



Greater Albuquerque
Habitat
for Humanity®

Help build it!

www.habitatabq.org



Fall 2015

The House That SWAT Built



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Kris Ericson
 The Printed Image

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President's Message

Mark Lujan, President, Board of Directors

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity is presently at one of its highest points in years and is only showing signs of going up. As the new president, I feel very fortunate to be leading this organization at such a strong time in our history. Having been involved in GAHH for six years, I have personally seen many ups and downs, but through faith and hard work we always come out on top.

In the past three to four years, I have seen many things change at GAHH, but the one thing that stays consistent and strong is our Special Work Assignment Team (SWAT). These guys and gals – the “elite” of our volunteer squad – tirelessly invest their time and energy week after week at the job site and on committees. I’ve had the privilege of working with SWAT members such as Bob Rieden, Dwayne Sheppard, and Hence Williams to name a few. I want to personally thank every SWAT member for your dedication and hard work. Finishing off the Townsend site and starting Mesa Del Rio is going to be a great achievement for SWAT and for GAHH.

ReStore has been doing great this year, beating our projected goals month after month. I congratulate Steve and his staff for making it all possible and increasing numbers every month. I am honored to work along with all the staff at Habitat that makes the whole mission possible... which is to provide families with simple, decent and affordable homes. I also have the pleasure of serving and working with the GAHH Board that has also diligently made leaps and bounds bringing together ideas, improving processes, and providing directives for the organization.

Last but not least, I want to give a big thanks to the volunteers, donors, and everyone who contributes to this great cause. I am looking forward to seeing what great achievements we can make in the upcoming year. Let's keep on taking Habitat to greater and greater levels!

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.

Save trees & build more homes!

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please send an email to beth@habitatabq.org with “e-newsletter” in the subject line.



Joani's Corner

Joani Costello, Executive Director



When you get close to Habitat, it changes you and you become part of something that is helping to change our world. By building decent, affordable, and energy-efficient homes we touch hearts, but even more important, it makes good sense. When people participate in our success, they become motivated to get more personally involved. This in turn, generates enthusiasm.

Transforming community is hard. There are many examples in life where public and private entities work to build physical structures, but without the vested interest of the people who will be living there, there is no success. It makes sense to have buy-in from the partner families whereby their active participation helps to shape the areas where they will live, play, and work. That is what we strive for each and every day in the communities where we build hope and help dreams become reality.

We at GAHH are blessed to have SWAT – Special Work Assignment Team. For those who know any of them, there is no lack of enthusiasm here. They are unique to our affiliate and have grown in number from a handful to as many as 45. Primarily retirees and others from varied backgrounds, you will find 10 – 20 or more of these dedicated volunteers on any given build day ready to work and mentor other volunteers in the “Habitat Experience.” Their guidance and steadfast commitment to making a difference for others exemplifies bridging our theological and cultural differences by putting love into action. This is known as the “Theology of the Hammer,” a concept started by Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity. The men and women of SWAT are always focused on the end result – that of impacting the lives of others and changing our world one home, one family at a time. They are the life blood of our organization

and, together, they keep our affiliate in perpetual motion. They form close bonds with our partner families as they work alongside them week after week, rain, heat, or cold. They say the reward is that final day – the culmination of all that we do to fulfill our mission: the home dedication.

This unique group is led by Bob Rieden, who is admired and respected by all. His wife, Barbara is also part of this group and will tell you that their lives revolve around Habitat, not vice versa. While we think of the blessings the families receive through fulfilling our mission, Bob believes that SWAT gets just as many blessings as our families through this experience. Humble indeed. I salute them all and convey my heartfelt thanks as well to everyone in our GAHH family for their tireless energy and steady dedication. The outpouring of love from their generous hearts never gets used up or divided; rather, it multiplies our blessings with every act of kindness.



SWAT members Rodney, Ron, John, Jay, and Dale

To each and every SWAT member, know that you are transforming community. You even make it look easy! This issue is dedicated to all of you. Though there would never be enough space to enumerate the gifts you give us, they remain with us always and we are humbled by your service and impact to our affiliate and our partner families.

Reserve Your Seat!

RAISING THE ROOF 2015 ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 14 - 9 a.m.
Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid

Buy tickets at www.habitatabq.org
or call 359-2423.

Chick-fil-A
Copper Pointe Church
Tom & Jeanne
Elmhurst
First Unitarian Church
Girl Scout Troop
10569 (Daisies &
Brownies)
Jason's Deli
Moss Adams, LLC
Sandia National
Laboratories



St. Bernadette Catholic
Church
Texas Roadhouse
Veteran Motor Club
of America

To participate email jerry@habitatabq.org

We Have SWAT

Bill Reilly, Construction Manager

When this article hits circulation, the Townsend Project will have been completed. Seven contemporary pueblo style homes exemplify our affiliates' aptitude for creativity, functionality, energy efficiency, and sustainable green building while maintaining sensible design and affordability for our families. The Townsend Project, as well as other successful Habitat projects, can be attributed to our SWAT (Special Work Assignment Team).

The contributions from this group of extraordinarily talented and dedicated volunteers is immeasurable. It would be nearly impossible to list all of their leadership skills and talents, count the hours of hard labor, measure the commitment and passion, or attempt to quantify their generosity to a dollar figure because when it comes to Habitat, there are no limits to their benefaction.

- We have SWAT equipped with a tool belt, clipboard, and a finely sharpened pencil battling to cross off a long list of volunteer tasks that had been carefully composed just days before.
- We have SWAT that provide leadership on our job site and coordinate the SWAT with general volunteers, creating a synergistic effect where work and fun become a rewarding experience for all.
- We have SWAT that work quietly behind the job site scene to arrange and mobilize financial interest in the community and assist our affiliate to build more homes for those in need.
- We have SWAT that work diligently to record a photographic history of the Habitat builds.

- We have SWAT that give generously to the Habitat cause in the form of financial donations and home sponsorship.
- We have SWAT that leave the comfort of their homes and sacrifice time with their own families to provide shelter for another.
- We have SWAT with their own personal battles to fight, but who somehow find the time and courage to give to others.



(L to R) Frank Tarr, Tom Farr, Tom Haywood, Nick Kennedy, Jay Dugas, Ed Decatur, and Ed Bristol.

Thank you all for your endless dedication and support for Habitat. We appreciate your loyalty and continuous commitment to help FUND OUR MISSION. I am truly honored to be working with all of you.

Here We Go: Mesa del Rio

- House # 1: The Pope Francis House
- House #2: Lodge #60 House
- Houses #3 and #4: Unity Project (See p. 10)
- House #5: Patrice Radke Build
- House #6: The House that SWAT Built



Pope Francis House Groundbreaking with The Most Reverend Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe

Fun Facts From The Mouths Of SWAT



Pauline Garcia - "My first Habitat building experience was in Santa Monica and we dug trenches with a pick ax. My hands were closed in a fist for two days."



Ron Detry - "I taught the Macarena dance to the Defense Minister of Communist China."



Dave Ericson - "Somehow I've become the SWAT Chaplain in residence."

Buck Bettis - "I have made four cross country motorcycle trips (with Run for the Wall) and covered close to 6,300 miles in 21 days."



Suzette Brooks - "Some of my friends call me the energizer bunny."



Irv Hall with President Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter- "I was selected HFHI Volunteer of the Year in 2007."



Lois Hall - "One time on a Jimmy Carter work project in Georgia it rained so hard that the hardest part of the job was actually peeling off my rain drenched clothes."



Tom Farr - "Since I'm vertically challenged, I'm glad Habitat has a good supply of benches and study ladders for all the short people!"

Jerry Cap - "I consider the pun to be the highest form of humor."



Dan Lutz, Nick Kennedy, Tom Farr, Tom Haywood, and Dale Leonard - "Hammering nails with my fellow SWAT team is more fun than managing a bunch of engineers." - Dan Lutz



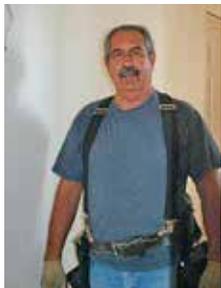
Valerie Moore & Tom Haywood - "Are you going to cowboy up or just lay there and bleed?" - Val Moore



Willi Nunns - "As a volunteer off shore sailing coach, I see similarities between instructing Navy cadets in safe operation of a 44-foot sail boat in the Atlantic Ocean and working with Habitat volunteers in building quality homes safely as a team."



John Lanoue - "I drove a '38 Buick coupe that I rebuilt to a Jimmy Carter build in Ft. Worth in October '14."



Bob Garcia - "I was aboard the USS New Orleans, the prime recovery ship for the Apollo 14 manned lunar module, way back in our moon mission days."



Betty Lane - "I taught in so many schools they called me the gypsy teacher."



Joe Vargo - "I've learned that to get the attention of a group of noisy 3rd graders just hold up a snake. "



Jay Dugas - "I had 25 kidney stones in 5 years."



Les Anderson - "In 1949-50 I taught school at a country school in North Dakota and with the winter roads impassable, I rode a horse to school."



John Crawford - "As a boy, I used to dance with the Indians at their local pow-wow's (feathers and all). I would wear dyed long underwear to cover up my white Skin."



Marv Plugge - "Nadyne and I had our 60th wedding anniversary this August and cherished the flower bouquet given to us at the SWAT picnic."



Gerry Werth and Ric Tafoya - "I had the honor of pinning my original Air Force pilot wings on my son, Bill, when he completed USAF pilot training." – Gerry Werth "I was in an old Bearded Man Cult in Africa 15 years ago and was given the name Baba Kahawa (Father Coffee)." – Ric Tafoya



Frank Tarr and John Stichman - "When I walk into a room with my fiddle and silver hair everyone thinks I must be an old time fiddler, but actually I started playing at age 59." – John Stichman



John and Kris Stichman - "I play pickleball." – Kris Stichman



Bob Rieden - "Because I was a forester, I only needed six months additional schooling to become an engineer."



Barbara Rieden - "One arm fence builder."

Carl Davidson - "I enjoy handling zoning for the Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association."

Anthony Harkness - "I was a bouncer for 12 years."

A special thanks to Dave Ericson for his help with the photos and a shout out to those SWAT members who we had no picture of in this newsletter: Buck Bettis, Jerry Cap, Carl Davidson, Anthony Harkness, Luke Harwood, and Scott Rossol.

These SWAT Had Nothing To Say



Debbie Gonzales



Ed Bristol



Dwayne Sheppard



John Currier



Ed Decatur



Leo & Pete Hosenfeld



Miguel Duncan



Hence Williams



Phil Witherspoon



Nick Kennedy



Mario Valdez

Family Services – Our Guiding Lights

Kori Ann Sanchez, Family Services Manager

From the moment of inception, God has a plan in motion for every one of us. Ahh yes, the industrious work of our Creator. Combined with fate, luck, love, genetics, family dynamics, cultural norms, and so many other elements that eventually collide – our lives begin to take shape. We evolve from an innocent, dependent, tender, unconditional, moldable, and cuddly little human being to the person we look at in the mirror every day.

How did we get there?! Why do some people excel while others fail? How did that second grade teacher, grocery store cashier, or colleague turn out to be so hard, broken, worn, unhelpful, bitter, and negative? On the other hand, have you ever encountered an individual and said to yourself “I love to be around that person.” They seem to radiate kindness, work hard, and still make time to “do” for others. Winding down to the end of another year, I invite you to ask yourself “What kind of person do you aspire to be? Can we up-cycle ourselves? Not re-invent so to speak, just take who we are, and create a more purposeful existence.” How you ask? I’ve always believed if you want to be better at something, position



Bob Rieden and Henc Williams (foreground) are joined by SWAT members Rodney, Tom, Jerry, John Tom, Barb, Ron, and Jay at the start of a work day.

yourself to be around people that can teach and be a good example of those things you wish to improve on.

So in the spirit of “being your best you,” I want to draw your attention to a group of amazing individuals that just may be able to provide all the inspiration you need: our GAHH SWAT. I am not going to tell you a lot, because my intention is to dangle the proverbial carrot. However, if you want to be surrounded by hard working individuals who exude unconditional love, dedication, consistency, leadership, selfless acts, positive high energy, the feeling of warmth, kindness, and family, I invite you to visit or volunteer on the GAHH job site. Ask to meet any SWAT member and shake their hand. You will get the opportunity to work side-by-side with these individuals and “take in” their giving, kind-hearted nature. It’s contagious!!

Every year they recruit another few people who have earned the name SWAT. These amazing men and women are on our job site every week, donating their own time and dime. They apply their expertise and have helped build over 175 homes for low-income families. But most of all, they guide our partner families as they take on the new role of homeownership. They teach them everything about their home as they hammer in every nail. Sure, they think about budget, planning the project, payback period of 0% interest 25 year mortgage note, average rate of return, discounted cash flow, internal rate of return, and profitability index. But not for themselves. Rather, they know these items are important to the growth and success of GAHH and the community. Moreover, their hearts lie with the families and lives they have changed forever. We appreciate you so much SWAT—we could never thank you enough!

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



Planned Giving

For more information contact **Beth Goldman**,
Director of Resource Development
505-265-0057 📞 beth@habitatbq.org



The House that SWAT Built!

Beth Goldman, Director of Resource Development

Without a doubt, this newsletter could be 50 pages long, filled with nothing but kudos and accolades for GAHH's SWAT, and it still wouldn't adequately describe the extent of each SWAT member's dedication. It also wouldn't fully express the vast appreciation and gratitude that the staff, board, donors, and Partner Families feel for past and present SWAT volunteers. To find out how SWAT get started, I was lucky enough to visit with some of GAHH's best historians and original SWAT members. Thank you Irv and Lois Hall, Duane Hughes, Dave Ericson, and Bob and Barb Rieden for helping me tell the SWAT story.

First, I was told that it's important to understand how Habitat operated in the 1990s and early 2000s. At that time, a home sponsor was responsible for financial support and also for providing a job captain and the volunteers needed to build each house, while GAHH's construction supervisor took care of permits and procuring materials for the job site. Under this system, quality control occasionally suffered, particularly if a team captain lost his or her enthusiasm and left after only a few weeks into the build. Often, the only replacement the sponsor could find was someone with insufficient construction experience.

Back in the 1990's, a remarkable Sandia retiree by the name of Duane Hughes was introduced to GAHH by a fellow Sandia retiree, Irv Hall.

Irv, among other contributions, was the key person responsible for developing the partnership between GAHH, Sandia National Laboratories, and dozens of Sandia retirees. Irv and Duane, along with Dave Ericson, Marv Plugge, Larry Lane, Bob Sigmund, and a handful of other dedicated volunteers, put in hour upon hour on the construction sites, staying as long as it took to get the job done.



Duane Hughes

Fast forward to 2003 on Dona Arcelia Ave SW, when Sandia Labs was in the process of building its fourth Habitat home. Irv Hall, Duane Hughes, Larry Lane, and Bob Rieden were Sandia's rotating team captains; they had been honing their building skills on Habitat homes for a decade. They understand quality and knew what it took to complete a project. In fact, Bob brought to Habitat the experience of building his own home and Duane had stepped into the role of volunteer assistant to the GAHH building supervisor and interim building supervisor for a time. The Sandia House and Amy Biehl House (Catholic Coalition)



Bob Rieden

were coming along really well, but across the road the PNM house, on Dona Esmera Ave SW, was facing some challenges. With less than two weeks until PNM executives were to arrive in Albuquerque for the home dedication, there was sheetrock that needed to be ripped out and other quality control that had to be addressed. Duane called in the troops and pulled a team together. The group was so

effective that Duane suggested that the team come in each Wednesday to clean up volunteer's mistakes from the prior Saturday build day and to prepare for the upcoming Saturday. This marked the birth of Special Work Assignment Team – SWAT. It was named by Duane and he took on the leadership role.

It's hard to identify the original SWAT, because there is no contract or membership agreement needed to join. The requirement is dedication and providing leadership. By 2008 SWAT had grown and these were some of the most involved members: Les Anderson, Hal Arner, George Beall, John Brown, Jerry Cap, John Crawford, John Currier, Carl Davidson, Ron Detry, Dave Ericson, Bill Garrison, Debbie Gonzales, Irv and Lois Hall, Tom Haywood, Leo Hosenfeld, Duane Hughes, Larry and Betty Lane, Dale Leonard, Marvin Plugge, Bob Prew, Bob and Barbara Rieden, Heinz Schmitt, Val Shulfer, Bob Sigmund, Ed Studer, and Hence Williams. Many of these people are still active today.

Duane led the SWAT through five GAHH construction managers and worked on 60 homes over 11 years. In 2008, when life circumstances begged Duane to step down, Bob Rieden, along with the support of his wife Barb, took the reins. During that time, sponsors stopped providing job captains and Bob did his best to encourage SWAT members to take on the role. The plan didn't really pan out and Bob found himself acting as job captain for about 15 homes in a row. Dedication is obviously a virtue for Bob and Barb, for the past 10 years they have planned their lives around the Habitat building schedule. Where would GAHH be without them?

In the upcoming year, under Bob's leadership, with expertise of Construction Manager Bill Riley, SWAT will lead an average of 50 volunteers a week on the Mesa del Rio project. One of the homes in this project will be built in honor of SWAT. Thank you SWAT past and present, allow us to honor you with **the House that SWAT Built!** Help Build It!



Habitat for Humanity Unity Project

Susan Shipley, Faith Outreach

“The important question in interfaith relationships is not what do you believe, but what do you love? Not what do we disagree about, but what can we accomplish together in the name of love, service, and peace? Loving your neighbor is the way you love what is true and holy in this world.”

– Rev. Angela Herrera

The Unity Project is two adjacent homes on Mesa del Rio NW that will be built and funded by the Albuquerque interfaith community. Groundbreaking is anticipated for late 2015 or early 2016. A diversity of churches, synagogues, religious centers, and faith groups will work side-by-side to provide affordable housing for two families in need in our community. Joining together in “Sponsorship Teams,” members of different faiths will pool donations of volunteers, lunches, and money. United, they will achieve a full sponsorship, something each could not realize alone.

The significance of all faith communities working together on Unity Project will be greater than the work of each individually. For more information, contact Susan Shipley at shipleys67@gmail.com. To make a donation to the Unity Project access www.habitatabq.org.



DONATE NOW

Operational Corner – Volunteer Program Update

Doug Champlin, Operations Manager; and Regina Macias, Volunteer Manager

As the operational manager for GAHH, I oversee multiple areas from the Family Services Department to Mortgage Servicing, Construction, administrative positions, and the Volunteer Department. As we move forward in 2015, one of my visions for this year is to rebrand our Volunteer Program, and increase our Volunteers’ understanding of and commitment to GAHH’s Mission and Vision. To help GAHH move forward toward this vision, we have hired Regina Macias as our new volunteer manager. Regina brings multiple years of volunteer management and employment in the non-profit sector, as well as some exciting new ideas and visions for our volunteer program. I’ll let Regina share some of her insights into our vision for the new program.

– Doug

Since I have come aboard, I have met many dedicated souls who strive to live by what Habitat is truly about. Community. I will, as part of Habitat, continue to work closely alongside each and every one of you. I value your efforts, your time, and, most importantly, your feedback. As my first welcome to growing our volunteer relationships and our new program, I am pleased to invite you to our first Volunteer Appreciation Day this fall. More information will be forth coming as we finalize the date and plans for this event. This is open to past, present, or newly interested volunteers. We will have refreshments on hand, sign-ups for anyone interested, a “name our program” contest, and more about our new “Refer a Friend Incentive Program,” which we will launch this fall. Please stop in, say hello, introduce yourself, and

let’s all get to know each other. You have given hard work and time toward your community; meet others who have too! In the meantime, please visit our web site, and sign up for the great volunteer opportunities that we have available at the construction site, in the ReStore, and our offices. I was thrilled to be offered this position and I look forward to the opportunity of building great new professional relationships with you. – Regina

Thank You, Volunteers!

Many thanks to the volunteer groups that helped at the job site and in the ReStore May – July 2015. You make a difference in our community!

Construction Volunteer Groups:

ABQ Del Norte Rotary Club
 ABQ Orthodontics
 Annunciation YAFS
 B’nai Israel Congregation
 Catholic/Presbyterian Coalition
 CenturyLink
 Citibank
 First Unitarian Church
 GAP Inc.
 Islamic Center of New Mexico

Kirtland AFB
 ■ 58 MEF
 ■ Safety Center
 Leidos
 Moss-Adams, LLC
 Sandia National Laboratories
 Santa Ana Star Casino
 Wells Fargo

ReStore Volunteer Groups

Hershey’s
 Verizon



Donor Honor Roll

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity thanks the many individuals, foundations, companies, churches, and organizations that have donated from May – July 2015. Your generosity supports the construction of affordable, safe, and decent low-income homes in Albuquerque. You Help Build It!

Individuals
\$5,000 and Over
Anonymous

\$500 - \$4,999.99

Anonymous
Leslie & D'Ann Anderson
Ronald & Faye Detry
Gary & Debi Housley
Daniel & Marsha Kuhnley
Robert & Barbara Rieden
Cathy Anderson
Sandy Gold
Irving & Lois Hall

Up to \$499.99

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Kathleen & Seth Orell
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Julianne Randlemon

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First United Methodist
Church
Greer Stafford/SJCF
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Virgin Mary
Positive Energy Solar
Rich Ford
Two Men and a Truck

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Handy Horner
Holy Ghost Parish
Kroger Community Rewards
Lowe's #2539
Lowe's Workplace Giving
Program
Murphy's Earthworks
Slagle Herr Architects, Inc.
We Can Do It

If we inadvertently left your name off this list, please contact beth@habitatbq.org. Thank you.



Congratulations to the Manning Family, Interfaith House, GAHH Home #175



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Building Community One Home At A Time



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Greater Albuquerque
Habitat for Humanity
ReStore

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