



Habitat happenings

Get Involved. Learn How.

SUMMER 2010



Habitat Corner Begins!

On March 11th, donors, volunteers, and local officials gathered at the Habitat Corner build site at Acacia & Clay streets in Fairfield to kick off Solano Napa Habitat's newest home building project. Three single family homes are slated for completion by July, 2011. In July 2010, clearing and grading began at the site.

Project sponsors to date include California State Department of Housing & Community Development/Cal-Home Program, PG & E, Billy and Louise Yarbrough Family Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank, Abbott Fund, Coldwell Banker Northern California, Phillippi Engineering, Kelly Excavators and Septic, Macaulay Architects and the city of Fairfield.

We are still in need of committee members to help support this project: to raise funds, provide lunches for volunteers, recruit and support new homeowner families & promote our volunteer building days. Construction volunteer slots will be available on Wednesdays and Saturdays, once the site excavation work is completed. Call our office, (707) 422-1948 to get involved.

Meet Solano-Napa's Newest Homeowner Family: The McKenzies

In June 2009, a homeowner orientation meeting was held to recruit three families for the Acacia and Clay streets project in Fairfield. Over 25 families attended and four submitted applications. Our Family Support Committee reviewed these applications and one family was approved for entry into our homeownership program – the McKenzies.

Nigel McKenzie works for J.Ramirez Towing in Fairfield and provides support for his three children, Rockeish, 18, Chevelle, 15 and Nixon, 8. The family is currently living in a 2-bedroom apartment in the Fairfield area. Even though construction of their new home has not yet begun, the family has already started working on the 500 hours of sweat equity required for the homeownership program by assisting in the Solano Napa Habitat for Humanity office & warehouse. We are very excited to have the McKenzie family as our newest partner in building the first home at Habitat Corner.

We've Moved!

*After years of working in cramped quarters, we've moved to more spacious ones. We're still at 110 Railroad Avenue in Suisun City but now we're in **Suite E**. Stop by and see our new digs!*



Introducing Our New Executive Director: Steve Brothers

I am truly honored to be a part of an organization with such dedicated volunteers. We have so much potential for growth – this is a very exciting time to be involved with Solano Napa Habitat.

*Steve Brothers
Executive Director*

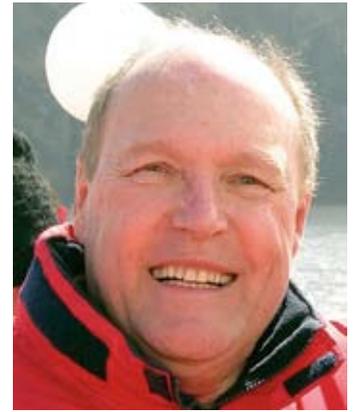
We are pleased to announce that Steve Brothers has accepted the position of Executive Director, the leader of our professional staff. Steve has served as President of our affiliate or lead volunteer for almost four years. Steve is the owner of Land Development Consultants, Inc. for 20 years and has retired his architectural license, his real estate license and his AICP planning certificate. He was a VISTA volunteer 40 years ago and recently completed training to be a VISTA supervisor.

A Message From Our President Roddy Feldman

I am honored to serve as the President of the Solano Napa Habitat for Humanity Inc. (SNHFH) affiliate. Most of our volunteers come to their first Habitat meeting with a hammer in their pocket. I have come to realize that it takes a great deal of time and effort and many hard-working volunteers to be prepared to pound the first nail. Habitat is not just about building houses – it's about strengthening families too. We have to keep our basic programming in place. We are committed to working with our Family partners. Habitat for Humanity International says if our selected homeowners don't need some support or advice

from time to time we are not working with the right families. Raising money, coordinating volunteers, seeking donated services, materials and expertise, promoting our work in the local community and mentoring our families – all requires many, many volunteer hours prior to the start of our construction projects.

We have been busy for our future. SNHFH has developed a long-range plan to increase the number of families that we can serve each year. Our next three homes on Acacia & Clay streets in Fairfield are in the pipeline. We are working on prospects in Napa, Vallejo, Vacaville and Be-



nicia. We have volunteer positions available for all skills and abilities – construction, graphic design, volunteer recruitment, data entry, event planning, church relations just to name a few.

Call us at **707-422-1948** to find the perfect volunteer opportunity for you and to meet our other wonderful volunteers! Stay tuned. With your help, our future is growing.

New Development Director Named Andi Bosco

The Board of Solano Napa Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce and welcome Andrea (Andi) Bosco as the new Development Director. Andi is a Solano county native who was born in Vallejo, grew up in Green Valley and graduated from Armijo High School. Best known as a well-respected realtor in Solano County, Andi has a strong community service ethic. For ten years, she was a mainstay of the Fairfield Visual Arts Association



as grant writer, fundraiser and treasurer. Andi also served on various committees regarding open space, land use, highway improvement and participated in work-

shops for the County's General Plan, Cordelia Rotary, Fairfield Chamber, and was a design review Commissioner for the city of Fairfield. Her high level of community involvement and fundraising along with her strong corporate background are important qualities Andi brings to this new, grant-funded position. We are pleased to have her as part of the SNHFH team! Contact Andi at 707-422-1948 or abosco@SolanoNapaHabitat.org to find out how you can help with fundraising efforts or to make a donation.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Solano Napa Habitat for Humanity has entered into a partnership with the city of Vallejo. Our affiliate contracts with the City to use federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to acquire foreclosed homes, rehab them and re-sell them to qualified families with up to 120% of the county median family income. To date, Habitat has acquired 3 homes, with plans for more. The first



completed one, located at 485 Phoenix Circle, Vallejo was highlighted at an open house event on August 12, 2010 with guest speaker, Congressman George Miller.

Checking In To Rehabs

Last summer we collaborated with two other non-profits in the repair of a home in Napa. We worked with the First Presbyterian Church and V.O.I.C.E.S. on a low income owner's home. This was an intense effort completed in slightly more than a week. For the three generations living there, the home was painted inside and out, the site relandscaped and the play area improved. New appliances were provided

through our Whirlpool connection with Habitat for Humanity International. Some roof repairs were also completed. Perhaps the most important contribution was correcting a slow gas leak in the crawl space which could have caused major problems down the road. The homeowner was extremely thankful for all of our help. It was a great experience for Habitat to join forces with other local non profits to help someone out.

• 3 Ways to Get Involved •

1. Volunteer:

Whether it's swinging a hammer or making sandwiches, volunteers are what makes this organization SHINE.

2. Join a Committee:

We have committees ranging from Volunteer Relations to Public Relations and Family Service to Development. Join the one that fits you best.

3. Donate:

While most of our mission is volunteer driven, Habitat could not survive without the generosity of its financial donors. To donate, use the enclosed donation envelope or visit our website at www.solanonapahabitat.org and click on the Donate button on our home page.



Get Involved. Learn How.

HABITALK serves as a public orientation to Solano Napa Habitat for Humanity. It's held the fourth Saturday every other month at our office in Suisun City. HabiTalk meetings offer an overview of Habitat International and the local SNHFH affiliates mission and goals, the various committee's and how to become more involved, as well as current and upcoming projects. HabiTalk is an integral part of our efforts to staff SNHFH operating committees and recruit volunteers. We've had a great turn out of folks at these meetings who are interested in just about every aspect of our operations.

Kudos to Board Member Kathy Beistel who resurrected this program and does a great job presenting this orientation. Come see her inspiring presentation! At each meeting, you can also meet a Committee Chair or member of the Board and hear their story about what brought them to Habitat.

The next HabiTalk meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Solano Napa Habitat Office, 110 Railroad Avenue, Suite E, Suisun City, CA 94585.

Please contact Andrew Killeen at andrew_killeen@hotmail.com or 707-422-1948 to reserve your seat

To find out more ways to get involved in your community, visit us at:

www.solanonapahabitat.org

Recruit Your Church to Join Our “Building On Faith” Project

With work finally getting underway on our first house at Acacia & Clay Streets, we need to focus on facilitating the building of the second and third houses slated for completion at this site. To plan for this, we are calling all local church and faith-based groups to help us plan and organize our next building project. Our Faith Relations Committee meets the third Thursday of each month at 6 pm at the Habitat office. All are welcome to attend. Call the office for additional information at 422-1948.

THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT HOUSE SPONSORS ACACIA & CLAY STREET PROJECT IN FAIRFIELD

California State Department
of Housing & Community
Development

Billy & Louise Yarbrough
Family Foundation

Wells Fargo

Abbott Fund

Coldwell Banker of Northern
California

Phillippi Engineering

Macaulay Architects

PG & E

City of Fairfield

Kelly Excavators and Septic

MEETING INFORMATION

Board of Directors

3rd Monday of each month, 5:30 pm

Construction Committee

1st Tuesday of each month, 5 pm

Development Committee & Public Relations Committee

*3rd Wednesday of each month,
6 pm – joint meeting*

Faith Relations Committee

3rd Thursday of each month, 6 pm

Family Services Committee

4th Wednesday of each month, 6 pm

Finance Committee

1st Thursday of each month, 11 am

HabiTalk

*4th Saturday of every other month,
10 am*

Volunteer Relations Committee

3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm



110 Railroad Ave., Suite E
Suisun City, CA 94585