



Building a better community
one home at a time.

UPDATE

FALL 2007

UNC Students Build Habitat Homes Across the Country and at Home



This summer Lindsay Michel, Meredith Gilliam, and 9 other UNC students participated in "Bike and Build," an enormous undertaking to raise awareness about the nation's lack of affordable housing. These intrepid students bicycled from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, more than 3500 miles, and built homes with local Habitat for Humanity affiliates along the way. In addition, these students raised over \$40,000 through sponsorships to help build a home with a family this fall, right here in Orange County.

Lindsay, a graduate of the UNC class of 2007, had participated in the "Bike and Build" program once already and was determined to share her experience with others. Her belief in the program, a New York non-profit dedicated to raising awareness for the cause of affordable housing, inspired her to recruit fellow students for the adventure of a lifetime. Ten other UNC Students joined her, and with support from the Chapel of the Cross-UNC Habitat Partnership and University Ford, they procured a van to serve as the support vehicle for the trip.

The cyclists left Manteo, NC on May 27th. The trip began with an orientation on the scenic Outer



Meredith at the Grand Canyon

Banks and they stopped on June 2nd and 3rd to help build homes with the Orange County and Durham County Habitat for Humanity affiliates. With flat tires, bike repairs, and a spill or two, they climbed over the Appalachian Mountains and through the wheat fields of Kansas. In Colorado, they spent a week building with Pikes Peak



Habitat in Colorado Springs. It wasn't all hard work; visits to Graceland and the Grand Canyon rounded out the trip, and on July 27th they reached their final destination, the Pacific Ocean of San Diego, California.

This fall their efforts will build a home with Fernando Salcedo-Cruz and his family. Fernando has been working at a local hotel for the last six years. His wife, Anna Maria, went to work at a day care center over a year ago to build their savings for a future where they can provide their young son and daughter a yard in which to play. Currently they live in a cramped, 2 bedroom apartment unit in an older complex in Chapel Hill and pay more than 1/3 of their income for rent and utilities.

Building this home on Tulip Tree Road in Hillsborough will be a dream come true for one family and the beginning of a lifelong commitment to service for the young people embarking on the next phase of their lives. Meredith Gilliam chronicled her experience on a blog. It contains amazing stories and beautiful photographs of an adventure that has changed so many lives. See for yourself: meredithbikes.blogspot.com.



Ten Year Partnership with AmeriCorps was a Success

— By Tyler Momsen-Hudson

When the Habitat/AmeriCorps term ended in July, it marked the end of a ten-year partnership between Habitat for Humanity of Orange County and the AmeriCorps program.

Our four most recent members, Emily Gould, Maciek Krzysztoforski, Zack Miller, and Kait Goodnight, finished their commitment and moved on. Maciek plans to work with AmeriCorps on environmental issues in the Pacific Northwest. Zack will keep building houses, this time with a for-profit builder. Kait and Emily have moved to Wilmington where they are both working, and Emily is continuing her studies at UNC-Wilmington.

Their stories are typical of the 28 members who have served with us. Most of our members have been recent college graduates eager to work with their hands to improve the community. They have usually come with little construction experience but with great enthusiasm. These four left with much greater skills, more confidence in their abilities and with eight families ready to move into their new homes.

Our participation in the AmeriCorps program began in 1997 with our first two members, Laura Wilson and Clarissa Youngblood. They were a memorable team, partly because Laura was 6'6" and Clarissa was pretty close to 5'0". They drove to the worksites in a donated Jeep Cherokee with bad shocks which they nicknamed "Rocky." Among their other accomplishments, they initiated the traditional AmeriCorps fender bender with Rocky.

The following year brought Malinda Todd and Sam Cole to HHOC. Malinda was a quiet UNC grad who later became our Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator. Sam was a former ironworker and poet who spent two years here before moving to a staff position for Chatham County Habitat. Sam once performed some minor first aid for a volunteer on the worksite. The volunteer pointed to Sam and told me, "That fellow there [bandaged me up.] He's a doctor." Sam replied, "Well, my wife is a veterinarian."

Two years later a notable class started building Richmond Hills: Richard Turlington, Julia Francis, Jack Patterson, and Jason Merrill. Richard would stay four more years as Site Supervisor, training and supervising other members. Two of those members the following year, Lee Kastberg and Jeni Klippel, both served here two years and later accepted staff positions at other Habitat affiliates. Our last member to serve two years was Andy Strauja,

who became particularly skilled at pumping rainwater from footings. Andy has since become a residential contractor.

We are very grateful for all the AmeriCorps Members who have served here. The members have performed well in difficult circumstances for a paltry "living allowance." They have moved countless tool bins, filled hundreds of water coolers, coiled miles of cords, and supervised thousands of volunteers. Each year, they had to learn how to build homes and then, in a matter of weeks, had to build them with dozens of unskilled volunteers every week. In ten years, they built one hundred homes.

As good as the AmeriCorps program has been for us, it was time to move to fulltime paid construction staff. Over the years, the program has grown and changed.

In the last few years, the federal funding has decreased, and the cost to individual affiliates has increased. The amount of recordkeeping and red tape has dramatically increased. The pool of applicants to the program has fluctuated, but tapered off the last few years. The recruiting and training of new members seemed to take more time in past years as well. For these reasons, HHOC decided not to apply for members next year.

That decision in no way diminishes the success of our partnership with AmeriCorps for the last ten years. We have many fond memories of our former members. We are grateful for their contributions and hope that they remember their time here with the same fondness.



Good Quality Used Household Goods at **Habitat Hand-Me-Ups** A Re-Use Store

- Shop for gently used items at the store
- Call to donate TVs, furniture, appliances
- Free pickup for large items
- All donations in good condition are tax deductible
- Sorry, no clothing, gas appliances, mattresses

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www.hhmu.org

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Tues-Fri 10am - 6pm

Sat 10am-5pm

NEW CONSTRUCTION STAFF JOINS HHOC

We welcomed two new Site Supervisors to the construction staff this summer, Steve Swart and Faith Gardner. They both come to HHOC with a background in construction and volunteer supervision.

Steve comes directly from Hartford Area HFH where he served one term with AmeriCorps. This was Steve's second experience with AmeriCorps as he had served with the Habitat affiliate in Spokane, Washington, his hometown. In Hartford, Steve trained crew leaders, and specialized in Green Building techniques that reduced the amount of lumber needed in the house.

Between AmeriCorps terms, Steve volunteered with the Peace Corps in Zambia. He worked with rural subsistence farmers, teaching aquaculture and improved farming techniques. With a degree in Religion and Philosophy from Gonzaga University, Steve has already turned heads with his impressive collection of Habitat T-shirts. Steve will be working most closely with the partnerships with UNC undergraduates this fall—the Class of 2008 and the UNC Campus Chapter.

Faith Gardner comes to HHOC all the way from Durham, where she operated a design and remodeling

business for the last few years. Before that, Faith's resume lists six years as a Practitioner in Residence at the Zen Monastery Practice Center in Murphys, California. She supervised the operations of the monastery and

built a number of structures there with volunteer crews, including rammed earth structures and a stone courtyard with a waterfall, garden pools, and a stream powered by solar energy. Faith continues to lead meditation retreats and workshops, including a weekly gathering in Durham.

Before going to California, Faith owned a landscape contracting firm in Durham. She has a Fine Arts degree from Virginia Tech. She said that some of her friends are upset that they can no longer call her for their remodeling projects, but "they are just relieved that I have finally gotten a REAL job." When asked about starting to work at HHOC, Faith said, "Yee-

haw. Homes, homeowners, and volunteers. It doesn't get any better than this."

"We are very pleased to add Steve and Faith to our construction staff, which is the strongest and most experienced it has ever been. We are well-positioned to make our program even better," said Tyler Momsen-Hudson, Construction Supervisor.



Steve and Faith at a home worksite in August.

YOU CAN BUILD HOMES WHILE AT WORK!

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County will participate in the following 2007 workplace giving campaigns:

- State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC)
- Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
- Triangle United Way (which runs campaigns for employers such as IBM, Lenovo, and GlaxoSmithKline)

Wish List

- HHOC needs two laptop computers, less than 3 years old, DVD, sound card, and USB for flash drive memory. If you upgrade frequently, please consider donating your older model to Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, NC.
- Pick-up Truck Ford F-150, 250 or 350, or equivalent for construction site work. Must be in excellent to good working order.
- Pallets and pallet jack for our Habitat ReStore warehousing

If you will be opening a new personal or business checking account with SunTrust Bank between August 6 and October 12, please take advantage of their My Cause program and support Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. (EIN number 58-1603427.) Through My Cause, SunTrust Bank will make a donation to your favorite charity of \$100 per account opened. For more information, please visit www.suntrust.com/mycause.



John Sehon Awarded Alice Call Miller Award

This year, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County honored John Sehon with the Alice Call Miller Award for outstanding volunteer service. John served in many volunteer capacities, from helping build homes as a member of the Wednesday crew, to serving as the Board President and filling in for Susan Levy, Executive Director, during her sabbatical. He also photographed events and created PowerPoint presentations. He met with our elected officials to help them understand Habitat's needs and co-chaired the Leadership Committee that is spearheading our Comprehensive Campaign. Here is what Susan had to say about John during her presentation of the award:



"John is retired, but he sure keeps busy, and I'm sure he's not playing as much golf as he thought he would when he retired. I have referred to John as a de facto staff member because of all that he does on behalf of

Habitat. His seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm keep us all on our toes, and he has moved both the staff and the board to accept new challenges and think about new ways of getting things done. John, as befits a Board member, sees the big picture. He is an out- of- the box thinker who comes up with new ways of looking at issues and creative ways of solving complex problems.

John is a visionary, but he also digs in and does the nitty- gritty stuff that needs doing. He is someone that I know I can count on to come through in a pinch . . . Why does John do all of this for Habitat? I'd like to read a poem that he wrote, which I keep on my bulletin board in my office, and which to me speaks directly to John's calling to Habitat's mission. The poem is entitled, Giving Back.

I am on a journey
The destination is not important
Each day, each step, a new opportunity
To see, feel, touch, and love
God's world
God's people
For everyone who has helped me
On my journey
It's my time to give back to
God's world
God's people."

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AND AWARDS DINNER

The theme for National Volunteer Week was "Inspire by Example." This statement reflects well on the volunteers who serve HHOC and our homeowners.

On Thursday, March 29 more than 100 volunteers, homeowners, staff and guests came together at the United Church of Chapel Hill for an evening of great food, fun and fellowship. The purpose was to honor HHOC's volunteers for their dedicated and outstanding service during the past year. John Sehon was the recipient of the Alice Call Miller Award as the outstanding volunteer of the year. Bert Liverance was recognized for receiving the NC Governor's Volunteer Award and for his work coordinating the installation of fire safety sprinkler systems in each Habitat home. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to each Partner who built a home in 2006.

Thank yous and pats on the back go to HHOC homeowners-to-be LouBrenda Duffy and family, Renee Newman, Andres Perez and Fernando Salcedo for decorating, setting up and cleaning up after the dinner. Special thanks to Ethel Carver for preparing a delicious meal.

Donating Made Easy

- Remember Habitat for Humanity of Orange County accepts credit card donations online. It's safe, simple, and quick. Just visit our website: www.orangehabitat.org and click the "DONATE NOW" button.
- Taxpayers aged 70½ and older may make tax-free distributions from traditional or ROTH IRAs directly to charities like Habitat for Humanity.
- Making a gift of appreciated stock is an especially easy way to give. We maintain an account at Wachovia Securities; our DTC# is 0141 and our Tax ID is 58-1603427. Call Anne-Marie Vanaman at the Habitat office at 919- 932-7077 x 216, or Ms. Shirley Drechsel at Wachovia Securities at 919-928-8370 to receive the account number and to assure proper accounting and acknowledgement.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The following are some of the opportunities available for volunteers to serve at HHOC:

Construction

HHOC will build seven homes during the fall (six homes on Tulip Tree Road in the Fairview Community in Hillsborough and one home in Chapel Hill). We will need individual volunteers for two of these homes as they are unaffiliated with Partnerships. This is an opportunity for volunteers to hammer nails, put up some vinyl siding, paint walls and even work on a roof or two. Construction will occur on Saturdays on one home in Hillsborough and on Wednesdays and Fridays on one home in Chapel Hill. We will need two work shifts at each home per workday. Each shift can have up to 15 volunteers. The morning shift will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. and the afternoon shift runs from 12:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The first date volunteers are needed for the home in Hillsborough is Saturday, September 15. The start date for the home in Chapel Hill is later in September. These are great opportunities for individual volunteers or a group to do a workday. **Slots will be given on a first response basis.**

Wednesday/Friday Crew

HHOC is fortunate to have two small groups of special volunteers called the Wednesday Crew and the Friday Crew. These are volunteers who work on a regular basis on Wednesdays and/or Fridays completing construction tasks and preparing homes for the larger groups of volunteers. Some of these volunteers have special skills while

others learn as they work. They usually commit to working 4-8 hours each workday, but volunteers decide how long and how often they work. This is an opportunity for volunteers to use their skills or to add to their skills and knowledge base. It's also a great way to meet interesting people and make new friends!



Amos Umstead is a long-time regular on the Wednesday Crew.

Habitat Hand Me Ups Store

The Habitat Hand Me Ups Store is a re-use store located in Durham. Proceeds from the store are used to fund Habitat for Humanity homes in both Durham and Orange Counties. The Habitat Hand Me Ups Store needs volunteers to assist in sorting and pricing donated items, work with customers on the sales floor, and work as cashiers. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Please share these volunteer opportunities with your friends or family or co-workers. Interested persons should contact Mae B. McLendon, HHOC Volunteer Coordinator, at 932-7077 ext. 219 or mmclendon@orangehabitat.org to sign up for any or all of these volunteer opportunities. Remember that you can, and do, make a difference when you volunteer your time and talents.

THANK YOU!

- Sotelo Landscaping for reclaiming the grounds of a vacant house
- Renate Kofler for maintaining the property on Riddle Ave. in Hillsborough
- Tony Whitaker of Civil Consultants, Inc. for engineering consulting services
- Bruce and Linda Foster Momsen for providing lunches to the Wednesday Crew

Thank you to the following groups for conducting workdays on houses on Tulip Tree Road:

- Coach Butch Davis, coaches and players from the UNC-CH football team
- Heels for Heaven, choral group
- UNC crew and woman's rowing teams
- Habitat for Humanity Bike and Build Team
- Edwards for President Campaign staff (interns)

VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

From September 2006 through July 2007 more than 2,000 people volunteered either as individuals or as members of a Partnership to provide service to HHOC. These dedicated volunteers donated over 10,000 hours of their valuable time to HHOC. If a dollar value was placed on these hours, using the national standard of \$18.77 (2007) per hour, this service was worth more than \$181,000. These figures do not include homeowners, their relatives and friends who completed sweat equity hours.



Announcing Our Fall Lineup . . .

Six Habitat Partnerships are getting ready to build six new homes on Tulip Tree Road in Hillsborough, starting in August and September. When their work is complete next spring, the neighborhood will have grown to include a dozen families!

Additionally, one infill home is underway in Chapel Hill, opening weekday opportunities for companies and other groups who wish to spend a day as a team working together and helping underwrite the building costs. This home is being built with the family of Wanda Edwards.

New home starts began again in Hillsborough on August 18th when the **Building Hope** Partnership raised walls with the family of Valeria Day at 417 Tulip Tree Road. Building Hope includes these churches and organizations:

- The Catholic Community of St. Thomas More
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- United Church of Chapel Hill
- The Newman Catholic Student Center Parish at UNC
- Chapel Hill High School Habitat Club
- Hillsong Church

Next, on August 24th and 25th, **UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School** began building walls with the family of Andres Perez at 411 Tulip Tree Road. This will be the third straight fall that Kenan-Flagler students and staff have applied their skills to the outdoor work of Habitat for Humanity in Orange County.

On September 14th, the employees of **Rambus, Inc.** of Chapel Hill will leave their sophisticated technology design work in the office and come out en masse to start working with Mario Mandujano's family. This will be the fourth house which the company has sponsored.

Three additional home starts will take place during September. The **Presbyterian** Partnership will start its 20th home, working with the family of Marlene Drummond. The **UNC Class of 2008** has pledged to complete a home as its service project this coming year, building with the family of Victorino Delgadillo. Members of the Presbyterian Partnership include:

- University Presbyterian
- Church of the Reconciliation
- New Hope Presbyterian
- Student Health Action Coalition (S.H.A.C. at UNC)

UNC Habitat/Chapel of the Cross Partnership, which also includes East Chapel Hill High School, St. Paul AME Church, UNC Dept. of City & Regional Planning, and the Psi Chapter of Sigma Nu, will begin its 25th home. Funding for the UNC Habitat home will come predominantly from the efforts of the cross-country bicyclists

who completed a Bike and Build ride this summer from Manteo, NC to San Diego, CA (see page 1). They will work along side the family of Fernando Salcedo.

Partners for the Spring 2008 homes are already committing. Partnership openings exist for the fall of 2008 and beyond. Please contact Don Click, 932-7077 ext. 215 or dclick@orangehabitat.org to discuss partnership opportunities or to arrange a team building day on the Edwards home in Chapel Hill.



420 Tulip Tree Road was completed over the summer.

Building a Better Community, One Home (and Dollar) at a Time

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County is in the final few months of a three-year, \$5 million comprehensive campaign to build homes and communities at an increased rate and to purchase land for future homes. With your generosity we have raised \$4.75 million! Thank you.



The success of this campaign will create the foundation for Habitat's 200th home to be built in Chapel Hill in 2010! That's 200 local families who will own a safe, quality home and who will enjoy the equity, opportunity, and self-esteem homeownership creates.

We need your help TODAY to build a better Orange County tomorrow. For more information or to help us raise that final \$250,000 by December 31st please contact Anne-Marie Vanaman at 932-7077 ext. 216 or amvanaman@orangehabitat.org.



Thanks to DesignHammer Media Group, LLC for designing our website

"DesignHammer Media Group delivered a stunning website to our affiliate. We are proud of the outcome and appreciate their discounted rates," say Sarah Washburn, HHOC's Development Coordinator. The new website, www.orangehabitat.org, features well-organized content and navigation with a construction-inspired theme. The site has increased HHOC's visibility in the community and provides donors with a secure and easy way to donate online. DesignHammer (www.designhammer.com) is just as pleased. They announced the launch of our site June 18, 2007, and have been excited to see the site working for us. "We were happy to be selected to work with Habitat on their website," said David Minton, Managing Partner for DesignHammer Media Group. "This redesigned site will assist Orange County Habitat in promoting their message, and will support the important work they do in providing affordable housing for members of our community."

Constellation Homebuilder Systems underwrites our construction software

Thanks to Constellation Homebuilder Systems for its continued underwriting of our local Habitat for Humanity affiliate's site license of its BuildSoft software.

Habitat for Humanity has been relying on BuildSoft Software for over a decade to automate our homebuilding operations. BuildSoft, the leading software application for small to medium-sized homebuilders and remodelers, is used by nearly 2000 companies across North America. It is a vital link in HHOC's construction work flow and increases our ability to steward our funds and build more homes with people who need them. Constellation Homebuilder System's continued generosity with their BuildSoft product makes it possible for us to more easily track costs and budget estimates of our homebuilding activities.

Daniel Zinman, General Manager of BuildSoft (www.buildsoft.com) is delighted. "It gives us great pleasure to see BuildSoft in action, allowing Habitat to closely monitor costs, and budget more efficiently to ensure that more homes can be built within the normal budget constraints."

Friday, October 5th is Community Spotlight Day at A Southern Season!

Bring this
with you!

Grab coffee at the Weathervane!

Order gift baskets! (*order now, ship at the Holidays*)

Prepare for your next dinner party!

Stock up for the holiday season!

Get that Vietri dinnerware you have had your eye on.

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web: orangehabitat.org

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