



Solano - Napa  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
Celebrating 25 Years

# Habitat happenings

*Building Strength, Stability, and Self-Reliance, through Shelter*

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## WINTER/SPRING 2017

### A Message from Our President

**A**s we near the end of 2016 and our 25th anniversary, the board, staff and our wonderful volunteers reflect on what we have accomplished, and continue to accomplish, this year. We truly live out our motto of “providing a hand-up, not a handout.”

Two Critical Repair and seven earthquake disaster recovery projects were completed in Napa. In all cases, however, the efforts of our staff and volunteers changed the lives of those we helped in ways most of us only can imagine. Of note also, is a special project in which we participated- reconstructing four playhouses at Solano Community College’s Early Learning Center. The look on the little “homeowners” who experienced the joy of having a safe structure in which to play and grow was a huge reward for those staff members and volunteers who participated.

Beyond construction activity, though, we must constantly invest time and energy in improving our organization so that we can continue to support the primary mission of building homes for low income, working families. We have to remind ourselves that houses don’t get built without a dedicated administrative staff and construction managers who are the backbone of Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity. While our fundraising efforts normally focus on building houses, the underpinning for that effort - our staff and administrative overhead - must be recognized. We will not be able to do the work we do without unrestricted funds to pay for this.

I look forward to an even busier 2017, with three new houses on the horizon. You can find out about these projects also in this Newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support of *Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity*.  
- Gerry Raycraft 🏡

### Mission Statement

We bring people together to build decent, affordable homes and make critical repairs to existing homes in our community. Through this partnership, families are empowered by having a safe place to live and thrive.



*Ayndria and Charles, pictured with Family Services Committee Chair Barbara Walthall-Ford, on the day they signed their acceptance papers.*

### A Family is Chosen in Vallejo!

**I**n July, we broke ground in Vallejo for the first time in more than 20 years for a new Habitat for Humanity home! The 6,500 sq. ft. lot, near Cave Elementary School on Tregaskis Avenue, will soon provide a safe, 4-bedroom home to the Ponds/Abbott Family! Ayndria and Charles, along with their three young children and their granddad, have already begun working their 500 hours of sweat equity.

“When we found out we got accepted, I was so happy and shocked I started crying. It’s just so amazing because we need this home so badly,” said Ayndria. She and Charles currently live in a crowded 2-bedroom apartment with their three young children and Ayndria’s dad, who is disabled and helps care for the children while the parents work full time. “The thought of having a home with more space and a backyard where my kids can run around and play is so exciting. They will finally have the freedom they need that I think will help with their self confidence and

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### Dream Builders

**I**f you’re looking for a way to become involved and help support your local Habitat’s building efforts but cannot contribute through 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 low-income families in your community. Your investment assists hard-working families to build and purchase their first home, and helps to make their dream of home-ownership come true! To find out more or to join the team, please contact our office at (707) 422-1948.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Doug Burke

**D**oug Burke is no stranger to a Skilsaw – he has always crafted woodworking projects as a hobby, but in 2010, his woodworking skills were put to a different use when he came on board as a volunteer with Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity. Doug remembers watching a television show that referenced the organization, and he was pleasantly surprised to find a local affiliate based right in Fairfield, close to his home in Suisun City. He called the office, and he was soon put to work repairing homes alongside a team of volunteers in Vallejo.

“I met Jamie Calderwood, the Site Supervisor, and I had such a great first experience, I couldn’t wait to do it again,” said Burke, who went on to help the affiliate build two new homes in Fairfield shortly thereafter. “Seeing the whole process is quite an experience...first a barren lot that was an eyesore, then converting it from a weed patch to a finished foundation, then the framing, then finally the families moving in. It’s so incredible to see a family that has had bad luck their whole life, move into their dream house.”

Doug volunteers his time and skills twice a week, has worked on a variety of repair projects and new home builds in both Solano and Napa counties, and currently serves as our Deconstruction Manager. “We go into people’s homes who are planning a remodel, and we carefully strip out and remove items in good condition –



including cabinets, appliances, doors, lighting fixtures, you name it – that can be sold at our ReStore.” Doug describes the deconstruction model as a win-win for everyone involved, as the income from these upcycled items goes towards the organization’s home repair and building efforts.

“I’ve learned so much from my volunteer time with Habitat for Humanity and I have gained so much experience from working alongside the professionals,” said Burke. “Working on repairing and building homes has given me a ton of confidence. Now when I go into a building, I feel so much more trained with tools, wiring, and building codes than ever before.”

Doug has also spent 16 years with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit, where he describes the biggest problem as a lack of things to do. “One of the neatest things about volunteering with Habitat for Humanity is that there’s always something to do, and we have so much fun.” During off seasons, Doug helps the team build items to sell in the ReStore, including locally sourced Adirondack chairs, garden sheds, and kids’ playhouses.

“I feel appreciated by the staff at Habitat for Humanity”, said Burke. “They have a lot of respect for us volunteers, and they are just genuinely good people.” The feeling is mutual Doug – thank you for your many years of volunteering and hard work! 🙌

## Home Planned for Veterans in Dixon

**W**e have partnered with CAN-B (Community Action North Bay) to build a 6-bedroom, 3-bath home in Dixon for six local veterans. The home will provide a permanent place to live for the veterans, who will pay an affordable rent to CAN-B, who will be the home’s mortgage holder. With a loan provided by Solano County that will be forgiven over time, we purchased the 8,276-square-foot lot from a private owner who is excited about the project. Nancy Nelson, SNHFH Board Secretary who works for OAG Architects in Benicia, designed the 2,500-square-foot, Craftsman-style home to fit in with the historic neighborhood.



Solano County is home to many military service members, and these dedicated warriors have committed themselves to keeping our country safe and secure. The project will provide a permanent home for screened, drug-free veterans to ensure their compatibility for a group living

situation. Many veterans cannot live in isolation, but instead thrive on the companionship of housemates, and shared housing is a viable option for veterans on an extremely low income. Built near the current veteran’s transitional housing, the home will provide a quiet and calm environment, allowing the residents to live healthy and productive lives. This project will also serve as a prototype for potential similar builds elsewhere in the county.

Fundraising for this exciting and much-needed project is underway, with a goal budget of \$470,000. Join with us to help make a real impact for those who have risked their lives for our freedom! 🙌

## Deconstruction

**R**emodeling? 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. 🙌



## Napa Celebrates Plans for its First New Home Build

We are excited to start work on our first new home in Napa County! The two-story, 1,352-square-foot house will include 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a garage, and will be built on a lot in southeast Napa that was recently purchased from the city. The home will be sold to a deserving, low-income family who will help build the home and pay an affordable no-interest mortgage.

On Sunday, October 23rd, Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity and Central Valley hosted “Hard Hats & Heels” - a fundraising event directly benefiting the new home. Guests arrived at the local hardware store and were greeted by friendly volunteers wearing painted coveralls, and were served appetizers from shiny metal dustpans. The evening continued with a silent auction and a short, live auction with a handful of premium lots. Dining tables with bright floral arrangements were set among the store aisles, and guests feasted on comfort food by Melissa Teaff Catering, fine wines, and craft beers amidst the store’s power tools and paint cans. The band Wonder Bread 5, keeping in theme with the party, wore hard hats and neon safety vests, and performed their high-energy tunes that inspired attendees to dance the night away.

The event was attended by 80 people and raised a total of \$90,000 for Napa’s first Habitat for Humanity ground-up home. Groundbreaking for this milestone project is planned for Friday, January 27th at 11:00 a.m. at the future-home’s now barren lot at 891 Saratoga Drive in southeast Napa.

We still have a limited number of tickets available for one of the event’s premium auction item experiences, Out of Africa, Into the Valley. On Saturday, June 17, 2017 at the private, family-owned Tres Sabores Winery in St. Helena, relive the iconic “Out of Africa” film under the stars. The magical evening



includes wine, an African-inspired BBQ, and sweet treats in the winery’s picturesque Heritage Olive Grove. Tickets are \$200 per person and can be purchased by calling the office at (707) 422-1948. Book this ideal date night soon before tickets sell out, all in support of Napa’s new home build! 🏠

### 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](http://www.carsforhomes.org) for more information.

## Team Building With A Purpose

The “Team Habitat” Experience gives local companies an opportunity to partner with us in a truly significant and meaningful way. Companies sign up their employees to participate in teambuilding workdays at one of our worksites to improve communication, cooperation and camaraderie, and strengthen team spirit and morale.



Through this program, companies are asked to provide a minimum financial donation of \$1,000 for a team of up to 10 volunteers or an additional donation of \$100 per person for larger teams. By working with us for a full day at one of our worksites, the employees help us build a home for one of our partner families while also helping to share the cost of the building materials used.

On a warm, sunny Wednesday in late June, Sutter Health’s Surgery Center employees, on a retreat at the Silverado Hotel in Napa, took a day off to “team build” with us at our Vallejo build site. Pulling up in a large rented bus, 40 employees were welcomed by our construction staff—Mark Baides, Jamie Calderwood and Al Maddalena—and site hosts Sandy Borman, Wendy Boykins and Renee Snow. Staff and “regular” volunteers Doug Burke, Hiro Yamada, Frank Averett, LC Naylor, Rick Johnson, Roger Carr and Bob Horn had prepared several projects for the volunteers to work on, breaking the volunteers into four smaller groups to help build part of the redwood fencing around the newly purchased property and also build three garden sheds as a fundraising project and which were to be sold at our ReStore.

A fun and rewarding workday was had by all. None of the Sutter employees had ever worked on a Habitat build site before, so each small group was paired up with Habitat staff or “regulars” who handily guided them through the tasks they were being asked to do. Sutter’s Director of Clinical Services, Shea Lansberry, who headed up the group, expressed the team’s thanks “for the support, hard work and dedication in setting up what was a fantastic team building event” and said they all had a lot of fun working with us.

We thank Sutter Health for their support of the work we’re doing. Come out and “have fun” with us again soon! 🏠

## A Family is Chosen

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personal growth, having that sense of security that comes from being in a home they know is theirs.”

Fundraising for the project is currently underway, and our goal for the project is \$350,000 with approximately \$135,000 still needed to be raised. We look forward to working together as a community to help make the Ponds/Abbott family’s dream of owning a home come true! 🏠

## Earthquake Victims Receive Critical Home Repairs

Two years after the 6.0 magnitude earthquake hit Napa County, the Uriarte family, along with several other families in the area, can finally begin to recover from the damage. Seven families received critical repairs to their homes, including the Uriarte's damaged chimney box that left them without an affordable source of heat for two winters. Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity worked with local agencies to identify families in need of help, and received project funding from our own private donors as well as the Napa Valley Community Foundation. All of the home repairs were completed by Summer 2016.



"Now we can move forward. We will be forever grateful for the teams that came and offered their services to repair our home," said Damien Uriarte. "Our family will never forget you."

Although Habitat for Humanity is not considered a first responder when a disaster strikes, the organization is steadfast in advocating for the Napa earthquake victims, even years later, so rehabilitation can happen and homeowners can get back on their feet.

"Disaster recovery takes time, and is a transformational process," said Craig Paterson, a retired pastor and board Vice President / Treasurer for our organization. "We have witnessed first-hand the stories of these earthquake victims evolve from sadness into joy; from feeling alone, to being connected; from uncertainty, to stability. This transformational process is the cornerstone of what we do - whether it be building a new home or repairing a home after a disaster - our goal is to step-up and join forces with the community so we can help maintain the stability, health and survival of our local families." 🏡

## Habitat Partners with Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District

With Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity's (SNHFFH) Site Supervisor Al Maddalena taking the lead, several of the students in this year's Construction Trades Class at Armijo High School in Fairfield, are once again helping the affiliate with various construction projects during the current school semester. The students have a double period class, and Al and one of our regular volunteers, Bill Aldridge, pick them up at the school twice a week and bring them to the affiliate warehouse or one of our local build sites to assist with a wide variety of tasks that are needed - building tool boxes and saw horses while learning to use power tools, painting small areas that need touch up, making and installing safety handrails for our ReStore storage areas, and anything else Al has lined up for them each day.

While these students are a great help to SNHFFH, this program helps the students learn to work alongside the local volunteers and various trades people in the community, gaining valuable skills to assist them in the future should they gain employment in the construction trades industry.



The affiliate sends its thanks to both Al and Armijo High School, for keeping this program going for the last nine years! 🏡

## ReStore: Volunteer, Shop, Donate!

The ReStore team is happy to report that we expanded into our 16,375 square-foot building, including all new product and displays! As a result of this expansion, we have not quite doubled our volunteer staff enough to keep all openings filled. We are looking to fill all positions - customer service, cashiers, warehouse, merchandising, processing donations, and more. If you are interested in helping us out, please let us know. Go to our website at [www.solanonapahabitat.org/restore](http://www.solanonapahabitat.org/restore) and fill out the volunteer application or call ReStore Manager, Mike Glancy at (707)863-0692 to discuss your availability.

Shopping at ReStore is now better than ever! We have fantastic donations coming in every day, and some of our loyal customers come in every week just to see what's new. We have implemented a color-coded pricing system for even more savings. New donations are marked with a specific color tag each month, and older inventory is reduced 20% - 60% off of our already great prices. So come in and see what's new, because as we like to say, "You never know what you will find at ReStore!"

Last but not least, don't forget about Donations - the heart of what makes the ReStore work! You can drop them off during our regular store hours (Tuesday-Saturday from 9am-5pm) or give us a call at (707) 863-0692 to schedule a pickup. A complete list of acceptable items is located on our website. Remember that every donation made to the ReStore helps us get more families into decent affordable housing! 🏡

### Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity

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