



Habitat happenings

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

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WINTER/SPRING 2018

A Message from Our Board President

2017 has been a busy, productive and rewarding period of time for Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity (SNHfH). As I write this, I'm looking back with a sense of pride in what has been accomplished. I look to the future with determination to deal with on-going changes in our organization and at this very moment the disaster recovery efforts on the horizon in Napa County. Let's start with a look back...

ReStore celebrated its sixth anniversary and continues to be one of the strongest financial contributors to the affiliate. We are now comfortably "at home" in all 16,000 square feet of the building and even have plans to make it "our own."

We presented three very successful fundraising events for our Dixon, Napa and Vallejo projects. In Dixon we partnered with the Rotary and First Methodist Church to host a dinner and concert to benefit the future "Veteran's Project," a home which will provide permanent housing for six veterans. In Napa, we held a "Paella" party to support our first new home build on Saratoga Drive; and in Vallejo, we presented "Habitat by the Bay," a dinner and silent auction held at the California Maritime Academy. We are already planning a repeat event for 2018!

SNHfH was fortunate to be able to partner with The Home Depot Foundation to complete major site repairs and improvements at the Veteran's Home in Yountville. We provided site supervisors for some 300 volunteers, and Home Depot made a significant financial contribution as well as providing

building materials and tools. Thank you Home Depot!

It was with great pride that SNHfH accepted Senate District 3's "2017 California Nonprofit of the Year" award from State Senator Bill Dodd. Construction is well underway on our Vallejo build, which will be home to the Ponds family. In Napa, the foundation has been poured and framing will soon begin. After completing the rigorous Family Selection process, the Board selected the Hernandez/Trejo family. You can read more about these two projects within this newsletter. In Dixon, we've done significant site work and hope to begin construction next year. Fundraising continues for all three builds.

Looking forward, we are planning for new projects in Rio Vista, Fairfield, Vacaville and Napa. We will continue to look for Critical Repair projects but funding sources for these is always a challenge. No stone goes unturned in our search for building opportunities. That brings us to another big challenge, the search for a new Executive Director.

After six years "at the helm," our Executive Director, Diane Agnone, will be retiring at the end of the year. During the years she's been with us, SNHfH has become a stable, well-respected and productive organization. We will greatly miss Diane and wish her well in retirement!

Now, as I close, I want to say "thank you!" With you – our donors, volunteers, staff and board members – Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity is able to provide tangible proof that we can become, as Habitat International envisions: "A world where everyone has a decent place to live." 🏡

*Board President, Gerry Raycraft,
Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity*

A Grateful Goodbye

It's hard to believe that it's been over six years since I first walked through the doors of Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity as their new Executive Director. Having been a long-time volunteer with Habitat prior to that day, I thought heading up the affiliate would be something I was well-prepared for, but I was wrong. It didn't take long for me to realize that I had a lot to learn about the non-profit world I was entering and the learning curve was steep.

But with additional staff, our first ReStore, Board members supporting our efforts, many wonderful donors and hundreds of volunteers who came out to help us whenever needed, we managed to serve more families through our new build or repair projects in these six years than we had in the 20 years prior. Seeing the selected families

work their many hours of sweat equity, move into the beautiful new homes we built, become proud members of their new communities where they can feel safe and secure – these are the images that will stay with me forever.

I will take this time to say how grateful I am to the many wonderful people I have met and worked with during my years here, whether they were volunteers, donors or corporate relationships that had been made along the way. But most importantly, I wish to leave with a special thank you to our wonderful staff who give so much of themselves each and every day, recognizing the needs of the families we serve and knowing how their work with Habitat can really make a difference in the world. 🏡

*Diane Agnone, Executive Director,
Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity*

A Long-Brewing Partnership

Anheuser-Busch has a long history of partnering with Habitat for Humanity. Beginning back in 1999 with their brewery team in Jacksonville, Florida, the company has expanded their relationship with Habitat in their 11 other brewery cities across the country, including here in Solano County! We are so grateful for their financial contributions and volunteer efforts, and enjoy hearing the positive feedback from their employees after participating as a major sponsor of one of our builds.

"Aside from expressing that they feel good about the accomplishments of the day, we frequently hear words like, 'fun,' 'camaraderie,' and 'making friends' from employees speaking about their experiences during a build with Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity," said Ben Rutledge, Resident Engineer of Anheuser-Busch at their Fairfield brewery.



The employees from Anheuser-Busch have a very high rate of repeat participation, and we look forward to partnering with them for many more years to come. "Anheuser-Busch is our biggest sponsor and their support has been critical to the success of our builds," stated Kathy Hoffman, Development Committee Co-Chair.

"Working to improve the lives of the people who live in the communities where we operate is one of the core principles of Anheuser-Busch," said Rutledge.

"Habitat for Humanity's mission aligns with that principle, and also provides our employees a tangible opportunity to give back to their local communities."

Thank you Anheuser-Busch for your philanthropic efforts with our organization, and we appreciate our brewing partnership! 🍷

Long-Time Local Sponsor

Valero Refinery – Benicia



photo by LukeGeorge.com

It's safe to say that Valero's contributions have made a huge impact on Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity's (SNHfH) ability to accomplish all it has since they first partnered with us in 2000. During this time, Valero's financial donations and in-kind contributions to our organization have exceeded \$133,000.

Valero's spokesperson Sue Fisher-Jones recalls

that in 2002, Valero employees donated 873 hours of work on the two Habitat houses built in Benicia, the city where Valero's operations are located. Working on this project inspired their employees to continue their participation in other Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity builds, as well as inspired Valero employees across the nation to get involved with Habitat for Humanity. "We appreciate all Valero has done for our Habitat families," added Kathy Hoffman, Development Committee Co-Chair for SNHfH.

"We look forward to a build in Benicia again someday if the stars align and property can be acquired," said Fisher-Jones of Valero. "In the meantime, the Valero Volunteer Council (VVC) has been actively involved in builds in Fairfield and, most recently, in Vallejo." 🏠

Thank You to Our Other Generous Sponsors!

Platinum Sponsor

- Solano County

Gold Sponsors

- Anheuser-Busch • Valero Refinery – Benicia
- Napa County Board of Supervisors • Recology

Silver Sponsors

- PG&E • CA Municipal Finance Authority
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- Genentech • US Bank
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- Travis Credit Union • Jelly Belly Charitable Foundation
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Bronze Sponsors

- Union Bank • Bank of America • Medtronics
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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. 🏠

Vallejo Update

Building is well underway on our Tregaskis Avenue home in Vallejo; the foundation is poured, walls are up, and the house is starting to take form!

The Ponds family has been there regularly, putting in their sweat equity hours and excited to see their dream becoming a reality. Our construction staff is working hard and always looking for volunteers to come out and help. If you are interested, please go to our website, click on the Volunteer tab on the 1st page and fill out the volunteer application and become a part of the Habitat family!

On Saturday, September 16, Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity hosted "Habitat by the Bay" a fundraiser to benefit the Vallejo home. The event was held at the Cal-Maritime Academy located on the bay, where the weather was perfect and the views were breathtaking. There were two breweries serving craft beer, fine wines being poured, and an amazing dinner made and served by the Cal-Maritime Academy chefs. A special opportunity was offered to tour the "Golden Bear" training ship which had just returned to Vallejo from a student training exercise. More than 125 people attended the event and everyone enjoyed their evening by the bay. The event was so well received that we are making it an annual event – stay tuned for more details next year! 🏠



photo by LukeGeorge.com

Yountville Veterans Project

In May, Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity (SNHfH) partnered with The Home Depot Foundation, The Tug McGraw Foundation, and The Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL), to complete major site repairs and improvements at the Veteran's Home in Yountville in Napa County. Our organization provided 60 site supervisors for some 300 volunteers. The Home Depot volunteers consisted of store employees and vendors who built more than 100 structures including picnic tables, sun shades, benches, and planter boxes. Whether walking the grounds or sitting down to eat lunch, these structures will allow the veterans to better enjoy

the beautiful surroundings.

In addition, Home Depot made a contribution of building materials and tools to SNHfH and a significant financial contribution in recognition



of the work we did to prepare for the project. Thank you Home Depot for helping to make this partnership so successful! 🏠

Project Update: Napa's First New Home Build

We are excited to announce that work has begun on our first new home build in Napa County, and a family has been chosen! After months of hard work, the Family Services Committee volunteers, led by Barbara Walthall-Ford and Rheonna Reese, chose five families to be presented to the Board of Directors for selection. After



this rigorous and emotional process, we are pleased to announce that the Hernandez/Trejo family has been chosen. Roberto, Viviana, their two children Allyson and Jayden, and Roberto's mom Evangelina will soon see their dream of home ownership come true. The Hernandez/Trejo family is overjoyed, and will help put in hundreds of

sweat equity hours and pay a no-interest mortgage on the home before it officially becomes theirs. "When you called and told me we had been chosen, I knew in that moment our life had changed," said Viviana.

Site clearing and foundation work on the lot on Saratoga Drive is now completed, and framing is underway. The two-story, 1,352-square-foot house will include 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, and a two car garage. Fundraising for this project is continuing, and we are asking the Napa community for one last push to help raise the final funds needed to complete this home for this local, deserving family.

"We are starting a new journey on to bigger and better things" said Roberto. "My family will finally have a home of our own, and I hope we can be a model for future Habitat families."

The family's son Jayden also added to the family's hopeful sentiments; "I'm so happy I can finally have a dog!" 🐕

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.

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.

A Personal Story

Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Groups (OVG) in Lesotho

In September 2016, I spent a week in the Southern African country of Lesotho to review the impact our tithe funds were having on the Orphans and Vulnerable Groups (OVG) families served by Habitat for Humanity Lesotho (HFHL). Our group, made up of seven leaders from Habitat affiliates across the country, was hosted by HFHL's

National Director, Mathabo Makuta, and her dedicated staff.

We learned about the critical need of OVGs in Lesotho, including that the country has the second highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world, and nearly 25% of Basotho children are orphans.

We spoke with Habitat

homeowners (many of them orphans) about what owning their own decent place to live meant to them. After listening to their stories, we learned that without exception, home ownership had transformed their lives. We saw how HFHL collaborates with local chieftains to identify OVG families in need, and how they ensure that Habitat homeowners have a legal right to their houses – part of a Habitat global advocacy campaign for secure property rights called Solid Ground.

Witnessing the impact a simple Habitat house had on the lives of the families HFHL serves, many of them child-led, was inspiring. Knowing that our organization's work here locally has helped make many of those houses possible, gave me an overwhelming sense of the impact each one of our employees and volunteers is having right here in Northern California and around the world.


In April, we hosted Ms. Makuta here in the Bay Area so she could see how Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity builds houses for local families in need of a safe, decent, and affordable place to live.

*Andrew Killeen,
Volunteer Coordinator
Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity*



Women's Crew

On Wednesday, September 13th, we held a Women's Crew kick-off meeting at our ReStore in Fairfield. The goal was to establish an all-women crew for the upcoming home builds in Vallejo, Napa, and Dixon, and we were pleased to see more than 90 women in attendance. The Women's Crew offers an opportunity for women of all skill levels to learn about construction and home repairs in a fun, safe environment.

Since this first meeting, we have held two Women's Crew days with crews of 10-13 signing up each day. The days were a lot of fun for all and much was accomplished. We hope this is the start of many more women-filled work days! If you are interested in receiving more information, go to our website at solanonapahabitat.org and fill out a volunteer application indicating your interest in joining the Women's Crew. 



Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity

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Craig Paterson:
Vice President/Treasurer
Nancy Nelson: Secretary
Todd Wenzel: Member at Large

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Graphic design services
donated by Patty Graves,
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Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity's ReStore

A good deal for you, our community and the environment.

Located at 104 Commerce Court in Fairfield, we sell appliances, furniture, windows, doors, cabinets – and so much more!

DONATE – Give your gently – used items a second life and reduce landfill. We offer a 501 (c)(3) receipt for your taxes.

SHOP – Selling new and gently-used home improvement items to the public at 50-90% of retail! Proceeds from sales stay in our communities, helping to rehabilitate and build homes in Solano and Napa Counties. New inventory daily.

VOLUNTEER – Learn valuable retail skills while working with a team of energetic, passionate and caring folks from your community.

**Have a donation? Call (707) 863-0692 for free pickup.
www.solanonapahabitat.org/restore**