

It's all about Giving – Habitat Homeowner and Community Activist Joann Shirer-Mitchell

Six years ago this month Joann Shirer-Mitchell and Marvin Mitchell closed on their home in Mebane. They left behind the public housing unit they rented for 14 years, for more money per month than their current Habitat mortgage. Homeownership had been Joann's goal since her participation in 1999 in the ACHIEVE program through the Chapel Hill Housing Department. She learned what she must do to increase her self-sufficiency, which included owning her own home. She researched more about homeownership and then successfully applied to Habitat for Humanity of Orange County.

Joann's Habitat experience was a leap forward in achieving her goal of self-sufficiency. Says Joann, "Tyler [Momsen-Hudson, HHOC's Construction Director] gave me a sense of professionalism. He let me take the lead as we built our home. It gave me a sense of pride." Marvin adds, "I liked building something for me, knowing it would be mine. But I worked with Habitat for years before even building our home. It was fun."

Joann became inspired to instill that pride and joy in others and has remained active with Habitat ever since. She became involved with her community's homeowners association soon after moving in and is now the president of the Habitat Homeowners Community Celebration Committee. Her group brings together homeowners from all HHOC communities in the county for an annual community cookout.

However, her community activism does not end with

Habitat for Humanity. Recently she participated in the Orange County Organizing Committee (now called Orange County Justice United in Community Effort) leadership training, where she was formally introduced to community organizing. Today, Joann is working with Orange County citizens to gather thoughts and tackle issues facing them. One looming issue is the increase in sewer rates in her area. The rate hike will create a burden on modest-income people and Joann is exploring what she and others can do about it.

Joann also initiated efforts to bring a Boys & Girls Club to Orange County because she feels youth could benefit from its safe and positive programs. If all goes well, a club will open in 2010. It's clear Joann is passionate about her community and that she has an energy and focus most would envy.

Joann and Marvin are enjoying their home as empty nesters for the most part. Daughter Lateasha

is in her third year at Winston-Salem State University studying Business Management. She plans to attend graduate school after she graduates next December.

As Joann and Marvin look out onto their peaceful property surrounded by rustling leaves and the bounty of Marvin's green thumb, they wish many more families in Orange County could experience the life-transforming possibilities homeownership can bring.

Please consider making a generous contribution to Habitat for Humanity of Orange County today. As Joann and Marvin prove, together we are building a better com-



Joann Shirer-Mitchell and Marvin Mitchell



2009 Construction Highlights

By Tyler Momsen-Hudson

As construction on Habitat worksites comes to an end for 2009, it is good to look back on our year in Fairview. We began the year finishing seven houses on Locust Road, and starting five more houses on three different streets.

The Apostles' Build Partnership worked with Habitat Site Supervisor David Hoxie to build our third two-story house with Luis Cruz and his family. Because of the height, we had planned to hire a roofer to install the shingles. By the time volunteers had framed and sheathed the roof, however, they decided they might as well finish the shingles as well!

Infrastructure work on Phoenix Place also started in the spring. With 50 lots, Phoenix will be the largest Habitat development in Orange County. House construction is planned for early next year. In May, Wednesday Crew volunteers starting to help renovate the building for the new ReStore, which opened in late July.



As the five houses in Fairview neared completion in the spring, we prepared to host the riders from Bike and Build on Memorial Day weekend. On one of the hottest days of the year, thirty riders joined Habitat Site Supervisor Steve Swart to frame the walls for Donna Corbett's house. This was their first workday since starting on the N.C. coast earlier in the week. Ahead, they had many more weeks of pedaling, working, and sleeping in gyms before reaching San Diego. With much help from our Wednesday and Friday Crews as well a new volunteers who were not affiliated with partnerships, Steve completed this house before the fall houses started.

The first of these fall houses was on 565 Homemont with future homeowner Tracey Little. Sponsored by the Kenan Flagler Business School, this house needed to have a Certificate of Occupancy by Nov. 1, to meet some funding deadlines. Faith Gardner, with KFBS and the regular Wednesday and Friday volunteers, beat that goal by eight days, for the fastest non-blitz house ever built by HHOC.

The remaining house under construction in Fairview is unique for Habitat for Humanity. Orange County Schools is sponsoring a house for Trisha Corbett and LaToya McAdoo, both graduates of Orange High. Everyone from elementary school children to high school seniors will work on "Hands for Habitat," a partnership between Orange County Schools and Habitat for Humanity where students will build, landscape and raise money for the green-certified home.

We are excited to be moving into Phoenix Place, but we are not abandoning Fairview. A foundation waits for lumber and workers at 552 Harper Road, and we continue to acquire building lots. HHOC has built 35 houses in Fairview since the first two houses were built on Terrell Road in 2006. Those houses are among the 80 houses we have built with fire safety sprinklers, and our first Green Certified houses are here as well.

When we first planned to start building in Fairview, the neighborhood had a reputation for drugs and crime, and we had a difficult time recruiting families to move there. Now, after 35 Habitat homes and three years of working with community leaders and the Town of Hillsborough, Fairview is a different place. Calls to the police have dropped 50 percent. We have no shortage of homeowner applicants. The perception of Fairview has changed, and according to one of the neighbors, Habitat families are not the only people moving into Fairview these days.

I am proud to have been associated with this improvement, and I am grateful to everyone who has played a part in it. I extend my thanks to all the volunteers, homeowners, and staff who have helped turn Fairview around, and I look forward to working together in the coming year.

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Orange County Schools Break New Ground

On Saturday, September 12, Orange County Schools launched Hands for Habitat, an ambitious and ground-breaking service learning project in partnership with Habitat. It is designed to increase awareness of issues surrounding housing and affordability through the design, construction, landscaping, and funding, of a green-certified Habitat home. Led by Mat Hamlet, Construction Technology Teacher at Orange High School, students are designing and building the home of LaToya McAdoo and Trisha Corbett, cousins and best-friends. The home is located on 451 Harper Road in the Fairview community in Hillsborough.



LaToya and Trisha

However, Hands for Habitat involves more than high school students; students throughout the grade levels are engaged in

learning projects focused on issues of housing in our community and world. Orange County Schools is recognized as the first known system-wide Habitat for Humanity project to incorporate service learning in its curriculum. Funding for the learning projects comes in part from a generous grant from State Farm's Good Neighbor program. When the home is completed in May 2010, Hands for Habitat will serve as a model for school systems nationwide.

Hands for Habitat would not have been possible without the incredible leadership of Pat Rhodes, Orange County Schools Superintendent, and Patricia Harris, Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Orange County Schools.

The wider community of Orange County is playing a vital role too, especially in the funding of the home. Hands for Habitat, like any other Habitat partnership, commits to raising \$35,000 toward the materials cost of the home. Gifts have come in from local businesses and churches. Long-time Habitat for Humanity partner Sports Endeavors is making an additional gift to support this partnership, a



Orange High construction students

\$10,000 challenge grant. If Orange County Schools can raise \$10,000, Sports Endeavors will issue a matching grant for \$10,000!

If you would like to learn more about Hands for Habitat, please visit http://www.orange.k12.nc.us/careerectech_Hands_for_Habitat.html.



Mat Hamlet, Orange High Construction Technology Teacher



Holiday Giving



The holidays encourage us to turn our thoughts to others, which is why non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity of Orange County often see donations increase during this season.

Habitat offers many ways you can give the gift of home this season:

- The old-fashioned way — send your tax-deductible check to Habitat by using the enclosed envelope;
- Make a secure online donation. Visit www.orangehabitat.org and click the "Donate Now" button;
- Donate shares of stock. Donating stock to HHOC is a simple task for your broker. You need only to tell him or her that you wish to donate shares of stock to Habitat for Humanity, Orange County, N.C., Inc.

You will also need to give your broker the following information*:

HHOC's DTC # is 0141.

HHOC's EIN number is 58-1603427.

HHOC maintains an account with Wachovia Securities. Our broker is Shirley Drechsel and her phone number is 919-928-8370.

HHOC's Account number is 3956-6759.

If you have any questions, please contact Anne-Marie Vanaman, Development Director, at 932-7077 ext. 216 or amvanaman@orangehabitat.org.

- **IMPORTANT:** So that we may identify your gift and send you proper acknowledgement of your gift for your tax records, please call or email Anne-Marie at the number above to let her know the type of and how many shares of stock you are donating.

Using your IRA to help Habitat

On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. While the main feature of the Act is the rescue/bailout package, it also extends certain portions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that expired on December 31, 2007. The centerpiece of the legislation from a gift planning perspective is the IRA Rollover provision. This provision allows individuals to make distributions from their IRA accounts directly to a charity without recognizing the distribution as income. The extension covers distribu-

tions made in tax years 2008 and 2009. Key points of the provision are:

- You must be at least 70 ½ at the time of the charitable distribution.
- You may distribute up to \$100,000 per year, for tax years 2008 and 2009.
- Distributions must be made directly from the trustee/administrator of your IRA to a qualifying public charity (you cannot receive the distribution prior to gifting to the charity).
- Distributions cannot be made to donor advised funds or "supporting organizations." Careful planning is required because many foundations are classified as supporting organizations.
- Gifts must be made outright to the charity (they cannot be used to fund charitable remainder trusts or charitable gift annuities).
- No charitable deduction is allowed, since this provision allows you to exclude the distribution from income.

Who might benefit?

- Individuals who have accumulated IRA assets that may not be needed to support their retirement lifestyle, but are required to take distributions each year. A qualified charitable distribution can partially or completely satisfy annual minimum distribution requirements, without having to recognize the distribution as income.
- Individuals who have made, or are contemplating making, charitable gifts that exceed 50% of their adjusted gross income (the maximum amount of deduction allowed for cash gifts). A qualified charitable distribution is not subject to the 50% AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) limitation because no charitable deduction is permitted.
- Individuals who own an assortment of smaller IRA accounts that while not substantial in relation to financial needs, nevertheless require owners to keep up with minimum distribution requirements each year. These smaller accounts can be given in their entirety (provided the total amount for all accounts does not exceed \$100,000) as a qualified charitable distribution.
- Individuals who do not itemize deductions on their federal income tax returns. Many prefer claiming the standard deduction and filing a less complicated return. Making a qualified charitable distribution will not require individuals to itemize, so there will be no need to change their tax preparation preferences.

How do you make a gift?

Contact your plan administrator to request a distribution from your IRA account to the charity under the Charitable Rollover provision. For your convenience, we have provided sample letters that you can use to make the request to your plan administrator and to let us know of your intentions. It is important that you alert us to the distribution so that we can monitor its receipt and provide you with the proper acknowledgement required by the IRS for charitable IRA Rollover distributions.



Honoring a Visionary: Dr. Henry T. Clark, Jr.

By Susan Levy, Executive Director

Last year Habitat for Humanity of Orange County lost a dear friend: Dr. Henry Toole Clark, Jr. Dr. Clark's vision, leadership, and generosity have been instrumental in Habitat's growth and success over the last decade and a half. He, with his wife Blanche, provided the model for student and community Habitat partnerships when he brought his fraternity, Blanche's sorority, and their church, the Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church, together to sponsor and build a Habitat home. The partnership between Habitat, Chapel of the Cross and UNC students has evolved and grown since 1993, achieving the very impressive milestone of starting its 30th Habitat home in 2009, and providing more than \$1 million to fund those homes.



Henry and Blanche Clark

Dr. Clark was an inspiration to me during my early years as Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. From my first day on the job, Dr. Clark challenged me and Habitat for Humanity to think, dream, and achieve beyond the ordinary. Through a generous challenge grant, he and Blanche encouraged Habitat to bring town and gown together to sponsor Habitat homes. He promoted a vision in which the University played a more significant role in providing affordable housing for its employees, and used its collective expertise, resources, and creativity to help solve the County's housing problems. He was the catalyst for his fellow residents of Carol Woods to sponsor a Habitat home in partnership with UNC's Student Health Action Coalition. Today, some 160 homes since my first day, I am proud of Habitat's accomplishments and our community's commitment to affordable housing, but I know that Dr. Clark would not be satisfied that we have done all we can. And I know that he would be right.

In April 2009, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County launched The Henry T. Clark Society, a giving society to honor his profound impact on our organization and the community. The Henry T. Clark Society promotes Dr. Clark's vision by supporting the continued growth of Habitat for Humanity and by serving more families. This new society encourages our most generous supporters to make annual contributions of \$1,000 or more.

In recognition of this commitment, Clark Society

members are invited to the dedication of all Habitat homes, recognized in the Annual Report and newsletter and invited to an annual event to learn first hand about the progress and plans of Habitat for Humanity, Orange County. Most importantly, they are helping us to help more families experience the positive impact of owning a home in our community.

I invite you to honor Dr. Clark's memory and invest in the construction of safe and affordable homes in Phoenix Place, Habitat's upcoming neighborhood in Chapel Hill.

To join The Henry T. Clark Society please send your gift to Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, 1829 East Franklin Street 1200B Chapel Hill, NC 27514 or visit our website: www.orangehabitat.org. For more information on The Henry T. Clark Society or The Stewards Fund challenge please call 932-7077 ext. 216.

The Stewards Fund Challenge

To encourage participation in the Society's inaugural year, The Stewards Fund of Raleigh has issued a challenge grant to match qualifying donations to The Henry T. Clark Society, up to \$45,000, between now and June 30, 2010. This is an all or nothing match; Habitat must raise \$45,000 in donations of \$1000 or more to receive the match of \$45,000.

Thank you...

- Diane Belden, Casey Saussy, Perri Kersh, and Mary Beth Grealey for hosting a Giving Party on December 3rd. Habitat for Humanity of Orange County will be one of the featured charities this evening. Last year's event raised \$2,500 for Habitat!
- CJ&P Advertising for honoring their clients with a holiday donation to HHOC
- Joel Shaffer, Mildred Brown, and Dave Morgan for much work on two resale houses, and to Kevin Battle for leading the effort

E-Newsletter

Want to stay updated on Habitat happenings and go a little greener? Visit www.orangehabitat.org and click on "Stay Informed" to receive an email link to the PDF version of this and future Habitat for Humanity newsletters.





Habitat Launches A Brush With Kindness



This fall Habitat is beginning an exciting new program, A Brush with Kindness (ABWK). A Brush with Kindness serves low-income homeowners who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes.

A Brush with Kindness ensures that families live in safe and well-maintained homes. The program is designed to revitalize the appearance of the neighborhood, encourage connections within the community, and most importantly, help preserve affordable housing stock.

How does ABWK work? Groups of volunteers help homeowners with exterior maintenance. This typically

includes painting, minor exterior repairs, landscaping, weatherization and exterior clean-up. Habitat selects partner families based on income, need and willingness to partner. They do not need to be Habitat homeowners. Habitat also uses donated materials and takes no profit for their services.

This fall HHOC completed its first ABWK project, building a covered entrance and a ramp on the home of Kathleen Newman who lives in Hillsborough. Ms. Newman is also the mother-in-law of Habitat homeowner Renee Newman.



A Brush with Kindness in action: before, during, and after. A ramp was later built to replace the steps.

Coffee for Habitat

Local coffee roaster, Joe Van Gogh™, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Wake, Durham and Orange Counties, will introduce their 2009 holiday blend, 'Home for the Holidays,' on November 1, 2009. The partnership aims to 'build hope this holiday season,' with 10 percent of the net profits for every bag sold going toward building homes for families in need in the Triangle.



'Home for the Holidays' will be available to purchase beginning November 1, 2009, in each of Joe Van Gogh's coffee houses, through the Joe Van Gogh Web site and at select grocery outlets, including Whole Foods of Chapel Hill, Durham, Cary and Raleigh.

For more information about this and other Joe Van Gogh coffees, visit www.joevangogh.com.

Shop (or donate) and be merry!

Wreaths, garlands, and ornaments galore! Create a festive home for your family this season with holiday decorating essentials from the ReStore. Visit the holiday corner and discover the new items arriving daily. (If you are faced with too many holiday storage boxes in your attic or basement already, you can share joy—and build homes—by donating your holiday extras to the ReStore.)

The ReStore offers even more for a warm and inviting home this year. Find unique serving dishes and home goods for entertaining. Shop for yourself and for a friend or loved one. Unexpected treasures make perfect gifts this season. Rediscover the ReStore today!

 **Habitat for Humanity**
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Call for donation pick-up!



Supporters of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County gather annually to celebrate Habitat's work and to raise funds to build homes and community in Orange County. Thank you to our party host, Joseph Rowand, and to our sponsors for a successful October 11 event!

The Carpenter's Circle \$2500+

Fred and Jane Dalldorf
 Bob and Joy Herrington
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 Margaret Parker
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Sylvia and Fred Black enjoy the beautiful setting at this year's House Party.

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Our newest group of future Phoenix Place homeowners gathered recently at the homesite where they are working on their required 325 sweat equity hours.

This Holiday Season, honor your loved ones and build a better community, one home at a time.

Your gift to Habitat for Humanity in honor of someone you love will make the dream of homeownership possible to a family here in Orange County, North Carolina. This year's card exemplifies the spirit of Habitat for Humanity: the coming together of people from all walks of life to construct simple, well-built homes that provide a solid foundation for parents to raise their families in safety and stability.

A gift of \$10 purchases two boxes of nails to build Habitat for Humanity homes here in Orange County. By building with volunteer labor and offering zero-interest mortgages, Habitat assists modest income families in building equity towards stable futures. And we all benefit from that. What better holiday gift could you give to the whole community? Your friends and clients will appreciate your thoughtfulness, and so will the Orange County families who will spend future holidays in a home of their own. And unlike a coffee mug, your gift to Habitat is tax deductible.

Send a donation of \$10 or more to Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, and we'll mail the card to your friend or family member announcing your gift in his or her honor. Habitat will personalize the card to your specifications, or if you prefer, we can send you the cards to personalize yourself.

Please use the reverse of this form to order your cards today.

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County thanks you for your support!



Designed by The Laughing Turtle

The inside of each full-color card expresses the following sentiment:

A donation has been made in your honor to Habitat for Humanity of Orange County to help a family realize the dream of home ownership.

Have a joyous holiday season.

Please mail the completed form and your donation to:
Habitat for Humanity, Orange County
1829 East Franklin Street 1200B
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

- A \$10 minimum donation for each card is appreciated.
- Please make checks payable to Habitat for Humanity, Orange County.
- Please send your form and donation by December 11 to ensure delivery of the cards by December 25 (by December 4 for foreign destinations).
- If you wish to send these cards directly to friends and relatives yourself, please indicate the quantity you wish to receive and your mailing address.

Name _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Total Donation enclosed \$ _____. (The amount of the donation will not be noted to recipients.)

I wish to send the cards myself, please send me _____ # of cards.

I wish for Habitat to personalize and send them on my behalf.

Your name(s) as you would like it to appear on the cards: _____

Please send gift cards to the following person (s):

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Donation: \$ _____

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Donation: \$ _____

Please feel free to attach additional names to your list.