



Solano - Napa
Habitat
 for Humanity®
Celebrating 25 Years

5130 Fulton Drive, Suite R, Fairfield, CA 94534

Habitat happenings

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(707) 422-1948 / www.solanonapahabitat.org

WINTER/SPRING 2016

A Message from Our President


The year 2016 is a very special one for us as we celebrate 25 years of building homes and hope in the communities we serve.

There is something magical and joyous when a family in desperate need of decent housing receives the keys to their new Habitat home. Or when a homeowner with a deteriorating home is able to see that home restored to its former luster. How that impacts them ripples out over the years in many tangible and intangible ways. Our experience shows that it makes them better members of our communities.

As you read this newsletter, you will see stories about our dedication of two new homes in Fairfield, the restoration of a home of a disabled veteran and disaster recovery work assisting families by repairing earthquake damage in Napa.

You will also read of our plans for more building projects in Vallejo and Napa. Each time we move a family into a home that is safe and secure, or help an existing homeowner by enabling them to stay in their home, we are building hope and strengthening our communities.

We wouldn't be able to do these projects without the help of you, our generous donors, sponsors and volunteers. Thank you sometimes seems inadequate but we do thank you as your continued support is improving the lives of our local families.

We hope 2016 is a wonderful year for you!
 - Ann Cousineau 

Earthquake Repairs Will Soon Begin


With grant funding received from the Napa Valley Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund, we are happy to report that we will soon begin working on repairing the homes of 8 low-income, working families in Napa who had damages dealing with health and safety issues since the August 2014 earthquake hit the region. This is an important opportunity for Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity (SNHFH) to assist the Napa community in a unique way, enabling these families to have earthquake damages repaired that they could not afford to have done themselves.



Two Families, Two New Homes!

Our two-home project on the corner of Missouri and Taylor Streets in Fairfield is now complete, and we celebrated with a dedication on Saturday, September 19th. It was a heartfelt and exciting day as we welcomed the Gaytan/Barron and Kenner families into their new homes, and into our Habitat Family.

The purpose of the dedication was to thank the many volunteers, donors and sponsors who helped make the building of these two homes possible through their volunteer hours and financial and product donations. Close to 100 community members, including local dignitaries, volunteers, family members and friends of the new homeowners attended the celebration.

Both families completed their sweat equity hours and received the keys to their new homes. Recognizing the many hours of work the volunteers, sponsors and staff members put into building her home, Briana Kenner said "You guys were there for me through it all." She and her two daughters Shamia, 9 and Marisah, 13 will live in one of the two homes. "Thank you Habitat. You are now our family too." 

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Volunteer Spotlight: Bill Cinquini



If you are a Napa resident, you may have seen or heard of Bill Cinquini. Perhaps you're aware of his involvement with the California Grand Jury Association, or maybe you know him as the past president of the local Kiwanis Club, or for his work on projects for the Enchanted Hills Camp for the Blind. For the past five years, we here at Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity know Bill because of his tireless efforts as our Napa County Volunteer Coordinator as well as being a build site volunteer himself.

Habitat for Humanity has always been on Bill's radar, but it was thanks to a close friend that he became connected with the local affiliate. He quickly stepped in and helped where needed, and now finds and places volunteers on construction projects and other various tasks. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization, and Bill's role is a vital part of what makes it run smoothly. Volunteer tasks are as varied as the projects themselves, and Bill wants the community to know there is a job for everyone.

"Many have a picture of someone with a hard-hat, hammer in hand, building a floor or wall for a new home," said Cinquini, who describes a typical Habitat build. But in Napa, the tasks are much more varied. "Habitat has taken on various home rehabilitation projects to enable a homeowner to stay in their home by improving it and making it safe. This has involved many hours of volunteer service from yard clean up to installing new windows, expanding a bathroom to provide wheelchair access, flooring installation, and interior and exterior painting. To list just a few!"

"Fear is no excuse to stay home," says Cinquini, who recalled a woman with a "can-do" attitude who learned to use tools for the first time at one of her volunteer assignments. "Come out for the joy of helping a family or an individual live in a safe home, to learn a new skill, or to meet other volunteers and enjoy being a part of a very meaningful experience."

Thank you Bill for inspiring a community of volunteers! 🏡

Earthquake Repairs Will Soon Begin (continued from p. 1)

For over 25 years, Habitat for Humanity has been part of the national coalition of nonprofit organizations active in disaster recovery. In recent years, Habitat has become a primary recovery agency whenever and wherever disasters strike. Locally, SNHFH has been one of the

key organizations in advocating for survivors with ongoing unmet needs and soon in providing critical repairs. After all national and other local funds were distributed, several hundred families in the Napa area and in Vallejo continued to have unmet disaster-related needs.

Fortunately, many have now received additional assistance, but some are still waiting for help. When we've completed our repairs for the 8 low-income families that are already under our care, we will work with other local agencies to continue this important work. 🏡

Celebration of Support



2015 Volunteer of the Year, LC Naylor, with Board President Ann Cousineau

The 2015 edition of this annual event was held in downtown Suisun City on the evening of January 21st. During the award ceremony, our Volunteer Relations Committee recognized the volunteers whose contributions during 2015 were most outstanding, by awarding the following:

- 8 **Gold President's Volunteer Service Awards** (more than 500 volunteer hours)
- 7 **Silver President's Volunteer Service Awards** (250 to 500 volunteer hours)
- 27 **Bronze President's Volunteer Service Awards** (100 to 250 volunteer hours)
- 74 **Certificates of Appreciation**

Top honors went to:

- LC Naylor, *SNHFH Volunteer of the Year*
- Mark Baides, *Construction Volunteer of the Year*
- Rich Schwab, *ReStore Volunteer of the Year*
- Kathy Hoffman, *Sustainability Award*

2015 by the Numbers:

1,029 Volunteers | 33 Work Sites | 27,920 Volunteer Hours 🏡

Assembly Member Bill Dodd's Annual Holiday Party is a Swinging Success

Bill Dodd's 16th Annual Holiday Party and Golf Tournament took place on December 14th, 2015 and we were honored to be this year's recipients of the funds raised. It was a wonderful, sold-out event, and attendees enjoyed a day of camaraderie and golf, followed by a festive holiday party including a buffet dinner, fine wines and silent and live auctions. All of the net proceeds went directly to our organization, and we are thankful to our host Bill Dodd, the 19+ sponsors, auction item donors and 370 attendees who helped make it all possible. 🏡

Napa's First Ground-Up Home

We are happy to announce that we will be building our first ground-up home in Napa! The City Council has approved our purchase of a piece of surplus property that was offered for sale last year. The property was made available for the development of housing for low and moderate income families, and our Board of Directors has approved the purchase of the lot.

As soon as we have finalized the sale documents, we will begin our Capital Campaign to raise the monies necessary to start building. Stay tuned for updates on corporate sponsorship opportunities, family selection plans and volunteer scheduling.

Up to this point in Napa, our affiliate has only had the opportunity to help low-income seniors, veterans or the disabled with necessary repairs to enable them to "age in place" and stay in their homes. We are excited to be able to help a deserving family become first-time Habitat homeowners in Napa County! 🏡

New 4-Bedroom Home Planned in Vallejo

Habitat plans to break ground on a new house build in the City of Vallejo this summer! The affiliate found a reasonably priced, vacant, residential lot and the purchase is complete. A former board member and resident of Vallejo was instrumental in making this happen. In order to help Habitat make this an affordable project, we have submitted an application to the City of Vallejo for federal housing money to fund the property acquisition. If we are successful in getting this funding we will ensure the affordability of the house starting out, and we can focus our attention on fund raising for construction. If unsuccessful with the application, the build will go forward but we will have to focus our attention first on raising funds to complete the property purchase.

Now, some really exciting news! Because of the larger size of this lot in Vallejo (compared to our usual, 3,000 to 4,000 square foot lots on which we have built) we are going to "step up our game" and build a larger house. The Board of Directors recently approved moving ahead with a 4-bedroom, 2 bath house. Our usual build is a "3/2." This project will allow us to possibly select a large family who, most likely, today is living under extreme over-crowded conditions. Keep your eyes open for this exciting project in Vallejo. 🏡

Dream Builders

If you've been looking for a way to become involved and help out your local Habitat affiliate, but are unable to contribute hands-on volunteer work, we encourage you to become part of our "Dream Builders" team. All it takes is a minimum annual donation of \$500, and you can play a large role in helping families in your community. Your investment assists hard-working families to build and purchase their first home, and in many cases, you help make a dream come true. To find out more or to join the team, please contact our office. 🏡

Napa Valley Give!Guide Raises \$14,445

Many thanks to all who donated to our organization through the 2015 Napa Valley Give!Guide. After tallying the final figures, the fundraising drive raised a total of \$14,445 for us, almost triple the amount raised for our affiliate last year! We are very grateful to the community of givers, including our Business Partner, Alexis Baking Company (ABC) who contributed \$2,000 as a matching incentive. Several other local restaurants and businesses also donated incentive gift certificates, and we are thankful to everyone who contributed to the cause! 🏡



Vietnam Veteran Receives Home Repairs

In the Spring and Summer of 2015 we worked on the Pine Street home of Eric, a Vietnam War Veteran. Hard-working volunteers filled his home and helped make it safe, allowing Eric to age in place. An electrical contractor who served two tours in Vietnam, Eric was honorably discharged. He suffers from war-related injuries, and the long-term effects have made it difficult for him to continue working and have resulted in chronic health issues.

To quote Eric: "I had hit bottom with my health and, hence, my life. after four surgeries. When I hit bottom I asked the Lord for help many times over and he sent me a crew of angels known as Habitat volunteers."

To ensure that Eric's home was safe, sanitary and up to code, repairs were made to the home's sewer lines and a new roof and gutters were installed. Our teams also painted and weatherized the home's exterior, installed new weather-efficient windows and doors, remodeled the kitchen with new cabinets, flooring and appliances, and did general yard and landscape clean-up.

With many hours of volunteer labor and donated materials, the work done enabled Eric to secure a reverse mortgage on his home, now ensuring his being able to live there for as long as he wishes. 🏡



ReStore Update


Our ReStore has experienced unbelievable growth since it opened four years ago.

In August 2015, we added an additional 4,000 square feet of retail space, and on April 1 of this year, we will take over the entire building, doubling our original size. As a result of this "great news", we now need to increase the number of volunteers who staff the store. If you are looking for a fun, rewarding place to volunteer, come join our team. We are open Tuesdays thru Saturdays, from 9am to 5pm, with two 4-hour shifts each day. We'd love to have you join us in any way you can - to assist customers, process donations, cashier or help stock the store with the donations received. It's up to you!


And with more floor space comes the need for more donations from all sources including businesses, contractors, property managers and individual homeowners. Give us a call or come by with any donations you may have. Visit our website for the list of those items we most often have donated and offer for sale (www.solanonapahabitat.org/restore.)

Part of our success is due to two of our most popular programs, our Downsizing Program which reaches out to seniors who are moving into smaller residences and need to donate excess furniture, and our Deconstruction Program where our volunteers carefully remove cabinets and appliances from homes undergoing remodeling, with the items then sold at ReStore. Call the ReStore if you would like more information on either of these programs.

On Saturday, May 7 we will be holding an "Expansion Celebration" to thank our customers and donors for supporting us. Save the date on your calendar and come and enjoy snacks, music and additional discounts on the items we have for sale. Local radio station KUIC will be on location with a live remote.

The ReStore is located at 104 Commerce Court, Fairfield. For more information, call 707-863-0692. 

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. 

Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity

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Greg Corbett: *Warehouse/Driver*
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Mission Statement:

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



Cars for Homes Donations

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

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

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

Your Support Makes a Difference!



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