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www.habitatabq.org

June / July / August 2014

Building Community

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INSIDE...
Joani’s Corner

Life is a journey. There are countless curves, bumps, and blocks along the way to which we adjust, adapt, and ultimately find our way. Habitat and its mission is also a journey – one that encompasses a community. Recently, several staff and I took a tour to visit all the various build sites that define our GAHH journey throughout the years. Guided by our loyal volunteer Bruce (who wears hats too numerous to mention), we took a trip through 27 years of GAHH history. It was history without a book, without answers, and gave much food for thought among us. With a few exceptions (blocks where there was only one Habitat residence) it was impressive to arrive at a location and be able to readily identify the Habitat homes. Duplexes, townhomes, patio homes, single family residences – GAHH has covered the ground (literally) in innovative ways to build “community.” Pride of ownership was evident and more the “norm” than the exception.

Habitat for Humanity touches lives and builds community in so many ways and on so many levels: the Board of Directors who govern the affiliate, the staff and program managers who carry out our values and mission, our generous donors who enable us to realize our vision, the countless volunteers who define us and carry out the work, the ReStore donors and partners who enable us to utilize more donor dollars to support building homes, the businesses and vendors who generously participate with us in doing business, and the “stars” of our community, our partner families, who are our ambassadors and the face of our community. To all of you, we welcome you, we treasure you, we thank you for being a part of Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity and for taking this journey with us. You are our strength and inspiration as we continue our journey together.

Some of you may know that I have worn many hats here since 2006 – board member, board president, family selection committee, policy committee, and volunteer among them. I am thoroughly enjoying being back and working with everyone who is a part of this great organization. We have so much more journey ahead of us!

Joani Costello
Interim Executive Director

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Lance Hinkle, ReStore Receiving Assistant
Miguel Avila, ReStore Receiving Assistant
Graylin Armstrong, Truck Driver
Ezra Borgstahl, Truck Rider/Warehouse
Bruce Kirkpatrick, Building & Maintenance
Doug Champlin, Encore Fellow (and BBQ Master Chef)

Newsletter Team
Kris Ericson
The Printed Image

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A trip back in time to an early Habitat home.

Cover photo: Volunteers from The Dirty Bourbon Saloon hard at work!
President’s Message

Bob Arguelles, Board of Directors

It is an honor and pleasure to be writing the first president’s message of 2014. The year started out as busy and exciting as the previous year ended. The relocation of ReStore into its permanent home at 4900 Menaul NE has proven to be a huge success for GAHH, as sales from the grand opening through today have been brisk and have surpassed our initial estimates. As the staff continues to shape and reshape the sales floor, the receiving, shipping, and holding areas and the new offices hustle and bustle with activity. There is no question that the new location will provide the impetus to take the affiliate to the next level in our mission to eliminate sub-standard housing from the greater Albuquerque area.

I would like to welcome Joani Costello, our interim executive director, who has worked tirelessly since the first of the year. Utilizing her executive level management experience, Joani is making great strides in her effort to improve every facet of GAHH. Also new to the staff are Kay Pils, ReStore team leader, Lucy Aragon, ReStore cashier/customer service, and Chris Knutson, ReStore receiving assistant. Welcome aboard and thank you for your dedication to our organization.

The road to success is quite often met with bittersweet moments. On February 22, our community lost an exceptional leader and dear friend Rob Livingston, our board president at the time. Rob’s leadership of the board was instrumental in providing guidance through the difficult decisions necessary in making the relocation a success. It was an honor serving with Rob and seeing first-hand his determination in making the world a better place.

In his last newsletter message, Rob spoke of the rewarding experience it was to work with the staff, board, donors, volunteers, and partner families. I would like to expound on that with a personal perspective. The staff of GAHH is comprised of some of the most selfless individuals with whom I have ever had the pleasure of being associated. The professionalism and effort that they exhibit each and every day is a testament to their dedication to our mission. Their enthusiasm and perseverance will ensure the continued success of GAHH.

Our donors have continued to be supportive of the affiliate and fostered some extremely creative ideas that have garnered very positive attention for the organization. Our volunteers stepped up in overwhelming numbers to facilitate the relocation and could not have been more motivating. Last month, as we were able to resume construction on the final homes in our Townsend community, the full contingent of SWAT team members were at the ready, hammers-in-hand and anxious to get back to building.

I can’t thank and say enough about my fellow board members who have risen to the occasion in leading the organization through some trying moments in the past few months. Their guidance and support have shown a level of confidence to the staff, volunteers, and supporters that our mission will continue and the partner families that have been selected will soon see their dreams and the fruits of their hard labor come to fulfillment.

As a final note, I would like to thank all who have contributed so much of their time, talent, and treasure to the organization and assure you that your investment is in exceptional hands and will fulfill the dream of home ownership for well-deserving families.

Educational and Hands-On Classes, sponsored by a grant from State Farm, began in the ReStore in March. Thank you to instructors Sky Swanson and TLC plumbing; John Garlisch, County Extension Agent; Neal DeLange; Bill Reilly; Johanna A. Pickell; Donna Detweiler; and Jerry Bontrager.
A Tribute to a Dear Friend

Bob Arguelles, President

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” — Calvin Coolidge

No truer words could be spoken about Rob Livingston, a dear friend to all of us associated with GAHH, who tragically passed away in an automobile accident on February 22. Staff, friends, and supporters of GAHH honored Rob with the following statement:

“Rob was a dynamic leader who always brought a smile, calming presence, and a hug to everyone at GAHH. Rob rolled up his sleeves and helped move merchandise during the ReStore relocation, swung a hammer on the build site, and lent his expertise to many GAHH committees. Rob always gave more than just his time; his leadership qualities spread a sense of confidence, team spirit, and passion for our mission throughout the organization and into the greater community. Rob’s contributions to GAHH will be remembered and valued for years to come.”

In a tribute to his commitment to the GAHH mission, Rob’s memory was honored during a dedication ceremony of Ron’s House on Townsend. The Detrys’ gracious and thoughtful consideration in sharing their contribution to GAHH by dedicating the home to Rob’s memory, exemplified the selflessness of the donors who give so much to our organization. In a further honor, Mayor Richard Barry issued the following proclamation:

Whereas, Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity was established in 1987 with the mission to build decent affordable homes; and
Whereas, we are here today to further our vision that no one in greater Albuquerque shall live in substandard housing, and celebrate our 171st house being built for the Aragon Family; and
Whereas, we honor today, the memory of Robert “Rob” Livingston, and dedicate Ron’s House in loving memory of him; and
Whereas, Rob, a Vietnam Veteran, volunteered his time tirelessly and was committed to enhancing the quality of life in our community through his work with Supportive Housing Coalition, Board President for Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity, NM Horse Rescue at Walkin N Circles Ranch; and VP at Wells Fargo Bank; and
Whereas, as a result of his phenomenal efforts to lead by example, serve his country and improve lives among those in need;

Now, Therefore, I, Richard J. Berry, Mayor of the City of Albuquerque, do hereby proclaim, April 9, 2014, as Rob Livingston Day.

Through his devotion to family, service to our country, commitment to his employer, dedication to the non-profit organizations he served, and his passion for life, Rob set an example for all to follow. His memory will forever be honored.

Paul Bruns, Wells Fargo manager, at the rededication of Ron’s House to the memory of Rob Livingston.
Building the SWAT Community

Ron Detry, Volunteer

Creating a new Habitat dwelling requires planning, fundraising, and the acquisition of land, permits, and materials. Many organizations and individuals then volunteer their time and skill to assemble the materials into a home, guided by the experience and commitment of the core of the volunteer effort, the Special Work Assignment Team (SWAT). The women and men of SWAT spend many days at the Habitat build sites in the course of the year, learning the steps and techniques of construction and, in turn, serving as team leaders and teachers for the many others who volunteer less frequently. SWAT participants build decent, affordable housing for those who might not otherwise be able to afford it and in the process build a community of friends.

We learn much from each other about how to build a house. When I began seven years ago, I knew how to pound a nail, but not where to pound it or why it was needed. I have learned about sole plates and how the second top plate ties the walls together. I was shown how to hang drywall and why fit is so important. Others explained how to set roof trusses, making sure they are vertical and properly spaced. Yet when I was asked to be the job captain for a house, I was terrified because I knew so little. But other, more senior, SWAT members taught and supported me and the experience was simply wonderful.

I could support Habitat for Humanity solely through the money I contribute, but then I would not enjoy the company of my fellow SWAT members nor would I be able to say, “I helped frame and drywall and paint and landscape that house, the one that is now a home for a family.” I could never build a house on my own. It is the SWAT community of friends that lets me help others own a home. It is the SWAT community that inspires me to get up early and work hard, not just to build a house but to spend time with people I so greatly appreciate and enjoy. Individuals who have accompanied me on work days have so enjoyed the people with whom they worked and the great feeling that comes from helping others that they have become SWAT members themselves. SWAT is a lasting community of friends, united by a shared giving of service to others, and I feel privileged to be a part of it.

SWAT sends get well wishes to a team member who had to undergo surgery.
Torchbearers: Irv and Lois Hall

This new column will feature interviews and stories about GAHH community leaders. To submit the name of a Habitat Torchbearer, email beth@habitatabq.org

Jeanne Elmhorst, Volunteer

Mention Habitat for Humanity in Albuquerque and two names immediately pop up: Lois and Irving Hall. In their second decade of GAHH activity they have earned the title of elder, supporter, and visionary. Last summer, GAHH honored them in naming the Irving J. and Lois Hall Legacy Society.

Recently, Lois and Irv shared memories of their varied roles with Habitat. Their involvement began in the 1980s when Lois noticed that Millard Fuller, Habitat’s founder, was to speak in Albuquerque. Irv recalls how moved he was by Fuller’s turn from worldly success to putting his faith into action for those in need. Then Irv retired from Sandia Labs in 1994 and remembers little else of his retirement party except the poignant question his director posed: “Are you going to do something to make a difference?” Shortly after, their pastor sought a volunteer to cooperate with other Lutheran churches in building with GAHH. Irv felt the hand of God leading and his Habitat journey began in earnest.

Lois increased her involvement after retiring from nursing in 1999 and was often the construction site go-fer. She laughs remembering a time when she was uncomfortably wet and paint-covered from cleaning brushes and rollers but a fellow volunteer kept exclaiming how much fun this was.

But it wasn’t all fun. Once while building, Irv fell from a stepladder, but not until arriving home did he mention the pain and discover it was broken! They both chuckle as Lois shows an appreciation plaque with what she calls her favorite picture of Irv – he stands on a stepladder, cast on his leg, smiling.

Constantly sharing credit, their recollections are punctuated with the names of so many people who they credit with being “a huge help,” “a Godsend,” and “always there.” Listening to this couple, we clearly hear their Christian faith, devotion to each other, and passion for people and Habitat’s mission.

Next Torchbearers: Going international, Habitat’s Global Village Builds, Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Builds, and how Guatemala earned a special place in the lives of Irv and Lois Hall.

Leaving a legacy

so that no one in the Greater Albuquerque area will live in substandard housing.

The Irving J. & Lois Hall Legacy Society

I’m in the final chapters of my book of life and I think about what might be written on my tombstone. Both my wife and I would like it to say that we did make a difference. Working with Habitat has made it possible for us, hopefully, to make a difference in the lives of others. We know that it has certainly made a difference in ours.

—Irving J. Hall, PhD, Home Sponsor and Volunteer

Forms of Planned Giving

- Bequest in a Will
- Gift of Real Estate
- Life Insurance
- Life Income Gifts
- Retirement Plans
- Beneficiary of an IRA
- Permanent Endowment

For more information contact Beth Goldman,
Director of Resource Development
505-265-0057 ☮️ beth@habitatabq.org

Lunch Box Builders

Lunch Box Builders and Event Food Sponsors: Jan 1, 2014 – April 30, 2014

Community Outreach—
   All Saints Lutheran Church
   South Valley Civitan
   Hence Williams
   Ericson Family
   Gabaldon Family

Jason’s Deli
Martinez Family
Marquez Family
Pizza 9, Louisiana
Pizza Hut, 2640 Carlisle
Dions, 4717 Central

For more information contact:
Volunteer Coordinator 505-265-0057
Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity
www.habitatabq.org

27 Years Of Opening Doors To Brighter Futures
Welcome Encore Fellowship Intern
Doug Champlin

An Interview by Catherine Heyne, Executive Assistant/Grantwriter

Catherine: Doug, why don’t you introduce yourself.

Doug: Thank You Catherine. I’m Doug Champlin and recently retired from Intel Corp. As my retirement date quickly came around, I wasn’t quite sure what direction I wanted to go during retirement. I did know that sitting at home day after day was not for me after exiting the high stress of the corporate world.

That’s when I found the Encore Fellowship, an organization that places newly retired individuals with non-profit organizations, allowing the non-profit to benefit from the skills of the retiree. After some research, I quickly realized that this was indeed the direction that I wanted to go and give back to the community with my time, experience, and skills. After looking at several organizations, Habitat for Humanity really fit my expectations, goals, and community involvement that I wanted to become part of.

Catherine: Doug, why don’t you talk a little about the project that you are involved with?

Doug: I’m working on a homeowner’s impact assessment survey.

Catherine: What does that really mean?

Doug: Well, as an organization we really want to understand how our current programs, processes, and new home ownership is affecting/improving individual lives and if it has made a difference in their life, safety, education, community, family, and/or personal and financial well-being.

We have spent the last three months developing a survey that covers all these areas with several questions around each. We are rolling out the survey in two phases, with a small quantity of homeowners for a pilot during the month of May, and then rolling it out to the remaining 170+ family partners in late summer. Once we have received the survey comments, we will be able to compile answers and really see where we need to make changes and improvements for the homeowners, the community, and the organization.

Catherine: Thank you Doug, is there anything else that you would like to add?

Doug: In the short time that I’ve been here, it’s been a great experience and opportunity. All of the GAHH staff and volunteers that I’ve had the opportunity to work with are terrific and exceptional individuals, so, to all of them, “Thank You.”
Construction Update
Neal DeLange, Construction Supervisor

The seven-home Townsend Project is underway. With the talents of architect intern Max Vasher and input from many, including our SWAT and staff at GAHH, we have incorporated a passive solar design, needed outdoor living space, and green building techniques which save money on energy bills for our partner families. This project will have a different look and feel than previous Habitat homes. Building began in March, with the Radke Family and friends on the Celebration of Life home, the fourth home they have built with GAHH. The Radke’s again stayed with us for two weeks and we worked every day, which really helped with adjusting to building the new homes. The experience of working with them was fun and rewarding, as always. We cannot thank them enough for their continuing support.

Following their stay, work began on the second home on the block, Ron’s House, sponsored by SWAT member Ron Detry and his wife Faye, dedicated to the memory of Rob Livingston. Dedications for these first two of the seven Townsend homes will be in the summer. As we settle in to our routine and get acquainted with our new homes, we are looking forward to a new community being built on Townsend. We hope to see you along the way! Thank you, WHPacific for the time and energy donated to assist us in completing the CLOMR-F application. And an especially big thanks to the corporate sponsors of our Townsend build: Lowe’s Home Improvement and Wells Fargo. It takes a community!

Partner Family member Liz putting in sweat equity hours building her neighbor Lucy’s home.
New partnerships are blooming all the time between GAHH and local businesses. It’s like we are building a community flower garden filled with irises, marigolds, roses, and morning glories! Here’s a special shout out to three new community partners: Melloy Nissan, Jason’s Deli, and Starbucks at San Mateo/Cutler.

Melloy Nissan ran a very successful 50th anniversary campaign in May promoting GAHH and pledging $50 for every Nissan sold during the month to the Townsend build. Jason’s Deli stepped up and delivered delicious lunch boxes for 155 construction volunteers, and Starbucks collected donations for GAHH at their Friends and Family Grand Opening celebration. Awesome, right? Look for a full list of our donors and business supporters on page 11.

Recently, I’ve been helping out with the Educational and Hands-On Series, sponsored by a grant from State Farm, that takes place at the ReStore and in our conference room. Classes offered to date have included everything from fixing a toilet to writing a will. The class instructors are a part of the community garden, too. You can find out more about the upcoming classes in this series at www.habitatabq.org.

Ok, so I’m not always out and about looking for new flowers for our community garden. I’ve also been tackling the paper work required for state tax credits. Did you know that with a donation of $1000 or more you can receive 50% in state tax credits for any year you choose? The cost of our Townsend Project has risen by $45,000 because of changes in the flood plain map and new requirements to raise the ground level about three feet for each house pad. More than 1,550 cubic yards of fill dirt must be imported, compacted, and terraformed so that the slab of each home reaches an acceptable height. If you donate $1,000 or more to this project you can receive the state tax credits. How does this work? For example, you donate $2,000. You will receive $1,000 in direct state tax credits, plus the standard charitable deduction for your full contribution on your federal tax return. After receiving your refund, your cost is $1,000 and GAHH receives $2,000! To take advantage of this or to learn more please contact me at 505-359-2423.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of our organization and make the real difference for our families. Many thanks to the sponsors, lunch providers, and volunteers who have helped families build their homes at the Townsend Ave SW build site from January 1–April 30.

ReStore volunteers are cheerful, helpful, and always working hard to help our staff keep up with the demands of a growing store. Thank you for showing up and jumping in!

Group Volunteers
Radke Group
New Day
Junior League
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management – 2
CenturyLink
Wells Fargo
Kirtland Defense Threat Reduction Agency
Kirtland Company Grade Officer’s Council
New Mexico Society of Hospital Pharmacists

ReStore Group Volunteers
Hewlett Packard Corporate Print
Kirtland SPAWAR Reserve Project
Duke City Civitan
Engineers Without Borders – 2
Kirtland AFB Public Safety
Aflac Action
CenturyLink
Kirtland Company Grade Officer’s Council
UNM Beta Alpha Psi
Celebration Baptist Church
Family Services
KoriAnn Sanchez, Family Services Manager

As GAHH grows, we continue to engage the communities we serve. As the Family Services Manager, what better way to find families “in need” then to introduce Habitat’s mission to other stewards of the community? As a Civitan member and GAHH employee, I am often approached by individuals who share the same interests to cultivate community by raising awareness and expand involvement. I draw on their energy and expertise and make certain I stay connected to carefully assess the goals of those we all serve.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Debbie Johnson, executive director of TenderLove Community Center. I presented her with an offering of material she could use in her efforts to teach low-income women the skill to sew. I also met the CEO of lifeROOTS, an organization that provides programs and services to empower families with disabilities. Finally, I contribute to “Paws to People” by collecting pairs of used shoes that they in turn sell to teach low-income women to repair shoes. The money is then allocated to research of illnesses shared by humans and animals which will eventually assist in saving the lives of both! The list goes on, but meeting these wonderful people and discovering how they positively impact our society has been an uplifting experience. Together we focus on a path aligned with the betterment of our entire community.

At Habitat for Humanity we are so fortunate to have the support of our strong volunteer and donor base. Our goal is to leave no stone unturned in our quest to build homes for low-income families and help neighborhoods realize their aspirations. Whether you contribute financially or volunteer, you ARE the force that fulfills the GAHH mission. Thank you all so much for your support as we continue our efforts together to eliminate poverty housing while building hope in our communities.

Special thanks to Kim Jew Studios, for the beautiful portraits which have captured our partner families in their joyous journey to successful, simple, decent and affordable homeownership.

Above: YUGA volunteers at the April 5, 2014, Music 4 Humanity Concert. Funds raised were matched by State Farm. Thanks to concert sponsors 3 Advertising; Lexus Sales Staff; Albuquerque Sol FC, Inc.; Just Dine In Deliveries; David Matteucci, associate broker, Keller Williams Realty; Susan Jennings; Jerry and Connie Soden; Mark Edwards; Eric Burris; Suzann Ownings; Bob Arguelles; and John Nichols.

Below: Albuquerque State Farm agent Jesse Dompreh presented the matching funds check to YUGA President Kayla Matteucci on April 3 at the Townsend Ave. build site.

Find us on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/HabitatABQ
Donor Honor Roll

GAHH has been tremendously blessed by hundreds of individuals, churches, synagogues, businesses, and other organizations that have supported our mission to build community one home and one family at a time. Major donors ($500+) are listed below for the period of October 2013 – April 2014. If we inadvertently left your name off of this list, please contact us immediately. Thank you all!

JoAnn Albrecht
Allotta Family Foundation
Bank of Oklahoma
Bank of the West
BBVA Compass Foundation
C. David Bedford
Roy and Lynnae Benson
Susan Burgener
CenturyLink
Greg J. and Shanna Chavarria
Church of the Risen Savior
City of Albuquerque
Walter and Martha Clift
Covenant Presbyterian Church
John C. Crawford
Ronald and Faye Detry
Francis C. Elkin
Sandra Erickson
Dave and Ruth Ericson
Faith Lutheran Church
Barbara Ann Free
Paul Frumkin
James Garsow
General Mills Foundation
Irving and Lois Hall
Elizabeth A. Holm
Paul and Beth Hommert
Thomas Hunter
Richard and Judy Jacobs
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Kaban Inc.
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Dale and Darlene Leonard
Judith and William Lucero
LVR Productions
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Sara Mills
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Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
New Mexico Orthopedics
Melloy Nissan
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Sandra Peterson
Marvin and Nadyne Plugge
PNM Resources Foundation
Carolyn Quinn
Stephen Rehnberg
Mr. and Mrs. Rettig
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rieden
Rio Grande Credit Union
Peter and Patricia Robinson
Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union
Lynn Schibeci
Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church
Valerie Shulfer
State Farm Mutual
The Patrice Ann Radke Charitable Fund
Thrivent Financial for Lutherns
US New Mexico Federal Credit Union
Village Frame Crafters
Wells Fargo Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne White
WHPacific
Wise Recycling, LLC
Drs. James and Joan Woodard
Catherine Woodward
Patrick Zutterholm
Xavier Zubiate

Our Vision: No one in the Greater Albuquerque area will live in substandard housing.

Our Mission Statement: Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity builds community – one home, one family at a time – by making it possible for low-income families to own simple, decent, affordable homes.
Donate To ReStore

Donation Hours: Wednesday – Saturday,
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. To arrange for large item
pick-up, call our dispatcher at 505-265-0057 x103

Donations Accepted:
- Appliances in Working Condition
- Artwork
- Cabinets
- Carpet & Window Coverings
- Doors
- Electrical Parts, Wires, Plugs, etc.
- Fans
- Furniture
- Hardware
- Home Decorative Accessories
- Lighting
- Lumber, Plywood, Sheetrock, Trim (all wood
  pieces 3’ or longer, please)
- Pipe, PVC, Metal, Copper
- Plumbing, Tubs, Sinks, Showers, Commodes
- Roofing Material, Gutters, Canales
- Tools
- Framed Windows & Mirrors

Kudos to the ReStore staff, old and new. (L-R) Johnnie, Kathy, Miguel, Chris,
Kay, JT (volunteer), Annette, and Mark. Brian and Lance where are you?