



Three Families Cut The Ribbons On Their New Homes



The Coleman Family

The Peters Family

"Home is where your story begins," said Barbara Elsherbini, a Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity family liaison, as she proudly introduced the Coleman family to the large crowd gathered on

the freshly seeded lawn at 41 Hancock Street in Lambertville. In fact, three new family "stories" began on that Saturday, May 20, when the Coleman, Peters, and Durborow families cut the ribbons on their new Lambertville homes during the home dedication ceremony.

groups, and he expressed his eagerness to continue work on projects to improve the community, including development of a nearby park.

The Skillman Brownie Troop #1148, the Bridgewater-Raritan High School Habitat Club, and Branchburg Central Middle School provided post-dedication refreshments while people admired the homes and congratulated the new owners. The new homeowners warmly welcomed everyone with big smiles and told stories of painting challenges and of walkways that took some convincing to lay level.

"We who live in Hunterdon County are abundantly blessed," said Ella Rue from Calfon United Methodist Church. "Each of us is truly blessed for our involvement with these families."

- Christin Psak

Feelings of excitement, anticipation and pride - each family put in more than 500 sweat equity hours - ran through the crowd of supporters and across the faces of the families standing on their newly constructed front porches. Rev. Allen Buurma from the Reformed Church Partnership captured the sentiment of the day: "What has been built here is not only houses, but lives." A Bible, a Good Luck Basket, and a Home Maintenance Manual were presented to all three families to wish them success in their new life chapter as homeowners.

The Peters, Coleman, and Durborow homes are the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd homes built by RVHFH, and the 4th, 5th, and 6th homes to be completed in this Lambertville/West Amwell neighborhood. Lambertville's Mayor David DeVecchio and City Council President Cindy Ege were visibly pleased that Lambertville's collaboration with RVHFH has culminated in another success story for the community. DeVecchio said that projects like this are possible due to the "cooperation between public, private, and church"



The Durborow Family

Reformed Church Partnership

As the 21 member churches of the Delaware Raritan Classis look back on the first organizational meeting that took place over two-and-a-half years ago, I am sure that many of them were concerned that the construction of a "Reformed Church Home" in Lambertville would never begin. That first meeting, hosted by Rev. Jack Cherry and facilitated by Joe Palka at the Clover Hill Reformed Church in Hillsborough, brought together representatives from Reformed Churches in central New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. Although the start of the build was delayed for a year by a long property acquisition process, the enthusiasm of the churches committed to the project never waned. Their prayers, their efforts onsite during the build, and their financial support, along with

donated materials and services made the wait worthwhile for the future homeowners, the Durborow family.

The Lambertville site, convenient for groups from the east and the west, became a good meeting place. Due to the fact that other houses were being built at the same time, the Reformed Church groups had an opportunity to work with many other individuals, church groups, and partner families.

With the dedication of the Reformed Church Home on May 20, all of the churches that participated can look back with pride and say that participating in the sponsorship of the home at 35 Hancock Street was well

worth the wait - for the Durborows and the Reformed Church Partnership. This is providing affordable housing through partnership the way that it was intended!

- Jim Richart



Members of the Clover Hill Reformed Church give their time to the building effort in Lambertville.

HiHo, HiHo, it's off to work we go....

Believe it or not, that's how the name of one of our newest church partnerships was picked. It had to be a name that represented the many faiths that would participate in fund raising, building, and praying for our ministry. Consequently, the group of representatives from each of the participating houses of faith chose the name Hunterdon Interfaith Housing Opportunity, or HIHO. This partnership ultimately took on the responsibility of supporting half of the house located at 41 Hancock Street in Lambertville.

The congregations who participated are Bound Brook Presbyterian, Califon United Methodist, First Presbyterian of Lambertville, First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Flemington Baptist, Flemington Presbyterian, Round Valley United Methodist, Second English Presbyterian, and St. John Neumann.

Reid Kuder and Flemington Presbyterian Church were instrumental in organizing this partnership and keeping all participants updated on the status of the project. The steering committee organized many fundraisers and brought together the congregations in a joint effort.

At the time HIHO was formed, their goal was to raise \$35,000 to support half the cost of a house. They beat that goal by \$980! Kudos to the HIHO partnership for surpassing their goal and giving Bridget and Curtis Coleman the opportunity to own their own home! God bless you all for your efforts and enthusiasm!

- Betsy Kuzio

Women Build in Lambertville

Our third Women Build event was held on March 4, 2006. Thirty-one participants, five crew chiefs, three supervisors, and three partner family members were present. Most work on this cold Saturday was inside, but even those working outside could feel the warmth and enthusiasm generated by women of all ages working together.

The women formed groups and learned new skills as they worked on three houses in Lambertville. They took paintbrushes, hammers, drills, and tape measures and went to work painting the interior of one house, dry walling another, and shingling the porch roof on the third. The women all seemed to enjoy themselves so much that no one wanted to trade jobs. There was no way the five women on the roof were coming down!

"This was a great experience, and now I am excited to work on more Habitat projects," said first-time volunteer Michelle McGonegal.



participants of the March 4 Women Build raised nearly \$8000 in pledges. In just three builds, Women Build has raised over \$15,000 toward the cost of housing.

Each Women Build involves a group of women, most strangers to each other and to construction skills, who greatly help to secure housing for other women.

If you would like to help other women who need housing and have a meaningful, fun day in the process, join us on one of our next Women Build days in Bernardsville. They will be on July 22 and one or two days in the fall.

- Kathy Tanaka and Jennifer Nemeth Gunning



2006 Annual Meeting

On Monday, February 6, RVHFH held its combined annual meeting/volunteer orientation. The meeting provided the opportunity for interested parties to learn more about Habitat for Humanity, its activities in Somerset and Hunterdon counties, and perhaps most importantly the invaluable contributions that volunteers make in the lives of our Partner Families. During the meeting RVHFH's 2005 accomplishments and plans for 2006 were discussed, and the new Board of Directors was installed. In addition, several awards were provided to Outstanding Volunteers, Partner Families, and Building Partners.

The following Officers and Board members were installed:

2006 Officers

Dick Carr - President
Denise Chang - Secretary
Gordon Neeld - Treasurer

New Board Members

Chuck Coombs
Greg Crawford
John McHale
Rebecca Walling

The following Outstanding Volunteers were recognized:

Building: Trades Professional

Steve Antos
Scott Botel-Barnard
Paul Ferguson

Building: Construction Volunteers

Richard Cournoyer

Church Relations

Jim Richart

Community Partnerships

Mary Farinella-Caporaso
Rev. Jack Cherry
Reid Kuder

Family Selection

Linda Lewis



Family Support

Kim Duvall

Fundraising: Autumn Auction

Maggie D'Aversa
Lydia Lehmmuller

Fundraising: Women Build

Kathy Tanaka

Human Relations: Office Support

Rosemary Cataldi

Human Relations: Site Hosts

Megan Fortgang
Krista Magid
Caitlin O'Donnell

The Landmark Five Award

The Landmark Five Award recognizes the generosity of building industry professionals and service providers who have contributed to the construction of five or more RVHFH homes by donating materials or professional services. RVHFH was pleased to present the 2005 Landmark Five Award to the following recipients:

David J. Minno
Gary A. Wasko

Minno & Wasko, Architects and Planners

Mortgage Milestone Awards

One of our most important partnerships is with our homeowner families because their mortgage payments go directly into our building fund so that other families will have the opportunity to change their lives through Habitat homeownership as well. Mortgage Milestone Awards were proudly presented to three Partner Families who have successfully completed five years of mortgage payments:

Georgene Avrette
Heather Cordes
Pamalia Davis

A Fun Evening Raises Building Funds

RVHFH held its Spring fundraising event "Swing with Habitat" on Friday, March 31, at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church's Center Court in Liberty Corner. The event was billed as an evening of music and dancing, good food and fun - it certainly lived up to the hype! About 150 people attended, and RVHFH raised about \$15,500 for its future building efforts. We also accomplished a goal of bringing in new people to our event!

Dick Carr, RVHFH President, opened the evening by discussing the Affiliate's strategic plan to build more houses this year and suggesting ways that potential volunteers can help.

Our raffle prize, a two-hour New York Harbor sailboat cruise for six with Sea Fever Excursions and dinner for six at Liberty House Restaurant at Liberty Landing Marina was announced at the affair. The lucky winner was Lois Favier of Flemington.

Nash Dancer of Randolph provided showcase dancing and a Swing dance lesson, which resulted in an almost "standing room only" response! Music by Spinners Plus DJs and a dinner buffet by Café Giardino rounded out the evening.

Once the food was eaten and the showcases were complete, many attendees stayed on to dance the night away!

- Maggie Chigi



Swing event
committee member
Donna DiFelice with
Bill Ginocchio

Golden Heart & Hammer \$10,000+

Amboy National Bank
 NJBA Foundation Housing
 Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical
 SES Americom, Inc.

Golden House \$5,000 - \$9,999

Bank of America Foundation
 Hunterdon/Somerset Association of Realtors, Inc.
 Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church
 Richard & Lois Rawson
 Roman Jewelers, Inc.
 The Hackett Foundation, Inc.

Golden Hammer \$1,000 - \$4,999

Arnold A. Schwartz Foundation
 Bridgewater United Methodist Church
 David Blue & Wilma Nurse
 Mary & Steve Caporoso
 Clinton Presbyterian Church
 Nicholas & Janice Detura
 Marcia Dewey
 Ethicon, Inc.
 Exxon Mobil Foundation
 Flemington Presbyterian Church
 Wally & Dot French
 Richard & Karen Guinness
 Immaculate Conception Church, Somerville
 Ronald Jez
 Johnson & Johnson Consumer & Personal Products
 John & Polly La Duc
 Lamington Presbyterian Church
 Paul & Ann Lawrence
 Lower Valley Presbyterian Church
 New Jersey Association of Realtors
 NJ Chapter of Certified Residential Specialists
 North Branch Reformed Church
 Douglas & Jill Ogino
 Walter Ott
 Phillips Van Heusen Foundation
 Presbyterian Church at Pluckemin
 Scotty & Ann Riemer
 Roselle Savings Bank
 Round Valley United Methodist Church
 Somerset Savings Bank
 St. James Church, Basking Ridge
 St. John Neumann Church
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Gladstone
 Sun Management, Inc.
 The Claire & John Graf Family Foundation
 The Gill St. Bernard's School
 United Way of Somerset County
 Ventiv Pharma Services, LLC
 Verizon Wireless
 Kevin & Kathleen Weidling
 William & Antoinette Peskoff
 Charitable Foundation
 Nancy Woo

Golden Saw \$500 - \$999

Robert Albano
 BD Matching Gift Program
 Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Pittstown
 Chubb Federal Insurance Co.
 Stacie Erickson
 First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Hunterdon County
 First United Methodist Church, Somerville
 Griggstown Reformed Church
 Robert & Susan Haake
 Hunterdon Interfaith Housing Opportunity
 Rainer Jessel
 Mary Jenkins
 Mt. Top School, Warren

Our Lady of Lourdes Church,
 Whitehouse Station
 Charles & Virginia Shedd
 Wesley Tanaka
 Donald & Ethel Terhune
 The Bocina Family Foundation, Inc.
 Silvio & Barbara Verdile

Golden Paint Brush \$250 - \$499

William & Sylvia Anderson
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 Bradley Gardens Reformed Church
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 Cars4Charities
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 North & Southampton Reformed Church
 Whitney Quesenberg
 Reformed Church Partnership
 Jerri Sacewicz
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 Kenneth & Kathleen Schurzky
 Carol Spieker
 St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Bridgewater
 United Reformed Church, Somerville
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 James & Clare Wisor, Jr.
 Barbara Yanni

Golden Spade \$100 - \$249

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 Holland Presbyterian Church
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 Cynthia Jahn
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 Albert & Laurie Kedersha
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*Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity
 is grateful for the generosity of our supporters.*

*Acknowledgments shown are for support
 July - December, 2005.*

Thank You!

Donation of Land – Mine Brook Road, Bernardsville

Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church
Bishop Janes United Methodist Church
Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church

Millington Baptist Church
St. James Church
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Thanks

Donation of Materials and Services 2005

Golden Heart & Hammer \$10,000+
Elizabethtown Gas
New Jersey Builders Association

Golden House \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Porchetta Contracting
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Golden Hammer \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Hi Tech Data Floors
Lipoczky Brothers
Mr. John
Niece Lumber, Kitchen & Bath
Precision Builders
Star*Lo Electric
Toll Landscape
Whirlpool

Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical Becomes House Partner In Lambertville

With a cash donation of \$35,000, Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc., has become a House Partner for the home at 41 Hancock in Lambertville. This home is now fully funded.

Peg Forrestel, Director of Contributions & Community Affairs for Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, said, "Ortho McNeil is proud to support the work of worthwhile organizations such as Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity. We wish the Coleman family the best of luck in their new home."

Thank you to Ortho-McNeil from all of us at Habitat!!!

- Diana Pecina

Jingoli Donates Bernardsville Site Work

Joseph Jingoli & Son has generously donated a significant amount of excavation work for the Bernardsville project. Our thanks to Joseph Jingoli, Jr., Michael Jingoli, Robert Reager, and Paul Ryan for contributing both the labor and the use of Jingoli equipment to complete the excavation, remove the stumps, and begin regrading the Bernardsville property in preparation for construction. And thanks to Habitat volunteer Scotty Reimer, a Jingoli employee, for helping to bring about this partnership.

- Diana Pecina

New Jersey Builders Association Hosts Women Build Work Day

As part of their home sponsorship, the New Jersey Builders Association (NJBA) hosted their own Women Build Work Day on March 18. Led by Mary Caporaso, Mary Anderson, and Barbara Chiusano, more than 25 NJBA members worked side by side with future homeowner Taneesa Peters to install subflooring, paint walls and trim, install porch rails, and prepare the 25 Belvidere Avenue site in Lambertville for final grading.

Thanks to everyone at NJBA for all their effort on this project!!

- Diana Pecina



*Standing: Barbara Chiusano, Taneesa Peters, Mary Anderson, Mary Caporaso, Michael Solandz and NJBA President, Steve Caporaso.
Seated: Lisa Obolsky.*



"It was a great
Christmas!" – Quincy Maxwell

The Saturday before Christmas Dana Santye completed her yearlong effort to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. It was a golden moment for Dana, but it was a platinum moment for Quincy Maxwell, the 5-year-old son of RVHFH homeowner Olivia Maxwell: Quincy was the lucky recipient of the beautiful tongue-and-groove cedar playhouse that Dana built.

With some special help, Dana built the house with the intention of donating it to a Habitat family. She raised \$900 for the house materials and enlisted her Girl Scout Troop and her family to help her build the house in her garage in Skillman. When Quincy's name was drawn as the recipient of the playhouse, Dana realized that her work was not yet complete. She had to make arrangements for the 800-pound playhouse to be moved to Quincy's Franklin Township home. Furthermore, Quincy's yard was enclosed by a fence, which needed to be lifted and then reset. Hillsborough Landscaping and York Fence of Hillsborough very generously came to the rescue and donated their services to deliver the house and reinstall the fence just in time for Christmas.

Congratulations, Dana, on a job well done!

- Pam Ely

Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity Newsletter is published by Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, Inc., an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit, international Christian organization based in Americus, GA, that builds decent low-cost housing for hardworking low-income families. Over 2100 affiliates are at work in 100 countries, including all 50 states of the US. Habitat is supported by volunteers and contributions from churches, businesses and individuals.



Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity Partners on Gulf Relief Effort

Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church (LCPC), and MindTree Consulting joined forces to help the Bayou Area Habitat chapter deliver on their commitment to build 100 homes for hurricane victims in Thibodaux, Louisiana, in 2006. A total of 29 people from RVVHFH, four local churches, and MindTree Consulting traveled

to Thibodaux during the first two weeks in May. Because the Bayou Area chapter of Habitat for Humanity had had the good fortune to purchase an entire subdivision, complete with streets and utilities, when we arrived, 15 houses were already under construction, and two more slabs had been poured, ready to start new homes.



Our diverse skills, teamwork, and additional tools we took to the site allowed us to make significant contributions to 10 of the 15 houses in the first week. The work we did included framing to start a home, window/door installation, trim work, kitchen counters, painting, siding, flooring, and roofing.

Prior to the May trip, Jim Helpinstill and I from LCPC had gone to Mississippi in November to assist in the hurricane relief effort. We saw firsthand the massive destruction and met many people who had lost their homes. We learned that in the Gulf region, churches and other nonprofits, such as Habitat for Humanity, are taking the lead in relief and rebuilding. When Jim and I returned home, we were able to quickly assemble a team to support that effort. The partnership with local churches, Habitat, and MindTree Consulting was an ideal team with the resources, skills, and conviction to make a real difference.

I am so thankful for the privilege to meet and serve the families who will purchase these new homes. Their perseverance, faith, and thankfulness are an inspiration for me. A safe, dry, mold-free place to live will be the turning point for many of these families, allowing them to plan for a better future and share in the American dream.

Standing: Dick Bedner, Lincoln Shimomura, Rick Yessian, Shirley Kilian, Werner Hack, Sue Duffy, Jim Helpinstill, Linda Bradway, Jack Carpenter, Ron Simpson, Silvio Verdile, Carol Lutes. **Kneeling:** Kathy Tanaka, Josie Chisom, Gerry Williams.

- Dick Carr