

HABITAT NEWS

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Home for the Holidays!

The Zabala Family receives the keys to their Habitat home just in time for the Holidays.



The special Home Dedication took place at 4pm and was immediately followed by Habitat's annual holiday celebration.

Even with the entire 14 unit Indian Lane development lit up in Christmas lights for the festivities, there was nothing shining

brighter than the smiles on the Tani and Flordeliza's faces as they took center stage.

The new 4-bedroom home, made possible through a full home sponsorship by Thrivent Fi-

nancial, will be a great change from the family's current over-crowded 2-bedroom apartment.

Says Tani, "As a father, I have always dreamed of giving a decent, comfortable, and secure home to my family...this home is our Christmas Gift"

If your organization is interested in helping sponsor a home for a Habitat family like the Zabala's, please contact Laine Himelmann at LHimmemann@shfh.org or (916) 440-1215 ext. 1108



The Zabalas posing with Linda Waage of Thrivent Financial

**Free Tax
Write-Offs**

Don't forget to donate before December 31st to receive a 2014 tax write-off.

Give Today. Get Back Tomorrow.

UPDATE!

For the first time, Habitat for Humanity is now listed on the 2014 income tax return which will be available to taxpayers shortly.

In addition to receiving a tax write-off for donations made to Sacramento Habitat by December 31st, you now have the opportunity to give back AFTER taxes by checking the box on your return to donate to Habitat for Humanity.

CEO CORNER with Ken Cross

Counting Our Blessings



I just returned from a Habitat for Humanity Global Village trip to Nicaragua Nov. 14-23, 2014. Twenty-one volunteers helped build two homes for two highly deserving families. Our homeowner Gladys Garcia is 30 years old and is married to Rafael Davila. They have two children Rosa (13) and Rafael (12). Gladys was abandoned as a baby along with her brothers. She cannot recall who took care of her as a child. Her childhood memories revolve around seeking shelter from house to house until she met her father at age seven.

Her father took her in but her stepmother and sister physically abused her, so she ran away. Rafael and her two children are the only family that Gladys has ever known.

At her home dedication, Gladys shared how excited she was to be in her new home for Christmas. She cried tears of joy as I handed her a Bible and we blessed her new home. This "seed home" of 18 square meters/162 sq. ft. is smaller than an average American one car garage. Yet Gladys was overjoyed for it's the first structure that she could really call "home".

As I joined my daughter and her family for Thanksgiving dinner in Guatemala, I reflected on how much we as Americans have to be thankful for in our daily lives. Over the following days I thought how fortunate I am to have a safe, dry roof over my head, fresh, clean drinkable tap water and a shower and toilet for sanitation. These necessities are not a given for the vast majority of the people in our world. Today over 1 billion people live in informal settlements (slums). The number is estimated to grow to over 2 billion people by 2030.

I am passionate and committed to our global mission. I have seen first-hand how much difference a small, dry living space can make in the lives of our partner families worldwide. I challenge you to consider joining one of our Global Village Teams to travel overseas and make a difference in a family's lives. Or you might consider sponsoring one of our younger volunteers who feels called to make a difference. I can assure you that your heart will be touched and your life will be changed forever. Feel free to check out website for more about our Global Village program.

<http://shfh.org/doc.asp?id=121&parentid=91>

May you and your family be blessed this Holiday Season. From all of us at Sacramento Habitat for Humanity, thank you for your support of our mission of *"Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope"*.

Upcoming Events!

NEW Website
www.habitatgreatersac.org

Expected launch January 5th, 2015

21st Annual Hammy Awards Dinner

February 4th, 2015

The Center at 2300

2300 Sierra Blvd Sacramento, CA

5:30-7:30pm

Tsegay Family Home Dedication

February TBD, 2015

Home Dedication

2748 Oakmont Street

10am

"Hard Hats & High Heels" Gala Fundraising Event

April 9th, 2015

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street Sacramento, CA

5:30-8:30pm

BIG Day of Giving

May 5th, 2015

www.givelocalnow.org

Midnight-11:59am

Sacramento Habitat's 30th Anniversary

September 11th, 2015

Introducing your 2014-2015 AmeriCorps Team

If you haven't had the chance of meeting our 2014-2015 AmeriCorps team on the jobsite, we'd like to take a moment to introduce this wonderful addition to our Habitat family...



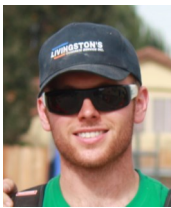
Piper Stacks: VISTA ReStore Development Coordinator from Philadelphia, PA.

Says Piper, "What brought me over to the west coast to volunteer with AmeriCorps is my passion for new experiences! I attended college for one year studying Ceramics at Alfred University. Though I value my education greatly, I decided to take the next year off in search for adventure and giving back to communities in need."



Lincoln Vogler: AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader from North Carolina

Says Lincoln, "I dedicated last year to National Service and helping others by serving with AmeriCorps NCCC. After serving with AmeriCorps NCCC I have come to realize that there are lots of people and communities that need help. I have chosen to serve with Sacramento Habitat for Humanity not only to learn more about the Sacramento community but gain life skills along the way."



Sean Bailey: AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader from West River, Maryland

Says Sean, "I graduated from The University of Baltimore with a degree in Corporate Communication. I am pursuing a career in service, and I was attracted to Habitat for Humanity because I believe in the mission—empowering people with homeownership. When people don't have to worry about where they're going to sleep at night, they're able to pursue things they're passionate about... I am particularly interested in sustainable architecture and energy efficient design."



Michael Le: AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader from Sacramento, CA

Says Michael, "I am 27 years old and a first time father of a beautiful little girl named Emma. I have been through a lot in my short life, but my first year as an AmeriCorps member has changed it for the better. My goal for my second AmeriCorps term is to learn things that I may have missed during my first term."



James "Jim" Reilly: AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader from Sacramento, CA

Says Jim, "I've found the work very rewarding: helping folks get a house, contributing to bettering their life, the community, my hometown. Before joining AmeriCorps last year, I volunteered regularly for 2 1/2 years. Joining AmeriCorps allows me the opportunity to come out five days a week and expand my knowledge and abilities to better help the affiliate. I plan to work with SHFH in some way for as long as



Paul Espinosa: AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader from Sacramento, CA

Says Paul, "I'm a C.R.C Pre-Apprentice Carpentry Graduate. I've helped build some homes on Indian Lane through my college for SHFH...I've been a Landscape/Construction laborer in the past and graduated the Teamsters Local 150 Construction Truck Driving Course. As I'm currently attending Sacramento City College majoring in Mechanical Technology-(H.V.A.C.) ...The goals I have for my service term are to build/remodel as many homes for families as possible."



Jaime Torres: AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader from North Highlands, CA

Says Jaime, "Born in Mexico City, Mexico, I was a very young child when my parents came to the United States. My parents settled in North Highlands, CA,. During my high school years, I learned from my father the concrete business, and after high school, I worked for the family construction business for many years. I am currently a pastor with Riverside Wesleyan Church located in Sacramento, CA, and have my own ministry, Grace & Mercy Street Ministry. For over 30 years, I have been happily married to my wife; and we have been blessed with three children and four beautiful grandchildren. My goal, as a team member with Habitat/AmeriCorps, is to assist families in reaching their goals of homeownership while at the same time providing the community with jobs and learning tools to help shape new careers."

Women at Work!

Sacramento Habitat for Humanity hosts first Women Build Global Village Trip!



Last month, Sacramento Habitat for Humanity hosted its first ever Women Build Global Village Trip.

The crew, led by Sacramento Habitat's CFO Anne Gambino, consisted of 19 women who spent a total of 9-days in Nicaragua helping build a

home for a family in need.

Says Gambino, "We did an awesome job building together! There was a lot of hard work, laughter, and enthusiasm."

The trip was one of three Global Village Trips organized by

Sacramento Habitat for Humanity for 2014.

The affiliate is planning on doing 3 more trips to Nicaragua in 2015.

If you are interested in participating in a Global Village Trip, visit www.shfh.org for more information on upcoming orientations.



Women Build Leader, Habitat CFO Anne Gambino

Highlands Community Charter and Technical School to the Rescue!

Trucking school partners with Sacramento ReStore for the largest donation ever.



When ReStore Manager Byron Watkins first received the news that the ReStore would be receiving a donation of a 62,000 square foot warehouse full of model home furniture, he was over the moon.

Says Watkins, "It's our largest donation in our history."

Watkins excitement, however, quickly turned to concern over how Habitat would actually move the donations to the ReStore warehouse location on North 10th Street

With only one large truck and a handful of employees, the task seemed impossible.

That is, until Highlands Community Charter School and Technical Schools came to the rescue, offering up trucks and students to help

make the move. With only a days notice, Ward Allen and his students stepped up to the rescue and helped move all the donated product to the Sacramento ReStore free of charge.

The move took lots of muscle and several weeks to complete.

Says Watkins, "They absolutely saved us. We could not have done this without them."



Do you have what it takes join our Crew Leader Program?



In order to serve more hard-working low-income families in Sacramento, Habitat is currently recruiting volunteers with good basic construction skills and a people-friendly attitude to join the Volunteer Crew Leaders on and assist Habitat Construction Staff in leading volunteers to perform specific construction tasks on site.

Crew Leader trainings take place on a weekly basis.

Interested Crew Leaders must first attend a Volunteer Orientation.

Interested Crew Leaders should contact Laci Dewater at LDewater@shfh.org or (916) 440-1215 ext. 1109.

Alternative Spring Breakers coming to Sacramento!

University students forego traditional spring breaks to help volunteer with Sacramento Habitat.



2014 Alternative Breakers from the University of Arizona

This year, Sacramento Habitat will be hosting at least 3 different Alternative Spring break groups from colleges across the country. The groups, which will include anywhere from 10-20 students, are housed by Sacramento Habitat and spend the week building on the jobsite.

Says Nikhita Pakki who led a team from University of Arizona last year, "Our Sacramento Habitat for Humanity service trip was one of the best experienced I have ever had!"

The teams scheduled so far for this year

include Emerson College, University of Minnesota, and Hamline University.

Says Laine Himmelmann who handles the Alternative Break program for Sacramento Habitat, "We love hosting these Alternative Breaks. We've been doing it for several years now and it's definitely a tradition we'd like to keep doing!"

We are currently looking for partner organizations who have shower and kitchen facilities and are willing to house our Alternative Breakers on one or more of the following dates:

March 8th-14

March 15th-21st

March 29th-April 4th.

Alternative Breakers provide their own food.

*Contact Laine Himmelmann
(916) 440-1215 ext. 1108 or
LHimmelmann@shfh.org for info.*

HOME

for the holidays
2014 CAMPAIGN



This holiday season, make a donation to Sacramento Habitat for Humanity to help make dreams come true for a hardworking, low-income family in need.

Visit
www.shfh.org/donate.asp
To donate online!

because every child dreams of a

HOME

for the holidays

JPMorgan Chase does it again!

Watkins Family moves into their new home on Indian Lane thanks to Habitat and JPMorgan Chase



On September 6th, Byron Watkins received the keys to his family's new home.

The keys were handed to Byron by Tai Mamea, representing JPMorgan Chase the full home sponsor of Watkins house.

Says Byron who is a single dad who supports his mother, "Being a single father for 15 years, has really limited our choices for living conditions. We live in a small two-bedroom apartment with substandard conditions that we can barely afford"

The substandard conditions included structural damage, water damage, mold damage, single pane windows, and no central heat and air. Also, with only two bedrooms, Byron slept on the couch.

Though Byron learned of and qualified for the program long ago, he never felt deserving of the program.

Says Byron, "After working in the

ReStore for over 10 years and working with the families at Habitat, I never felt like I was worthy of a Habitat house, that there were families more deserving with more need."

But after years of encouragement from his colleagues to apply, one day Byron heard something that made him reconsider.

Says Byron, "I was listening to our CEO, Ken give a speech to some volunteers and he said that "Habitat's vision is a place where everyone has a safe, decent place to live" - and he was looking right at me. I'd heard these words thousands of times before, but this was the first time I felt that everyone included me- so I applied."

Now a year later, Byron, his mother, and his daughter all live in a safe, affordable, 3-bedroom home on Indian Lane.

Says Byron, "It's been just an amazing experience."

Byron and his family's home was made possible through a full home sponsorship from JPMorgan Chase of \$75,000. This is JPMorgan Chase's second full home sponsorship in the past two years.

JPMorgan volunteers also volunteered over 500 hours building on the project.

Says Byron, "The folks at JPMorgan Chase sponsored my home. I remember speaking to these them a little over a year ago and sharing my story with them and the warm reception they gave me. They're just wonderful people."

If your organization is interested in sponsoring a home for a family in need, please our contact Corp. Development Officer Laine Himmelmann at LHimmelmann@shfh.org or (916) 440-1215 ext. 1108



JPMorgan Chase volunteers raising walls on Byron's home.

Now Recruiting for Electrical Team Program!



This January, the Habitat Electrical Crew, headed by Cliff Popejoy, will begin its 6-week training course.

The Electrical Crew, a team of trained volunteers under the leadership of licensed electrical contractor Popejoy, handle all the electrical work on our Habitat homes and save the affiliate over \$5,000 a house.

Says Popejoy, "We wire the house from start to finish. No experience is required to work on the crew; we train and coach skills on the job site, and also in the first quarter of the year, hold classroom training."

Cliff's trainings are to be held throughout January and February at the Habitat offices at 819 North 10th Street.

The course is free, however Popejoy requires all attendees to commit to volunteer regularly on the Electrical Crew— at least ten full days over the course of the year.

Interested Electrical Team participants should contact Cliff Popejoy directly by email at Cap2053@sbcglobal.net with the subject line "Electrical Team"



Let's get "HYP"-hy!

Interested in some Young Professional Networking? Think about joining Habitat Young Professionals!



Sacramento Habitat for Humanity's Young Professionals Group, "HYP", has been quickly gaining momentum.

The group, which is aimed at Young Professionals age 21-40, hosts local quarterly Happy Hour Networking events and offers members an opportunity to physically build on the Habitat Jobsite.

Says Sacramento Habitat Individual Development Officer, Laci Dewater, who piloted the group this summer "It's just a really great group of socially conscious young people and we have a lot of fun."

Interested in joining or learning more about HYP?

Contact Laci at LDewater@shfh.org or (916) 440-1215 ext. 1109.

Or visit www.shfh.org and select "HYP" under the "get involved tab"

Membership fees are \$60 a year and include admission to events and builds.

Membership can be paid all at once or in monthly increments of \$5 a month.

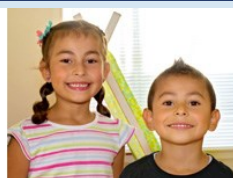
BUILD HOMES. BUILD HOPE. WITH YOUR CALIFORNIA STATE TAX RETURN



Habitat for Humanity will be listed as a charity to designate for voluntary contributions on the 2014 State of California tax return. A voluntary contribution is an election made by the taxpayer to designate a portion or all of their tax return to charitable funds.

www.habitatca.org
www.checkoffca.org

BUILD HOMES. BUILD HOPE.
WITH YOUR CALIFORNIA STATE TAX RETURN



YES, I WANT TO
BUILD A BETTER
CALIFORNIA TODAY!

