

HABITAT UPDATE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, ORANGE COUNTY, NC

SPRING 2007

The Gift that Lasts a Life Time

The UNC Class of 2007 builds Habitat home in partnership with local family



The officers and marshals of the graduating class of 2007 at UNC-CH did not make it easy on themselves! In addition to contributing funds to the University as a class gift, the students also committed to funding and building a Habitat for Humanity home in Orange County as a way to give back to the community that has been their home for the last four years.

The class officers are still working hard to raise \$30,000 toward the materials cost of the home and have been coming out to build with Jose Gerardo Martinez and Florinda Cervantes since the fall. The home is scheduled to be dedicated on April 21st.

While the students knew they would be a part of something wonderful, that had a dramatic impact on the lives of one family, they were surprised at how close they would become with Jose, Florinda and their young children Linda and Ivan. Class photographer Melissa Williamson developed a true friendship with them, particularly Florinda. In fact, when the family's third child was born last fall, they gave her the middle name "Melissa."

Melissa Williamson noted, "I couldn't have asked for a better family to work with for my photo story.

They were so welcoming, and I truly enjoyed spending every minute with them. Gerardo is hard-working, Florinda is lively and personable, and the kids are a joy to be around. I am honored that they would allow

me to get to know them on a personal level. I will definitely continue my connection with the Martinez Cervantes family; they were like my second home last semester. The family is so grateful for everything that Habitat is doing for them, and I cannot wait to go visit them in their new house!"

Jose and Florinda immigrated from the central part of Mexico many years ago. Jose may be a friendly and familiar face to many of you – he has worked at Cliff's Meat Market in Carrboro for the last 11 years. Both he and Florinda are looking forward to owning their own energy efficient, quality home, which is roomy enough for their young family, and doing so affordably.

The Class of 2007 graduates into the "real" world this May. We think they have already learned far more about stewardship, leadership, and re-

sponsibility than many of us with years of experience in the real world. Thank You UNC Class of 2007!



Florinda, Jose, Ivan, Linda, and baby D'Arlene Mellissa

PHOTO BY MELLISSA WILLIAMSON



Bert Liverance recognized with NC Governor's Volunteer Award

After years of service to HHOC, Bert Liverance has been recognized as one of the top volunteers in Orange County. Bert is one of five winners of the 2006 NC Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

Bert has worked for many years on the Friday Crew. He has served on the Construction Committee for much of that time, including the last few years as Chairman. Under Bert's leadership, we have increased the number of plans we offer and have added masonry porches and other features to increase the attractiveness of our homes.

In 2002 Bert helped HHOC begin to install the first fire safety sprinklers in houses in Richmond Hills. Firefighters from Pinehurst came to Chapel Hill to train other firemen how to install sprinklers in Habitat houses. Since then Bert has coordinated the volunteers from several area fire departments to install the systems.



He also has ordered all the materials and has supervised every aspect of the sprinkler program. All the sprinkler pipe and fittings are donated by the manufacturers to Habitat, and this spring HHOC will install its 50th system in a new house.

In December the sprinkler system at one of the new homes on Nunn Street in the Northside neighborhood activated to put out a kitchen fire. The system worked perfectly, and the fire damage was minimal. Since they all knew Bert, the Chapel Hill firefighters called Bert to reset the system.

Last June during the Homebuilders Blitz, Bert managed to install three sprinkler systems during the few hours allotted by the schedule.

Bert continues to be a major part of our construction of affordable homes in Orange County. He is now working on ways to improve construction efficiency and to lower costs. Already, he is thinking about ways to update our house designs for our new subdivision to be built near Purefoy Drive.

Bert and his wife Mary are long-time residents of Chapel Hill. He is retired from the food service industry. Bert is the second member of the Construction Committee to win the NC Governor's Award. Art Cleary is a previous winner.

Habitat Hand Me Ups Co-Sponsors Home

In October the Habitat Hand-Me-Ups, our resale store, presented Habitat for Humanity of Orange County a check for \$35,000 to co-sponsor the home of Barbara Hopkins and her family on Purefoy Drive in Chapel Hill. This home is HHOC's

150th home and is being built by the partnership of Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church, UNC Habitat for Humanity, East Chapel Hill High School, UNC Dept. of City and Regional Planning, St. Paul's AME, and the Psi Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity.



Executive Director Susan Levy (left) accepts a \$35,000 check from Peggy Sanford, Manager of the Habitat Hand-Me-Ups Store.

Habitat Hand-Me-Ups sells gently used household items, furniture, and appliances to the general public to raise funds to build Habitat homes in Orange and Durham counties. Habitat for Humanity of Durham County was also presented with a check for \$35,000 in October.

Including this donation, Habitat Hand-Me-Ups Store has raised over \$339,000 since the store opened in 1995 to help build affordable homes in partnership with people in need.

Coming Soon . . . The ReUse Store

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County and Habitat for Humanity of Durham County will now accept new or like new construction and remodeling materials in order to build our inventory for a future ReUse Store. This future store will sell building materials to the general public to benefit local Habitat homebuilding in Orange and Durham counties. To help build our inventory or for more information, please contact Sarah Washburn at 932-7077 ext 220 or swashburn@orangehabitat.org.

Plan for the 2007 Tax Year and Help Build Habitat Homes Now

- The IRA Rollover Incentive-Taxpayers aged 70½ and older may make tax-free distributions from traditional or ROTH IRAs directly to charities like Habitat for Humanity. However, this new law is set to expire on December 31, 2007 unless Congress reauthorizes it. Take advantage now before it's too late!
- If you made a tax-deductible contribution in 2006 but are NOT itemizing deductions on your federal returns, you can still receive a tax credit on your North Carolina returns. Taxpayers can claim a 7% tax credit on all contributions that are above 2% of their adjusted gross income. Keep this mind when planning your 2007 charitable giving as well!
- Remember Habitat for Humanity of Orange County now accepts credit card donations online. It's safe, simple, and quick. Just visit our website: www.orangehabitat.org/donate.html and click on the orange button.

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

3710 Shannon Rd., Durham

Next to Post Office
919-403-8668
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Sunrise . . . Bradley

What's in a name?

Sunrise Ridge, our proposed development of affordable homes off of Sunrise Road in Chapel Hill, will now be called Bradley Ridge. Late in 2006, we began collaborating with the developer of Bradley Green, a subdivision adjacent to our Sunrise Road property. The result is a new development plan that encompasses Sunrise Ridge as well as Bradley Green, hence the name change. 31 single family Habitat homes are proposed on the original 17 acre tract owned by Habitat, plus 30 market rate single family homes on the remaining acreage. The private developer will be responsible for securing the necessary land use approvals, and will construct the infrastructure necessary to develop Habitat's 31 lots for single-family homes. Habitat benefits from not having to pay for and oversee the major infrastructure work being done by the developer, such as roads, sidewalks, and water and sewer. And Habitat's 31 affordable homes will allow the developer to meet the Town's requirements for affordable housing.

The collaboration between Habitat and the private developer is a positive step forward toward adding 31 new affordable homes in a location that is close to major employers and has easy access to schools, shopping, and health care. The collaboration will save Habitat about half of what it would have cost us to develop the lots on our own, and will allow us to more efficiently and cost effectively steward the funds provided by our donors and local government. We hope to begin building homes in Bradley Ridge in late 2008.

In Memoriam: Staff Sgt. Misael Martinez

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of one of our own. On November 11, 2006, twenty-four year old Staff Sgt. Misael Martinez was killed by a roadside bomb in Ramadi. He was on his third tour of duty in Iraq. Misael grew up with his family in Chestnut Oaks, a community of Habitat for Humanity homes west of Carrboro.



In December 2006, the Town of Carrboro passed a resolution honoring the young soldier by declaring December 6, Staff Sgt. Misael Martinez Day and flew town flags at half mast in his memory.

In addition, the Latino Community Credit Union has created a new fund in his memory, The Misael Martinez Memorial Scholarship Fund, to help high-achieving Hispanic students attend college. Please join Habitat for Humanity by making a contribution to this fund today. Contributions can be sent to: LCCU, Attn: Misael Martinez Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 25360 Durham, NC 27702.



Thanks to . . .

- Bob Callanan and the Planning Committee for the Southern Village 5K Race which raised \$17,000 for HHOC.
- Shaun Cosby, Jay Hickens, Eric Nessler, The Wakefield Family, Clare Wechter, Phil West, and Blue Sky Painting for building and painting the Playhouse which was raffled to benefit home construction.
- Arthur Belden, Carolyn Graham, Laura Graham, Arman Imani, Maritza Mendoza, Anna Niemiz, Eric Schmidt, Nicole Soulier, Kelli Thomas, Rae Thompson, and Nancy Wang for working the information table at Lowe's Home Improvement to encourage customers to make donations to HHOC.
- Sally Walker for reorganizing our mortgage files.
- DesignHammer for their excellent work on our website.
- CJ&P for honoring their clients through a holiday donation to HHOC.
- Dana and Esteban McMahan for opening their home to Habitat friends for our Annual House Party. We raised \$70,000.
- Janet McLamb for her donation of a much needed, high volume copying machine.
- Shawn Graham, Michelle Chang, Bruce Warrington, and Mike Waters of Kenan-Flagler Business School for working with Habitat to develop the Homeowners on a Positive Endeavor (HOPE) program.
- Beth Yount Grimes of Moore Van Allen Law Firm in Charlotte for her pro bono legal assistance.
- *The Chapel Hill Herald* and *The Chapel Hill News* for donating ad space to announce HHOC's comprehensive campaign.

Habitat for Humanity to Host 6th Annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner

Join us for great food, fun, and fellowship!

Mark your calendars now for Thursday evening, March 29, 2007 from 6:00 to 8pm, in the Fellowship Hall of United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

If you have not let us know that you're coming, please call Mae at 932-7077 ext. 221 or email mmclendon@orangehabitat.org right away!

Fairview Initiative Joins with Community Watch

The Fairview Initiative was formed in June of 2006 in response to growing concerns of residents of the Hillsborough neighborhood about safety, appearance, and homeownership in the community. Currently, the group is comprised of a diverse group of Hillsborough residents who are interested in the heritage and continuous growth of Fairview. Some of these people include Mayor Tom Stevens, Hillsborough Town Board members including Fairview's own Frances Dancy and Brian Lowen, Habitat for Humanity, local churches, and most importantly, Fairview residents.

In February of 2007, the Initiative and the Community Watch joined forces to work towards common goals. So far, the Fairview Initiative and Community Watch Collaborative has discussed and developed a preliminary action plan to address community appearance and maintenance, home repair resources, community events, the new Fairview Park, and more.

The first issue of the new Fairview Community Newsletter was distributed in late February. The Collaborative hopes that this publication will serve as a sounding board for the community, promote interest among neighbors, and encourage a broader scope of residential involvement. The group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Fairview Community Policing Center.

HOPE Program Gets Underway for Habitat Homeowners

This year, Habitat for Humanity Orange Co. is striving to promote better opportunities for our homeowners. In conjunction with The Kenan-Flagler Business School, we have designed a program called Homeowners On a Positive Endeavor or the HOPE Program. The workshops and services that will be offered are designed to enhance homeowners' growth in various areas. Career Planning, Financial Planning and a Youth Mentoring Group were chosen as the focus for upcoming workshops and classes. All of the classes are free and open to any Habitat homeowner.

The first service being offered is free tax preparation throughout February, March and April at two Chapel Hill Locations: Cheek - Clark Building, 505 West Cameron Street, Chapel Hill and Giles - Horney Building, 103 Airport Drive, Chapel Hill. Please Call 1-800-807-6349 for an afternoon or evening appointment.



Tulip Tree Road in Hillsborough's Fairview community is a happening place these days. Habitat will soon complete the first home, the second home has been blitzed (see page 6) and foundations are in place for three more homes.

Spring Builds in the Fairview Community

408 Tulip Tree Road

Family: LouBrenda Duffy
Partner: Sports Endeavors, Inc.
Matching Funder: The Stewards Fund



410 Tulip Tree Road

Family: Andrea Castellanas Ferrer and
Marcelino Gomez Dominguez
Partner: Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church
UNC Habitat for Humanity
East Chapel Hill High School
UNC Dept. of City & Regional Planning
St. Paul AME Church
Psi Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity
Matching Funder: The Stewards Fund

414 Tulip Tree Road

Family: Jackie Jones
Partner: University Presbyterian Church
The Student Health Action Coalition
(S.H.A.C.)
The Church of Reconciliation
(Presbyterian)
New Hope Presbyterian Church
Matching Funder: The Stewards Fund

412 Tulip Tree Road

Family: Renee Newman
Partner: Carol Woods Retirement Community
Student Health Action Coalition (S.H.A.C.)
Matching Funder: The John and Elizabeth Edwards
Family

Build the Orange!

Habitat is in the final year of our \$5 million campaign to increase our construction rate and our inventory of building lots. Currently you have helped Habitat raise \$4.3 million since July 2004! Please help Habitat provide homeownership opportunities to more and more hardworking and deserving families by contributing generously today. For more information, contact Anne-Marie Vanaman, Development Director, 932-7077 ext. 220 or amvanaman@orangehabitat.org.





Tulip Tree Rd. was the scene of much hammering on the weekend of February 16-18, as the Chapel of the Cross / St. Paul's AME / UNC Habitat Partnership brought the walls up on another Habitat home in a Blitz build.

Friday



Saturday



Sunday



If I had a hammer . . .



HABITAT UPDATE

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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