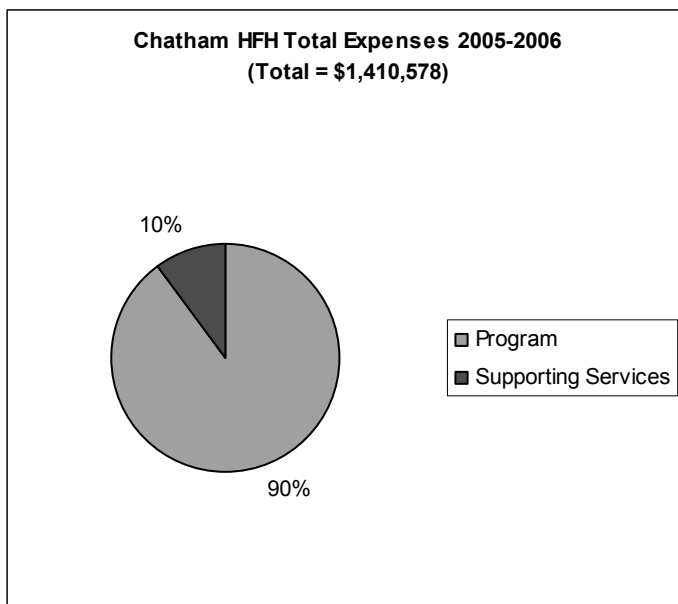
- On June 2, 2006, the Affordable Housing Partnership Celebration highlighted affordable housing needs from new owners of affordable housing, and Briar Chapel's first contribution of \$100,000 to the County for affordable housing.
- CHFH participated in the Chatham County Affordable Housing Task Force to develop and present recommendations on generating local resources for affordable housing.

House Construction

- 15 houses were completed in 2006.
- All 15 homes obtained energy efficiency certification, insuring that the cooling/heating portion of each family's electric bill won't exceed \$25 - \$30/month.
- 5 builders constructed 5 houses the first week of June.
- The majority of work on a 16 lot infrastructure project was done July - December 2006.

House Building Abroad (See Accompanying article)

- Chatham Habitat for Humanity contributed \$9,000 to Habitat for Humanity International with every cent supporting the construction of homes around the world for families in need.



Changing Faces

At the conclusion of 2006, Chatham HFH said farewell to three Board members. **Warner Eckman** served as a Board member and chair of the Church Relations Committee for 4 years. Warner initiated the church relations and Apostles Build program at CHFH, and will continue to serve on that vital committee. **Bill Patchett** served actively on the Board for six years – three of those years as Board President. Bill has been instrumental in supporting CHFH’s organizational growth and capacity building, and plans to stay active in Chatham Habitat by leading the community improvement efforts in the Westmont Subdivision, and by serving on the construction committee and as a construction volunteer. **Mattie Smith** served on the Board for 5 years, working on the Family Services Committee and the Nominating Committee.

We welcome **Dick Forbis** who joined the Board of Directors in November 2006. Dick is recently retired from UNC’s Chemistry Department where he was involved in the undergraduate laboratory program and in recent laboratory construction projects. Dick and wife Sheryl, also a NC native, raised their two children in Delaware where Dick worked with DuPont in various research & development and regulatory assignments. A long-time “nail banger” on friends’ and neighbors’ projects, Dick has found great reward and satisfaction working with the Wednesday Habitat crew in recent years. Dick and Sheryl recently moved into a classic Craftsman-style bungalow – 1920 vintage – in “downtown” Carrboro.



Dick Forbis

We also welcome **Suzanne Stevens**, **Lynda Stinson** and **Mark Norman** as new full time employees at Chatham HFH. Suzanne has assumed the position of Assistant to the Home Stores Director; Lynda is the Office and Business Manager; and Mark has recently come on board as Home Store Too Manager. In addition, new folks helping around the Home Stores include **Ed Gallant**, **Al Gratta**, **Monica Sporer**, **Pete Van Ness**, and **Lorrie Wall**. Our newest board members Linda Lang and Sue Flippin will be featured in our next newsletter.

Affiliate Tithes: Habitat’s Guiding Principle

The work of Habitat for Humanity stands on a strong foundation. Based on biblical principals of stewardship and unity, we are not only given a clear directive to reach out to others in need, we are also given the strategy for accomplishing this work. One teaching at the core of Habitat for Humanity is that of the tithe, a practice carried out by individual and church supporters who faithfully donate a regular percentage of income. All forms of contribution are important and play a part in Habitat for Humanity’s success, but tithing is a different, deeper commitment. It is the promise of a world-wide partnership we can factor into every house we build locally.

The practice of tithing is a deeply ingrained part of Habitat for Humanity. Did you know that in addition to accomplishments here in Chatham County, your support is also making a difference in far-flung corners of the world? All Habitat affiliates sign a covenant agreement to tithe a portion of the money raised locally to fund construction of houses in other countries. For each home completed in Chatham County, \$1,500 is sent to Habitat International to construct homes in other parts of the world. Last year affiliate tithes totaled over \$11 million worldwide, and Chatham Habitat for Humanity was honored to send \$9,000 to Africa and the Middle East. Think of this: a tithe—or even perhaps the tithed portion of your own contribution—from an affiliate in a more developed country can literally fund an entire home in a part of the world where construction costs are lower.

Habitat for Humanity’s journey of service is truly a global partnership, touching Chatham County and beyond. Together we have built houses in partnership with families throughout the world, but with over a billion people still inadequately sheltered, we must think in terms of “exponential faith.” The financial seeds we plant can multiply in ways we could not have imagined by looking at our donations as lone actions. Our tithe ties Chatham HFH to our fellow affiliates as we join together to make shelter a matter of conscience everywhere.

Making a World of Difference

On the 20th of January, twenty Americans were digging in Honduran soil in Santa Rosa de Copan alongside new Habitat for Humanity partners. AmeriCorps member, Hannah Popish, Family Services Coordinator for Chatham Habitat for Humanity, had these thoughts & impressions to share.

I recently returned to our Chatham affiliate after receiving the opportunity to spend ten days working in Honduras on a Global Village trip led by Miguel Rubiera, Director of Durham Habitat and his wife Margaret. The first day we all worked together could not have been more poignant. Each of us in our own way put our bodies fully into the work of clearing the plots of land and beginning to dig trenches for the foundations - shovels, pick axes and a willing spirit our only tools. Throughout the week, we worked on four plots that will eventually be a part of a Habitat neighborhood of 18 homes. Our connection to the land and the people was heightened by the knowledge that Durham's tithe had made the purchase of this neighborhood possible.

During our Global Village trip, the hard labor and essential teamwork created space for personal thoughts on what it means to me to be of service, and through service, to connect with those both similar to and different from myself. Word of our appearance in the small town spread, and each day brought us a new group of young children and other onlookers. Each was eager to read or color with us or contribute their strength and work alongside us – some moving and emptying wheelbarrows with unparalleled speed and agility.



In the dichotomy between monetary wealth and poverty I often come back to my ideals around the importance and life changing potential of access to and possession of basic needs. Through Habitat, I have had the gift of seeing them

concretely change the landscape of peoples' lives and their futures. A home and a safe community provide individuals with a great sense of pride in themselves and their country and create a gathering place for people to share the history of their families and experiences. Nine-year-old Toni and his sister Genesis, local children who live a couple blocks from the Habitat site, were overjoyed to take a handful of us on a tour of their neighborhood. Hot spots and highlights included their Grandma's house with the only man-dug working well, the neighborhood grocery, mango trees, a view of a furniture factory and an out of order piece of machinery that used to make pieces of glass.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have had this time with people so rich in spirit, in heart, and in the amount of time, energy, and respect they gave to those so obviously different from themselves. In introductions on our first day, I stood next to a new partner named Ada. Someone off-handedly referred to us as the "gringos" and she immediately expressed her discontent. Ada said, *"No voy a llamarles 'Gringos.' Parece como una palabra fea. Eso seria como alguien en los e.e.u.u. me llamo 'india' porque soy de una linea indigena."* "I will not call you 'gringos.' This seems like an ugly, insensitive word. This would be like someone in the United States calling me 'Indian' because of my indigenous heritage."

For three days on the worksite I became an apprentice, learning in many ways from the head mason, Alfredo, who was working on what Ada hoped would be her new home. In Honduras they have a lottery once all the homes have been built to determine who will live in each Habitat house – yet another way of encouraging equality and community building in the process of house construction. On our last day on the construction site, Alfredo told me I could come back to Honduras and be the third "martillo" (mason) right after himself and his top apprentice, Antonio. I know that my reality and lifestyle in the United States seem a world apart, but as I dug trenches, mixed cement, cut wire for footings, helped lay a foundation, or shared a meal alongside Hondurans, our belief system and active commitment to social justice put us in perfect alignment.

“Cats for a Cause”

The Horton Middle Wildcats are well aware that you don't have to hold a hammer to help build a stable environment for a family. The Horton Middle School student body adopted a community project that culminated with the creation of five quilts for Chatham Habitat for Humanity partner families. The colorful finished products were presented by the students, faculty and staff during a recent assembly. *“Being given fabric, a needle, and thread has shown these students that they are a vital part of their community, and that you are never too young to impact the world around you.”*

- Ellen Hadley, instructor & Quilt Project Coordinator.



Horton Middle School children celebrate the completion of 5 quilts for Chatham Habitat homeowners.

Building in Biloxi



Volunteers from Pittsboro, Siler City, Randolph County, Apex and Durham recently joined with CHFH Construction Director Gabriela Rife and CHFH Americorps members for a week of rebuilding homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina in Biloxi, Mississippi. The 50-70 mile area along the coast of Mississippi and Louisiana was the area hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina, and nearly 80% of all homes in the East Biloxi area were destroyed or heavily damaged. Many homeowners remain in FEMA trailers, including Mr. Sylvester Pittman, whose home the crew worked to restore. Mr. Pittman is the retired owner of an auto repair shop and has lived in his house for 30 years.

Pictured left to right are: (1st row) Ellis Byrd, Dick Forbes, Shari Ligett, Sylvester Pittman, Gabriela Rife, Dan Woodliff, Gabe Harris; (2nd row) Bob Faucher, Brennan Less, Jack Heuer, Bob Ligett, Ronnie Boone, Doug Leapley; (back row) Brenton Mitchell



Help Build a Neighborhood

A volunteer is needed to serve as Homeowner Association Coordinator to provide leadership and direction for a newly formed community. By supporting the partner families in developing leadership skills, you will help to create a viable homeowner's association that will eventually be administered entirely by the residents themselves. The commitment will entail a variety of activities including facilitating meetings and trainings; coordinating new homeowner orientations; supporting and motivating team members in achieving management objectives; and helping with communication, conflict resolution and mediation. This is a unique opportunity to shape an important program and make a difference in the lives of many families. For more information, please contact Family Services Director, Robin Criffield at 542-0794 ext. 208, or email RobinCriffield@ChathamHabitat.org.

Grab a Hammer!

Construction Manager Gabriela Rife will be leading a Global Village trip to Braga, Portugal May 26-June 6. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact her at chfhgabriela@hotmail.com.



Habitat 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. As partners, team members help build a true "global village" of love, homes, communities and hope!

Home Store & Home Store II

OPEN MON - FRI 10AM - 6PM
SAT 10AM - 4PM

Donations are always needed.
Call 542-0788 for a free pickup.

Chatham Habitat for Humanity

Mail: P.O. Box 883; Office: 467 West St.
Pittsboro, NC 27312 (919) 542-0794
Fax: (919) 542-0340 www.ChathamHabitat.org

Board of Directors Officers

Jim Alcock, President; Bob Gabor, Vice President
Bob Belden, Treasurer; Dick Forbis, Secretary

Board of Directors

Jace Cox, Karen Crowell, Henry Foust,
Joe Glasson, Bob Ligett, Rouse Wilson,
Linda Lang, Sue Flippin

Executive Director

Amy Powell

*Financial information about this organization
and a copy of Its solicitation license are available from
The State Solicitation Licensing section at 1-888-830-4989.
The License is not an endorsement from the State.*

Non-profit organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Permit #77

Pittsboro, NC 27312
PO Box 883

