

Building on a Legacy of Leadership

DKE Brothers Honor Courtland Benjamin Smith

On the day of its dedication, the home of the Lion and Zar Rei Wei family was festooned with flowers, celebratory banners, and clusters of Carolina Blue balloons, with the sounds of hammers and saws in the background as work continued on the homes of their soon-to-be neighbors. As she offered a house blessing, The Reverend Tammy Lee presented a bouquet of sunflowers, a loaf of bread, a sprinkling of salt, and fragrant bundles of rosemary as symbolic gifts to the new homeowners at 104 Gracie Circle.

Mr. and Mrs. Wei fled with their children from Myanmar several years ago and are now employed at the University of North Carolina. On Saturday morning May 15th, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County volunteers, friends, and family of the late Courtland Benjamin Smith, and the Wei family joined the brothers of Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) to celebrate the completion of work on the Phoenix Place home, the first in the neighborhood to be completed and the largest Habitat for Humanity home built in Orange County.

Fueled by their commitment to find a blessing in the wake of Courtland's death, the UNC students raised the \$75,000 necessary to fully sponsor the Wei's new home. With a generous leadership gift, Bank of America provided early momentum for the ambitious fundraising goal, and the dedication ceremony was an opportunity to thank them and the many others who helped make this dream a reality.

Emulating the spirit of their chapter president and friend, Courtland Smith, work crews from the DKE fraternity were on site working almost every weekend side-by-side with the Weis and HHOC volunteers, from the frigid days of late January through the busy end of the academic year. Each of the 68 active members of the fraternity participated in the project and many of their parents

and family members also volunteered. Courtland Smith's parents, Susan and Pharr, and his brother, Walker, were enthusiastic supporters and on several occasions they made the trip from Houston to paint, saw, and hammer with Courtland's fraternity brothers.

Following a hearty welcome from John Sehon on behalf of the HHOC Board of Directors, Courtland's friends reflected on his selfless love for others and his legacy of leadership and service. Courtland's

family expressed gratitude for the support of the community and shared anecdotes, which conveyed a sense of Courtland's cooperative and conciliatory nature as well as his playfulness and his keen ability to be a peacemaker. Courtland was clearly a remarkable and highly respected young person who could get things done.

As the dedication ceremony continued, the Wei family who were attired in their colorful native garb performed a lovely vocal and instrumental medley of Karen songs

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The Wei family performed a lovely vocal and instrumental medley of Karen songs from their people in Myanmar.



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from their people in Myanmar. Not a dry eye could be seen in the crowd as twelve-year-old Ree Ree, surrounded by her parents and five brothers and sisters, told of her family's struggles and their heartfelt gratitude for their new home. From oppression in Myanmar to opportunity in Chapel Hill, theirs had indeed been a long journey.

Construction Director Tyler Momsen-Hudson and Site Supervisor David Hoxie shared their experiences with

the build, acknowledging the hard work and unfailing commitment of the DKEs, even coming bright and early on Saturday mornings. Likewise, the DKE brothers noted that the leadership of David, Tyler, and so many other HHOC staff and volunteers was essential to the success of the project. Parents in the crowd, though duly proud of their sons' efforts, were also (truth be told) amazed that their sons had actually built a house—and that it had passed inspection. It all was a tribute to the leadership of Habitat for Humanity, the power of perseverance, and the importance of family and community during challenging times.

As the ceremony concluded, the DKEs and the Smiths surprised the crowd by announcing their intent to continue their partnership with HHOC and Phoenix Place by raising the additional \$50,000 necessary to build the neighborhood playground area and picnic shelter, to be dedicated this fall and to be named in memory of Courtland.

Following David's presentation of a new Bible to the Wei family, guests toured their lovely home, and the Wei children proudly showed off their new bedrooms. Volunteers and guests posed for pictures with the Smith and Wei families as refreshments were shared. Both families were presented with scrapbooks, filled with photos and mementos of the building of 104 Gracie Circle.

As the guests began to scatter, six-year-old Hsar Eh Wei perched proudly in one of the Carolina Blue Adirondack chairs given to the Wei family by the DKEs, savoring a gooey piece of cake, and surely looking forward to growing up in Phoenix Place, where love built homes and where love will continue to build a community.

Contributed by Davis Willingham (UNC Class of 2011 and current DKE President) and his mother, Carol Connor Willingham of Raleigh NC.



Delta Kappa Epsilon brothers pause during a workday at the Wei house.

Habitat Update is published by
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A Place to Call Home

We have a new place to call home, and it is located only minutes away from Phoenix Place, across the street from the Timberlyne Shopping Center. The 3400-square-foot space is large enough for all our office staff, plus there's an area designated for the construction staff. We will have ample meeting space for our families, donors, and volunteers that includes two small conference rooms and one large and spacious conference room.

Our new office is at
 88 Vilcom Center Drive, #L110
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514.



Staff Transitions

Zack Miller, Construction Supervisor

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County has been a part of my life and family for a long time. My grandmother, Alice Miller, helped found HHOC more than 25 years ago, and I remember volunteering with my father when I was younger.



That is one of the reasons I chose to do a year of AmeriCorps after graduating from Orange High School. During AmeriCorps I had the opportunity to work with the site supervisors, Wednesday crew, and regular volunteers at HHOC. Though for

the past four years I worked in for-profit construction, in January I had the chance to join HHOC as a part time site supervisor, working with volunteers on Saturdays.

I am proud to join the HHOC team full time, and I am looking forward to making a difference in our community with all of you.

Anne-Marie Vanaman, Development Director

Our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to our long-time development director, Anne-Marie Vanaman, who left at the end of May to pursue other career opportunities.

Anne-Marie joined the staff of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County in November of 1998 as campaign coordinator for our first capital campaign. She was promoted in short order to become our first full-time development director. Her considerable abilities as a writer were evident throughout her career with HHOC. She developed and produced nearly all of our fundraising, marketing, and communications pieces, including fundraising letters, newsletters, annual reports, and brochures. Throughout her tenure, she focused on building our fundraising capacity. She successfully managed our \$5 million comprehensive fundraising campaign, and she developed our signature House Party fundraising event, now in its twelfth successful year.

We will miss Anne-Marie's skills, creativity, and expertise, but most importantly we'll miss her strong and sustained commitment to the HHOC mission and the families we serve.

Alex Bidot, Community Organizer

I was recently hired as the new Community Organizer for Habitat. I have been working directly with the Habitat's Homeowners' Associations and organizing the community garden efforts. I will also be reaching out to the rural church communities to find creative ways that they can participate in Habitat's mission.



Originally from Tampa, Florida, I worked with diverse communities in a cultural community arts center. I served as the program director helping track the progress of the arts classes and their impact on the community.

I came to UNC-Chapel Hill for a Masters in Social Work with a focus on Macro and Community Practice. I worked in the Chatham County School System as a school social worker. I helped start the school's community garden to introduce children in elementary school to healthy foods. I later interned at the North Carolina Housing Coalition where I helped advocate for affordable housing policy. There I participated in partnership with the NC Assets Alliance to survey different regions of the state about their needs for asset building, and the barriers they encounter in trying to obtain wealth.

I am very excited to be on board with the Habitat team, and I look forward to working with Habitat homeowners and volunteers in achieving sustainable communities.

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Thank you for donating your used home goods to the Habitat ReStore and encouraging your friends to do the same. The items you donated were (or will be!) sold to the public at discounted prices.



Habitat Tradesmen Build Habitat Homes

— Tyler Momsen-Hudson, Construction Director

Working in partnership with families to build their homes is a central idea of Habitat for Humanity. Every homeowner family puts in 325 hours of sweat equity while working with staff and volunteers to construct their house. Some homeowners, however, are still on our worksite years after they complete their sweat equity, and they spend weeks working on our houses. These are the homeowners who help build Habitat houses for a living. As a homebuilder, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County has developed relationships with tradespeople over the years. Like any builder, HHOC creates a team of people to get houses built, and the relationships should produce mutual benefits. For example, HHOC gets workers who are familiar with our specifications and schedule, and the subcontractors get steady work and predictable expectations. The relation between the trades and HHOC is even stronger when the worker lives in a HHOC house. We enjoy this relationship with four HHOC families.

Francisco Javier Lopez and his wife Hilaria and three children live in the Fairview Community of Hillsborough. A mason for 10 years, Javier customized his house during construction with a brick façade and stone covering the foundation. He built a number of brick steps on other houses in exchange for the materials and demonstrated that he could become our regular mason. Since that time Javier has built all of our foundations and brick steps.



Francisco Javier Lopez

The addition of Javier to our team has improved our performance. When the plans are unclear, Javier makes sure he understands what we want to build. Like all good tradesmen, he makes suggestions for improvements and has helped us build better houses. Our experience with Javier has been so positive that he now builds foundations for Chatham County Habitat for Humanity as well.

Mario and Lori Sotelo and their blended family of six children are one of the first thirty HHOC homeowners. They operate Sotelo Landscaping, a full-service company that offers both maintenance and installation. Their crew has landscaped a number of new subdivisions for local builders. For HHOC, they maintain our vacant lots spread around the county, keeping our properties attractive in neighborhoods trying to improve their appearance.



Mario Sotelo

Mario and Lori have opened the Calvander Garden Center offering shrubs, trees, grape vines, crepe myrtles, and other popular plants. Located beside the gas station at Calvander, the garden center features affordable plants selected for this area.

Sergio Verde Morales has lived in Orange County for fifteen years, has been a painter most of that time, and has been a HHOC homeowner for six years. He and his wife Laura have five children. Sergio started his own painting company three years ago, and averages about three employees.



Sergio Verde Morales

The sponsoring partnership for Sergio's house was The Doris Altmeyer Memorial Home and the HHOC Board. Chuck Altmeyer, a member of the board and longtime HHOC benefactor, later hired Sergio for painting in his home. Chuck gave Sergio such a favorable review, that when we were looking for a painter to finish two houses from the spring, Sergio came to mind. After painting the interior of one of our Phoenix Place homes, Sergio's crew will remain at the top of the list for future HHOC painting.

Oliver Morales has spent nearly as much time in Phoenix Place this year as I have. He installs HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) systems for L.D. Swain and Son, which takes about three days per house. Oliver leads the rough-in crew that installs the ductwork, and then he returns with the air-handler and compressor units. After Oliver connects all the equipment and vents the bathrooms and kitchen, all that remains is the electrical connection.



Oliver Morales

Oliver knows all our houseplans, and communicates with our staff about the many tasks that affect his work, from framing, grading, and wiring to siding and roofing. Oliver also knows the Green Certification requirements that Habitat must meet, and he performs his work to meet these requirements.

Oliver and his wife Berta live in Fairview. They have three sons and a daughter.

While it is always rewarding to work side-by-side with a family to build their home, it is a bonus to work with HHOC homeowners who are professional tradespeople. They understand what Habitat means for families who struggle to afford decent housing, and I think that provides extra motivation when they work on HHOC houses. They understand our program; they know our houseplans, and one more thing: we know where they live.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Record Building Season . . . and other Milestones

—Susan Levy

As I write, summer is much in evidence, and it is difficult to imagine that fall (and cooler temperatures) will soon be here. But as the summer winds down, vacations will be ending, students will be returning to school, and the intense activity of a new building season will begin.

Already, new foundations are being laid in Phoenix Place as we gear up to start on seven new homes. Five homes will be sponsored by University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill campus's Build a Block, a student led initiative to involve the entire UNC-CH community in building ten Habitat homes for ten UNC employees this academic year. In the Fairview Community, Orange County School's Hands for Habitat partnership is preparing to build its second Habitat home. The Building Hope Partnership and United Church of Chapel Hill Partnership round out the fall partnership roster.

Over the summer, the Habitat for Humanity of Orange County construction staff, partner families, and volunteers worked through the record-breaking heat to put finishing touches on the first nine homes in Phoenix Place. Thanks to their dedication and hard work, our partner families are preparing to move into the first home that they can truly call their own—just in time for the start of a new

school year. Thousands of volunteers worked on the first Phoenix Place homes, and anyone who came out to work on a Saturday during the past six months can attest to large crowds and bustling energy. They can also confirm that our construction staff and volunteer crew leaders stretched themselves to the limit to manage this level of activity, rising to the challenge of building more homes at one time than ever before.

Nine homes under construction at one time is a record for our Habitat affiliate, and it was fitting that we achieved this milestone as we celebrated the close of our 25th year of home and community building in Orange County. On April 17 construction stopped on the nine homes that were well underway so that volunteers, staff, donors, and Habitat homeowners could take part in a street fair at Phoenix Place.

The event drew a diverse crowd of more than 450, and there was something for everyone. St. Paul AME men's group provided lunch, while the UNC Gospel Choir and an a capella group singing in their native Karen (a Myanmar cultural group) language inspired us with song. There were games for children of all ages, and a chance to get our hands dirty with the dedication of the community garden.

As I listened to the stories of the people who helped to shape our first 25 years, I was reminded of the vision, faith, and selflessness of our volunteers, supporters, and homeowners. It was like being at a family reunion, a family I'm really proud and happy to be a member of.

Scenes from our 25th Anniversary Celebration

photos by Debbie Meyer and Jackie Helvey





2010 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

— Mae McLendon, Volunteer Coordinator

The theme for the 2010 National Volunteer Week was "Celebrating People in Action." Habitat for Humanity of Orange County has plenty of people in action. Whether it is a member of the Wednesday/Friday Crew hammering nails at a construction site, a volunteer in an orange vest directing people to parking during the Habitat for Humanity of Orange County 25th Anniversary, or a volunteer making a motion at a Board of Directors' meeting, our volunteers are always in action.

On June 3, 2010, HHOC hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to honor our dedicated volunteers who have provided service to us in 2008 and 2009. We wanted to show our thanks to the many individual volunteers as well as those who were members of partnerships. Without them, we would not be able to fulfill our mission.

During dinner the Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to board member Win Shaw. Not only does Win serve on the Board and the Executive Committee as our Vice President, he is also actively involved in other committees such as the Foreclosure and Finance Committees. He has also helped the Family Services Committee with home visits to interview potential new families.



Win Shaw

Our highest award, which is named in honor of one of this affiliate's founders, Alice Call Miller (see story on Zack Miller on page 3 of issue), was presented to Amos Umstead for his more than 15 years of service as a volunteer and especially for his work as part of the Wednesday Crew. Tyler Momsen-Hudson, HHOC's Construction Director gave examples of Mr. Umstead's dedicated and unselfish service to HHOC.

He offered anecdotes from the work site, and many in the audience nodded their heads in agreement. Mr. Umstead's wife and daughter were present to share this honor with him.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to partnerships. A special thanks was given to The Momsen-Fosters who have been providing meals to volunteers who serve on the Wednesday Crew and to HHOC staff.

Each attendee was given a reusable shopping bag with the HHOC logo. Thanks to Boston Market; Gloria Brown, Piedmont Health Services; Dorshester; Lynn's Hallmark Shop; Massage Envy; Orange County Solid Waste Management; Joanne Burden, Sports Endeavors; Ten Thousand Villages; and Twisted Noodles for donating



Amos Umstead proudly displays the Alice Miller Award plaque.

items and coupons for the bag.

Entertainment for the event was provided by Bernetta Lemon, a future HHOC homeowner, and her family who sang two touching songs.

We thank our volunteers for all they do on a daily basis for Habitat for Humanity of Orange County.

Thank You!

- Joel Shaffer and Norman Kaplan for hanging our awards, art, and white board in our new office
- Chapel Hill Planning and Public Works Departments for helping us meet critical deadlines for our first homes in Phoenix Place.
- Chapel Hill Fire Department for insulating fire sprinkler pipes and for donating ice
- Construction volunteers for braving record heat to build houses
- Volunteer crew leaders who supervised other volunteers during our busiest build season ever
- Sharon Riley and RSVP Events for their excellent management of our 25th anniversary celebration including the donation of the inflatable slide and moonwalk, enjoyed by children of all ages
- St. Paul AME Men of Destiny Conference for donating, preparing, and serving the food for the 25th anniversary celebration
- The UNC Gospel Choir and the Htoo family for providing musical inspiration for the 25th anniversary celebration
- Debbie Meyer and Jackie Helvey for photographing our 25th anniversary celebration

The Henry T. Clark Society Honor Roll of Charter Members

Welcome to the Charter members of the Henry T. Clark Society, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County's group of most loyal and dedicated donors. The Clark Society was created in 2009 in memory of Dr. Henry Toole Clark, Jr., whose vision, leadership, and generosity were instrumental in HHOC's growth and success. This Society recognizes generous individuals who make contributions of \$1,000 or more in a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30.) Habitat relies upon support from Society members to sustain growth critical to our organization's mission of bringing together God's people and resources to help families in need build and own quality affordable housing.

Anonymous (5)	Kim and Jim Henry	Norman and Bettina Roberts
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Marsha and Charles Altmeyer	Sara Hill	Gail Gillespie and Dwight Rogers III
Robert Anthony	Jane Holding	Rolander Family Foundation
Edward Baur	Elizabeth Holsten	Margaret Rook
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Lallie and David Godschalk	Deborah and Ed Roach	Carol and Ed Willingham
Jean Goepfinger	James Roberts	Heather and David Yeowell
Geoffrey Griffin		
Robin and Josh Gurlitz		
Jonathan Guze		
Lynda Haberer		
Sue Harvin		
Mark Hauser		
Linda and Jim Heffernan		
Pamela and Bradley Hemminger		

This honor roll of Charter members recognizes individuals who joined the Clark Society before June 30, 2010. We also thank those who have joined the Society since July 1, 2010, and all who support our mission. We apologize for any errors or omissions in this listing. Please contact Katie Thompson, Annual Giving Manager, at (919) 932-7077 ext. 218, to let her know of inaccuracies.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Members of the "Hands for Habitat" partnership celebrated the dedication of the home of LaToya McAdoo and Trisha Corbett at 451 Harper Ave. During the 2009-2010 school year the partnership engaged students in Orange County Schools in an ambitious service-learning project designed to increase awareness of issues surrounding housing and affordability. The project had three components; building, service-learning, and fundraising.
