



www.habitatgcc.org



1155 Zion Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823

A Time to Give Thanks—A Time to Celebrate

2011-2012

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At this time of the year many people begin to think about spending time with family and friends and giving thanks. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County is no different. We are thankful for the hundreds of volunteers that help build simple, decent, affordable homes for our partner families. We are thankful for all of the donors that commit financial resources as well as items for our ReStore and in-kind services and materials, and we are thankful for our partner families.

In May we dedicated our 10th house at Thompson Place, which is a partnership with the Centre County Housing and Land Trust. This home was a Woman Build project and was built mostly by women. They did a great job and should all be very proud. Lowes was a very active partner in this project, not only providing financial support, but they also provided “How To Clinics” for the women. Lowes taught the volunteers about power tool safety, how to hang siding, roofing and hanging drywall.

In addition we launched a new exterior home maintenance program called “*A Brush with Kindness*” (ABWK). The launch of this program would not have been possible without the generous support of the Centre County Commissioners who provided the start-up funding. ABWK focuses on small exterior projects such as fixing steps, installing ramps, painting and minor siding repair. We were able to complete two ABWK projects so far and hope to do more in the Spring.

HFHGCC is also happy about one of our partner families. This is the first family in our history to pay off their mortgage.

Plans for 2012 are to have more ABWK projects to complete and we are scheduled to construct two more homes at Thompson Place. In order for the homes to be constructed we need donations. Donations can be made by mailing Habitat a check, dropping cash off at our office, calling the office with your VISA or MasterCard number, or online at www.habitatgcc.org.

Sponsor A Stud

Help Habitat build the next home in the Thompson Place community!

We are raising funds to begin construction on our next home on Woodycrest Street, State College. We need your help! Honor or remember a special person in your life by “Sponsoring a Stud” in the house.

You can sponsor a stud for only \$20. When construction begins, you will be invited to come on-site to sign your stud. Share a word of encouragement, a prayer, or write the name of your loved one. We want to literally surround our partner family with prayers and love.

For more information, or to Sponsor a Stud online, go to our website at Habitatgcc.org.

HFHGCC Staff

Tom Mesko
Executive Director

Missy Schoonover
Director of Development

Deb McGinley
Office Manager

Jennifer Wolfe
ReStore Manager

Dale Albright
Site Superintendent

Dennis Nearhood
Assistant Site Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County (HFHGCC) works in partnership with God and our communities to build simple, decent, affordable houses for qualified families in need of adequate shelter.

Annual Appeal 2011

The time has come to once more turn to you, our friends and neighbors, and ask that you help Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County continue its efforts to provide safe, decent and affordable housing in Centre and Clinton Counties.

You have supported us for more than 25 years, and your support means families get to know the joy and pride of home ownership. Your support means that the children of our partner families get to grow up in homes of their own; homes with adequate space and heat; homes in safe neighborhoods; homes with

indoor plumbing. It makes a difference.

You know that feeling, when, at the end of the day you finally arrive home? You take out your house key, open the door, and you're in your safe place. That's what your financial support gives to families who partner with us. It's hard to put that feeling into words.

This year, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County launched its 'A Brush With Kindness' program, which is all about neighborhood preservation and revitalization. This program enables us to reach

out to even more people in our community, and help sustain their homes.

Habitat does not give away homes, or repairs to homes. We offer zero-interest, non-traditional loans for families who qualify. We are in this together. Help us continue our mission of providing safe, decent and affordable housing. You can make an online donation at our website: www.habitatgcc.org. You can mail a contribution to us at HFHGCC, 1155 Zion Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823. All donations are tax-deductible, and all contributions go towards our mission right here in this community.

A Brush With Kindness

On May 20, 2011 Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County kicked off our newest program to compliment our new house construction.

Thanks to the Centre County Commissioners for their generosity of providing start up funding, we were able to launch *A Brush with Kindness* (ABWK).

ABWK is an exterior home maintenance program for low income households. Projects are

designed to be one or two days in length. Homeowners selected for ABWK agree to repay the cost of materials with a 0% interest loan.

We have completed two projects and will be accepting applications over the winter months for projects to be done in the spring and summer.

If you know someone looking for exterior home maintenance and they fall within the income guidelines below, have them call the Habitat office, (814) 353-2390, to learn more about the program.



Family Size	MIN Gross Annual Income	MAX Gross Annual Income
1	\$18,880	\$28,320
2	\$21,560	\$32,340
3	\$24,240	\$36,360
4	\$26,920	\$40,380
5	\$29,080	\$43,620
6	\$31,240	\$46,860
7	\$33,400	\$50,100
8	\$35,560	\$53,340

From Our President

Dear Habitat Friends,

2011 has been fraught with economic woes, political banter and finger pointing. It has been hard to keep our heads up and see some of the really great things that are happening in communities like ours. Right here in Greater Centre County, you don't have to drive too far to Thompson Place to see a family of four working hand in hand with Habitat volunteers to create something that rises above all else. We are not just building houses, we are creating homes.

Over the past year, we had over 300 women come together with donated labor, block, studs, windows, appliances, shingles and other materials to build a house. Over \$52,000 in funds and materials were collected by this extraordinary group of women. These organized, determined, strong women came together to build an amazing house, but in the end there stood a family and their home. And not just any home, but a home built with green eco-friendly materials, a home filled with studs and beams that were signed in honor of loved ones, a home built with energy efficiency which will reduce the family's cost of ownership, and a home which will bring this family together in a safe place that they can call their own.

This home also brings something more important to the family and to the Habitat organization. It brings the responsibility of home ownership and a 0% interest mortgage payment to the family. For Habitat, it brings an income stream which helps to create a sustained endowment for the future. We offer our families a "hand up" and not a "hand out." Families work with us to build their house, and they also make regular mortgage payments which we then use to build houses in the future.

Although mortgage income helps Habitat to perpetuate the building of affordable work force housing, it is not enough. The cost of construction and land continues to rise, and we need your support and contributions to help us build more houses to serve more families. When considering a contribution to our annual appeal, please think about the value you place on your home and what it means to you and your family. We thank you for your past engagement and would greatly appreciate it if you would make the decision to be our partner again for 2011-2012.

Sincerely,
Gregory T. Hayes
President of the Board

Wish List

- Copy paper - 8-1/2 x 11, 8-1/2 x 14, 8-1/2 x 17
- Postcards - Avery #3381
- Legal pads - 8-1/2 x 11
- Stamps
- HP21 & HP22 inkjet cartridges
- Walmart & Staples gift cards
- Scotch tape
- A digital camera that has an SD card
- Staples
- Lowes gift cards
- Binder clips
- Someone who would be willing to upgrade our accounting computer. We're using an older version of QuickBooks and in trying to upgrade to a newer version, some info doesn't transfer properly.
- Batteries - AA, AAA, 9-volt, C
- Mailing labels - Avery #5160 & #5260



The Woodycrest Neighborhood



HFHGCC
1155 ZION ROAD
BELLEFONTE, PA
16823

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US Postage
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State College, PA
Permit No: 104

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ReStore News

The ReStore's Christmas Shop is up and running and features everything from trees, to ornaments to collectibles. Stop by and see what you might find to make your home even more festive.

If you are in the market for some famous-maker lawn and garden tools, we have quite a selection at the ReStore. We currently have round, square and fork spades, aluminum scoops, drain spades and metal bow rakes. You'll be ready for Spring!

Our inventory changes constantly at the ReStore, and you never know what you might find. As this newsletter goes to the publisher, we have over two dozen 36-inch-wide over-the-range microwaves. They are a famous brand that sell for \$600 but you can get one at the ReStore for only \$300. They will not last long at this price, so stop by when you can.

This year the ReStore is once again serving as a drop-off point for Toys for Tots donations. This toy drive ensures that over 3000 children in need in the Centre Region have a happy holiday. If you would like to participate, please drop off a new, unwrapped toy at the ReStore. If you stop by check out the inventory we have of new and used building materials and household items. You simply never know what you might find at the ReStore.

You can check out ReStore news online, and see our specials by going to the Habitat website, www.habitatgcc.org. You can also 'like' the Habitat ReStore on Facebook, and receive posts on specials.

The ReStore is open Wednesday through Saturday from 9:00—4:00.

