



Habitat happenings

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WINTER-SPRING 2015

MEET OUR TWO NEW FAMILIES



THE KENNER FAMILY

Briana Kenner and her two daughters, 8-year-old Shamia and 12-year-old Maishia, are very excited about being selected for one of the two new homes Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity is building on the corner of Missouri and Taylor Streets in Fairfield, CA.

Having lived in Vallejo, CA their entire life, the family is looking forward to moving from a high crime area to a safer neighborhood. Briana, who has been employed at Travis Air Force Base for the last six years as a Head Referral Management Clerk, has known about Habitat for Humanity for years but said "I never thought that I would qualify for a Habitat home. When I learned that Habitat would be building two homes at Missouri/Taylor, I went ahead and applied." Shamia is excited about moving to a new home, saying "I can't wait to paint my room in a beautiful blue or purple color." She enjoys singing and dancing while Maishia enjoys playing sports, writing poems and drawing. The family enjoys cooking, playing games, and going on outings together.



THE GAYTAN FAMILY

Also recently selected for one of the Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity homes on Missouri and Taylor Streets is the Gaytan family. The family, who have been residents of Fairfield, CA for about two years, currently resides in a neighborhood frequently requiring a police presence.

Family members include mother and co-applicant Idalia and her oldest daughter Bella (applicant), who is employed at Trader Joe's in San Francisco. Jessica, 20 years old, is currently attending the CSU Monterey Bay where she is majoring in business administration. Carla is 16 years old, attends Rodriguez High School, and enjoys art and attending church with her family. Juliana, 13 years old, who attends Grange Middle School, enjoys school, playing outdoors and praise dancing at church. Jessica looks forward to completing college and using her business training to help her mother, who has had her own house cleaning business for over 16 years. The family is very excited about being selected for a Habitat home and looks forward to having a three bedroom home, rather than their current over-crowded two bedroom apartment. Juliana also looks forward to living in a safer neighborhood where she can ride her bicycle and play in the yard. Idalia believes their prayers have been answered, saying that "Owning a home will provide our family with a sense of pride and a place to have family gatherings." The family enjoys spending time together eating, attending church, bowling and watching movies.



We're Building in Fairfield!

Now that you've read about our newest families, here's the scoop about our next two homes in Fairfield at the corner of Missouri and Taylor Streets. Habitat purchased the lot in 2001 with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the City of Fairfield. We had the groundbreaking ceremony during the summer and poured the foundations the first of October, and framed the homes in November. Building days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays with two days a month designated for our Women's Crew volunteers. This project is ably led by Mark Baides with great assistance from Al Maddalena and Jamie Underwood heading the construction staff. A small army of volunteers, including sponsor work groups, rounds out the build team.

"The homes will cost approximately \$436,000 and we have raised over \$300,000 to date," according to Development Director Kathy Hoffman. "Our sponsors and donors have come through once again to support our mission to build affordable homes for hard-working, low-income families," she added. In addition to financial donations, we have been able to obtain a great deal of construction materials either at a discounted price or fully donated including windows, insulation, concrete, heating and ventilation, and electrical supplies.

Sponsors include the City of Fairfield, CalHome (grant), Anheuser Busch Brewery, Valero Benicia Refinery, Kiewit Infrastructure Group, Wells Fargo, Genentech, Calpine Energy and numerous individual donors.

To make a donation or sign-up to volunteer, visit our website at <http://solanonapahabitat.org> or phone us at (707) 422-1948.

Habitat Comes to St. Helena

Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity, working closely with a local housing advocacy group, Our Town St. Helena, has identified a project in the city of St. Helena. This project will be our first major "up-county" project. Mr. and Mrs. Hernandez, long-time residents of St. Helena, are retired winery workers. Mrs. Hernandez suffered a stroke in early 2014 and the couple requires modifications of the home to make accessibility easier for Mrs. Hernandez. For more information on this worthwhile project and to donate funds or to volunteer, contact Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity at (707) 422-1948 or Our Town St. Helena at (707) 963-1458.

A Message From Our President

What if you couldn't play in your front yard because there were drug deals going down outside your house? Even worse, you couldn't play in your backyard because vicious dogs on either side kept breaking through the fence? What if you lived in a neighborhood where the sound of gunfire was a regular occurrence and police crime tape marked areas in your neighborhood? Pretty awful living conditions, right? Well, those are what our two new families face on a daily basis where they currently live.

Thanks to you, our wonderful donors, these families will be occupying their own new Fairfield homes in a few months. You are helping create a better living environment for these parents and their children. Thank you for caring so much about your community that you are providing safe, decent, affordable housing for families who need the help. And our new homeowners are so grateful. They have begun their sweat equity

commitment, helping build their new homes. Imagine the pride of knowing you helped build your own home!

Your generosity helped homeowner Barbara Guiducci and her granddaughter stay in their Napa home. With your donations of money, time and help, her home has finally been repaired from damage it suffered in the 1986 flood as well as deferred maintenance. Now they have a comfortable and cozy home for years to come.

There are many more needs on the horizon as we help our neighbors who suffered damage in the recent earthquake. Friends and families in both Napa and Vallejo will need long-term help repairing and rebuilding.

You have made so many things possible for people who need better housing or improvements to stay in their homes. You have touched their lives, made a difference right here in your community. Thank you for caring and contributing.

- Ann Cousineau

Quilters help Habitat for Humanity Families

Two Vallejo friends, Rosie Rockwood and Valerie Gunnell, can't stop making quilts. Almost endlessly, they make quilts and then find a cause. Helping victims of a tsunami in Japan? Or the devastated town of Joplin, MO after a tornado? Or a cause finds them, and in this case, it was our affiliate, Solano-Napa Habitat! In November, two large boxes with 34 quilts were delivered to our offices, earmarked for eight of our Habitat families who live all over Solano County. A labor of love, all done in three weeks. What a lovely surprise for the holiday season. Thank you Rosie and Valerie.



Earthquake Responses

In 1999, Habitat for Humanity International adopted "Disaster Response" as part of its mission and since then, local affiliates have responded to housing needs caused by hurricanes, tornados, wildfires, floods...and now earthquakes.

Solano-Napa Habitat is prepared to respond to assist low-income homeowners in Napa, Vallejo and American Canyon, focusing on long-term recovery after national, state and local assistance has been exhausted. When homeowners still have unmet needs, Habitat and other local organizations step up to help by providing volunteers, resources, coordination and advocacy. Habitat's goal is to minimize duplication of services to maximize the recovery value of disaster response resources.

Board Treasurer Craig Paterson is taking the lead on the affiliate's involvement in this disaster response. "Rebuilding a community after a disaster like the earthquake is a long-term commitment," according to Craig. "Habitat will be here for however long it takes," he added.

As a retired minister, Craig has had first-hand experience in responding to disasters – he led the effort after the Marysville-Yuba City floods in 1997. However, none of this is possible without financial support and the efforts of volunteers.

Meyer Cookware recently donated hundreds of pots, pans and dishware to Habitat for earthquake relief and we partnered with The Salvation Army in Napa to distribute these items to families affected by the quake.

Habitat does repairs and sometimes new construction, refers volunteers to other recovery groups, provides construction assistance and guidance to local government and long-term recovery groups and provides advocacy for those who are having difficulty navigating the sometimes complex and confusing disaster recovery process. We will also offer discounts on ReStore merchandise to disaster-affected families, making the rebuilding process much more cost-effective. To make a donation or sign-up to volunteer, visit our website or phone our office: (707) 422-1948.

Deconstruction

Remodeling? Consider our free program to take out what you are throwing away. Staff and volunteers remove good quality cabinets, appliances, sinks, and other usable building products from homes and commercial buildings that are being remodeled. Our program saves the owners the time and expense of doing it themselves, and at the same time, keeps the items out of the local landfill and generates product for sale at the ReStore. If you are interested in having us evaluate your project for possible deconstruction, please call us at (707) 422-1948.

Dream Builders

Have you ever built a house? Installed windows? Tiled a floor? Even if the answer is a resounding "NO!" we still want you on our Building Team! Join our Dream Builders. By making a minimum investment of \$500, you can provide families with a hand-up, not a hand-out. Your investment assists hard-working families to build and purchase their first home. To find out more or to join, contact our office.

Napa Rehab Project



Barbara Guiducci, a retired nurse with Queen of the Valley Hospital and grandmother, was sure it was an April Fool's joke when Habitat informed her on April 1st that they would rehab her home. When she realized it was not a joke, she cried, "They saved my life!" Referred to us by COPE Family Services in Napa, Barbara was a perfect candidate for our assistance. As a homeowner, she has endured her share of challenges: her home was devastated by the 1986 Napa flood, trashed by renters in 1998, and sustained major floor and water damage as a result of a deteriorating roof. At 72 years of age, Barbara recently assumed responsibility for her granddaughter Tema, but her resources are limited and her house was in poor condition. If not repaired, ultimately it would be uninhabitable. "Our first priority was to replace her roof and gutters," said Anne Gustin, Habitat's project manager. "Next we covered the concrete slabs with flooring, replaced the windows with new dual pane, energy efficient windows, painted the interior and exterior, and removed a dumpster-full of vegetation that had taken over the yards," Anne added.

This rehabilitation was made possible with the support of many donors, including Wells Fargo, Bank of America, St. Joseph Health-Queen of the Valley Medical Center, The Gasser Foundation, UPS Capital, and a family friend. Simonton Windows provided a hefty discount on the windows.

ReStore Volunteers Needed ReStore is doing so well it needs more volunteers to assist with its operation. We need cashiers, sales and donation receiving staff, donation pickup drivers and marketing assistance to keep the store operating efficiently. If you are looking for a fun and rewarding volunteer experience, ReStore is for you! Call Manager Mike Glancy at 707-863-0692 or stop in at 104 Commerce Court in Fairfield and see what we're all about.

ReStore Celebration

In September, our ReStore celebrated its 3rd Anniversary with a day of events that included discounts on purchases made that day, a raffle, the ability to sign 2x4 wood studs which are part of our new Missouri/Taylor homes, and an electrical wiring demonstration. With the help of over 40 volunteers (many from Travis Air Base), affiliate staff members and several members of our Board of Directors, we hosted a birthday party to say "thank you" to those in our community who have made the ReStore such a success. "ReStore has exceeded our wildest expectations," said ReStore Manager Mike Glancy. "The support from the public has been awesome with both donations and purchases," he added. Proceeds from the ReStore support Habitat's mission to build affordable homes for hard-working, low-income families. The long-term goal is to make enough money to cover all expenses to run the ReStore and affiliate, and to help fund new home construction. Thanks to all of you who donate, shop and volunteer at ReStore!



ReStore is a discount home improvement center with a simple premise: by selling donated building materials, furniture and appliances, we can cover our costs so donations can be used to build and renovate affordable homes for hard-working, low income residents in Solano and Napa counties. Open to the public Tuesday thru Saturday, 9am - 5pm, ReStore materials are discounted 50% to 90% from original retail. Donations arrive daily, so shopping opportunities constantly change with new bargains all the time. To donate (and get a tax write-off), call our hotline at (707) 863-0692. The store is located at 104 Commerce Court in Fairfield.



Cars for Homes Donations

(of your unused car, truck, van, trailer, RV or boat)

Support Solano-Napa Habitat with donations that help us build more homes in our community.

Call (877) 277-4333 toll free or e-mail www.carsforhomes.org for more information.

Your Support Makes a Difference!



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Mission Statement:

We bring people together to build decent, affordable homes and empower families through home ownership.

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