



Chatham Habitat Happenings

Building Houses and empowering homeowners since 1989

WINTER 2007

INSIDE:

- Ambitious plans for \$3.1 million raised in Capital Campaign
- Construction to begin soon for new Home Store Too
- Area golfers "going green" for Chatham Habitat

Meet the Lane family, one of our newest partner families - page 3

Photo by Hannah Popish



The Duarte-Martinez family

2007: A Recap

- Chatham Habitat houses completed: 10
- Hours donated by volunteers: 19,600
- Hours of “sweat equity” by partner families: 3,500
- People who have left substandard housing behind through Chatham Habitat since its founding: 272

Thanks to all of our volunteers and supporters for your part in making these accomplishments possible.

Home Store Too On The Move

Home Store Too, which sells recycled and new building materials, will more than double in size when it moves to its new space in

mid June, according to project manager and Chatham Habitat Board member Bob Gabor. “This will prepare us for the next step in our growth - with increased ability to attract, display, and sell donations,” he said.

Homes Store Director Suzanne Stevens added, “The additional space will mean more inventory which will lead to more sales and profits to apply to our mission of building affordable housing throughout Chatham

County.” Customers can expect to find items not currently available, such as carpeting, wood flooring, and vinyl.

In addition, owning the energy-efficient building will cost Chatham Habitat significantly less than renting comparable space.

The new store will be located adjacent to its current home across Farrell Street .

Construction is projected to begin in mid-December, with Grand Opening festivities planned for early June.

Chatham Habitat for Humanity

P.O. Box 883 , 467 West Street
Pittsboro, N.C. 27312
(919) 542-0794
www.chathamhabitat.org

Board of Directors Officers

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

Board of Directors

Karen Crowell, Henry Foust, Sue Flippin, Joe Glasson, Bill Leroy, Bob Ligett, Rouse Wilson

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.

“Rain Gardens” to Filter Parking Lot Run-off

Rain water will run from the new Home Store Too parking lot into two gardens designed by a team from N.C.S.U. to filter out pollutants prior to flowing into Roberson Creek.



Roberson Creek



Members of local churches fire up the grill for construction volunteers.

Enjoy Cooking?

Stir up Some Grub To Fuel Hungry Construction Crews

A record-breaking number of college students from around the country will be working at Chatham Habitat construction sites this spring and we are seeking volunteers to prepare meals for them. Groups and individuals are needed with this and other Habitat projects. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Debby Hussey at (919) 548-5192.

Chatham Habitat for Humanity **HOME STORES**

Quality Used and New Merchandise
Donations always welcome

467 West Street • Pittsboro
542-0788
homestores@chathamhabitat.org

Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 8-4

**Now accepting Visa,
Mastercard & Discover**

All Under the Same Roof

"I have a simple goal - to start each day with my children and to tuck them into their beds at nighttime. Currently my daughter and I are renting one room in a friend's house but because of the tight quarters, my son is staying with his grandparents. I'm grateful to my parents for helping out but unless you've experienced it firsthand, you can't imagine how hard it is to have the family divided. I became a mother at 17 and had to learn how to become an adult and a parent at the same time. Simultaneously working, going to school, and parenting can be overwhelming but the blessing of my children keeps me

focused on a better future. Discovering Habitat for Humanity and knowing that we will soon have a real home in a neighborhood where the children will have

a yard and playmates is the answer to many of the problems in my life. An added benefit is that we won't be living too far from my parents. I grew up



Kaden,
Brandi,
and Ava

in Chatham County and wanted to stay near them but in the back of my mind I knew finding someplace I could afford might mean having to leave. Now I don't have to fear that possibility. Thanks to Chatham Habitat, the children and I are here to stay." - **Brandi Lane**

Staff Profile: Howard Alston



What's your official job title?

Home Store Manager.

Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Pittsboro.

Who do you most admire?

Martin Luther King & Jimmy Carter

Most people are surprised to learn:

That I am a good cook.

What do you enjoy when off duty?

Working on my 1941 Chevy!

Simple Houses, Profound Impact

Chatham Habitat Raises \$3.1 Million

Diverse funding provides major step toward expanded goals

The record-breaking \$3.1 million dollars raised during Chatham Habitat for Humanity's Capital Campaign will be used for an innovative four-component project that targets a number of affordable housing issues currently facing the county, according to Executive Director Amy Powell. "With the cost of real estate skyrocketing, most urgent is the acquisition of land," she said.

Funds will also be used for building homes in partnership with low-income families; developing infrastructure, such as water, sewer and roads; enhancing energy efficiency and environmentally sustainable building practices; and generating community and homeowner skills, according to Powell. C.H.F.H., which seeks to "eliminate substandard housing," will need an additional \$5 to \$7 million over the next six years to meet its goal of building nearly 100 homes across Chatham County. "Chatham Habitat has crafted a plan for constructing as many as 60 homes targeted for very low wealth families, in combination with 40 more homes for low and moderate income households through part-



Photo by Jessica Starnes

ships with other builders," stated Powell. This reflects Chatham Habitat's objective to create economically diverse communities.

Chatham Habitat for Humanity's ambitious two-year capital campaign, which exceeded its original goal by \$1.1 million, was boosted by a generous \$750,000 grant from the Oak Foundation, an international philanthropy that supports a wide range of social and environmental programs. The Chatham County Board of Commissioners immediately stepped forward to unanimously approve a matching grant dollar-for-dollar. "Chatham Habitat has the track-record and the ability to do the job right," stated County Commissioner Mike Cross. "They maximize re-

sources in Chatham County to achieve their goals, including volunteers, donors, local government, and the Affordable Housing Task Force." Additional funding came from Briar Chapel developer Newland Communities, SunTrust Bank, the Lang Family Foundation, the Rolander Family Fund, other foundations, local churches, businesses and various individuals in the community. The diverse 14-member Chatham Habitat Board of Directors donated approximately \$100,000.

The capital campaign team was co-chaired by board member Joe Glasson and former superintendent of schools Perry Harrison. Mr. Glasson shares his perspective on the following page.



“If Not Us, Then Who?”

By Joe Glasson

On a rainy and windy day in January 2005, fifteen people looked each other in the eyes and posed that question. It was a serious discussion that could change the lives of many families living in terrible housing conditions in Chatham County and those fifteen people were dead serious about doing something about it.

They were volunteers, along with a few staff members, yet all advocates for Habitat For Humanity, and they wanted to make a difference.

Building affordable houses in a growth area presents huge challenges... skyrocketing land costs, climbing interest rates, soaring construction costs... with the need growing and the hurdles even more difficult.

But they didn't blink. That small planning committee looked into the future and realized that business as usual wasn't going to cut it, something big was needed and the time was now.

In September 2007, two and a half years later, this group, along with many others, gathered to celebrate the conclusion of the CHFH's Capital Campaign. They were proud to have been a part of a successful \$3.1 Million drive, exceeding the initial goal of \$2 Million by over \$1 Million.

To do that, in that time span, feasibility studies were initiated, strategies developed, processes charted, timelines agreed on, milestones created, volunteers enlisted, potential donors identified... and the "asking" started. Thousands of hours... meetings, lunches, dinners, receptions... all targeted to talking with prospective donors,

telling the story, illustrating the need.

It was hard work... a series of small tasks, an abundance of large tasks, a lot of communications, the associated stress, timelines and milestones. Many times, reenergizing was needed as we depended on each other... even when some things went well, others did not. But never los-

ing our focus or our belief in the vision.

Ultimately, those volunteers and those wonderful donors not only saw the future, but started to change it.

Through their advocacy and generosity, they will, in the near future, impact the lives of up to 100 families as

CHFH moves to acquire land, build houses, even neighborhoods, implement support programs and further advance the cause of affordable housing.

Each volunteer, each staff member, knew that his or her leadership, individually and collectively, could serve as the agent of change... all realizing that shared values make a difference, personal conviction counts.

So, simply, if not us, then who? "Who" has been answered... a cadre of advocates of CHFH who created a stunning success with unbridled focus on putting families in affordable houses... making a profound impact now and in the future.





Home Stores Director Suzanne Stevens

Golfers Going Green For Habitat

Some volunteers swing hammers in support of Chatham Habitat - area golfers swing clubs. Two local organizations sponsored benefit golf tournaments in October, raising several thousand dollars for CHFH.

Golfers teed off at the Sanford Golf Course on October 11 for the 4th annual tournament sponsored by Ebenezer United Methodist Church. After 18 holes, many sponsored by area businesses, golfers refueled at a feast prepared by church members Jerry and Judy Poe.

Approximately 122 golfers hit the greens at the Governors Club Golf Course on October 22 at the 7th tournament sponsored by Governors Club Realty. The event generated \$8,500 for Chatham Habitat. "We wanted to reach out within our community of realtors, suppliers, and property owners in support of Chatham Habitat. It is a natural dovetail," said Governors Club Realty Principal Raoul Rushin.

Two Homes Dedicated

72 & # 73

Two families were presented with keys to their new homes at dedication ceremonies held in September, bringing the total of Chatham Habitat houses built to 73.

The six-member Catalan Hurtado family of Pittsboro are excited about their passive-solar home that was designed by a team of N.C. State students who went on to win a national sustainable building design competition. The family is leaving behind an over-crowded house with electrical and plumbing problems.

The Santiago Hernandez family is looking forward to moving into their new home in Siler City where their three children will have others to play with. Nine churches of various denominations joined together to construct Chatham Habitat's 7th Apostle Build house.



The Catalan Hurtado house (top) and the Santiago Hernandez house (lower) were built by the families, staff, and countless volunteers.

Comings and Goings

While thrilled for her, no one on the staff was particularly surprised when Development Assistant Yolanda Bryant announced she was leaving Chatham Habitat to travel around Europe singing opera. She is touring Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Spain as Serena in New York Harlem Production's "Porgy & Bess." Yolanda is not only a gifted artist but her fans agree that the stage is her destiny. We wish her well.

New on staff is Volunteer Coordinator Debby Hussey whose work with the Flatwoods Festival has well-prepared her for this multi-faceted role. If you're lucky you may spot her on a work site, at a local church, or behind her laptop updating our website.

Bett Essen also joins us as Development Coordinator, bringing her experience as a newspaper editor, communications director, children's librarian, and world traveler.



Yolanda

Photo by Jessica Starnes

"My life is changed for the better because of relationships and experiences ... through Chatham Habitat." - Yolanda Bryant



Villanova University students

Photo by Debby

Collegiate Challenge

Twenty college students from Villanova University opted to spend their fall break in Siler City constructing houses for Chatham Habitat for Humanity. "They were terrific," said Construction Director Gabriela Rife. She figures at eight hours a day for five days, the crew donated about 800 hours of labor to the organization. "That is equivalent to more than a month of Saturdays," said Rife. Thanks goes out to this team as well as to the volunteers who kept them fed.

Volunteer Celebration

An outdoor party with live music is in the works for this spring to honor the many volunteers who are the backbone of this organization, from construction crew to store personnel. Details to be announced!



www.chathamhabitat.org

is the place to go for news, upcoming events, volunteer information, store inventory, a donation link, & much more.



P.O. Box 883
Pittsboro, N.C. 27312

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Pittsboro, N.C.
27312
Permit #77

To:

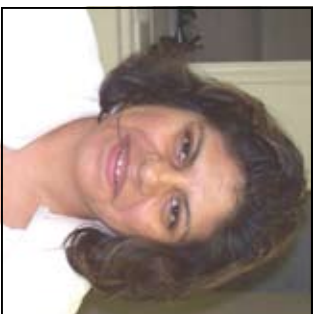
CHATHAM
Habitat for Humanity®
Winter Newsletter

Becoming Homeowners

Classes offered by Chatham Habitat prepare Partner Families for successful homeownership and positive community interactions.



On the menu are such courses as "Financial Health" and "Conflict Resolution & Communication." The goal: stable families who are leaving the cycle of poverty behind to become thriving participants in their communities.



What Participants Are Saying:

"I have changed the way in which I see things, to think before I make any kind of purchase and to deposit money so that I can make payments on time."

"I am thankful for the time you have given us to have the opportunity to learn so much. We will do all that we can to put into practice what we have learned."



Instructor Harvey Reed of H.R. Consulting