Sharing in Hope

Bob and Barbara Rieden give much more than time to GAHH. As volunteers for the past 13 years, they have not only supported the building of dozens of homes for low-income families, they have witnessed first-hand the drive and passion necessary to keep Habitat builds going strong. Integral to the Special Work Assignments Team (SWAT), Bob and Barb have donated more than 10,000 hours of time and hard work.

Bob and Barb give all credit to the 40-person SWAT team who show up rain or shine to get the job done. “I couldn’t get anything done without Hence and all the others down at the site,” says Bob. “It’s a team effort. This isn’t about us, it’s about all the men and women who make it work.” Bob says the SWAT is about camaraderie; everyone is used to working and when they retire they still want to be useful. “Rather than get together to have breakfast on Saturday like some older guys do, the SWAT gets together to build homes,” he noted.

Bob graduated from technical school in Chicago, married Barb, and moved to New Mexico in 1962 to work for Sandia National Laboratories. “We didn’t know a soul,” said Barb. But the two grew to love the state, making close friends and raising two children. Bob went to school at night while working, eventually earning a master’s degree. He kept moving up in the ranks at the lab, managing groups of employees. No doubt, this is where he learned the leadership skills so useful on the Habitat job site.

Bob helped on a few builds in the 1990’s, but it wasn’t until retirement that he really got involved. In 2003, Bob jumped in and by 2004 Barb was volunteering with him. “My husband and family come first,” said Barb. “I like to get involved with whatever Bob is interested in and passionate about and try it out for myself. It’s been great to volunteer together.” Bob gives great credit to Barb for helping him in his pursuits. “I can’t do it myself; you have to have a strong marriage to do all the stuff you want,” he noted. “I just get more and more involved in my activities, but doing it together is what works for our marriage.”

Bob’s passion and leadership skills claimed him the volunteer title of Team Leader. He orchestrates the entire build. Bob tracks every stage of the job, knows what activities can be accomplished on a given day, makes sure the materials are ready, organizes SWAT members, and coordinates specific volunteer jobs for each build.

During the 2017 Raising the Roof Breakfast, Bob and Barb will be honored for giving so much of their lives and their hearts to the Habitat mission. It is a wonderful gift they have given to our community over the years. As true leaders, this couple who has devoted several days per week for the past decade to helping others insists that this honor is not theirs alone, but is for every SWAT member. “I do enjoy it,” said Bob. “There would be something missing in my life if I didn’t have those friends out there on the job site.” And there would be something missing if we didn’t have Bob and Barb on our side. Thank you for your generosity, your dedication, your leadership, and your friendship.

Make a reservation at www.habitatabq.org and help GAHH honor Bob and Barb at Raising the Roof on April 22nd.
Leading Mission & Vision

By Joan Costello, Executive Director

Every non-profit faces challenges. Whether it’s economic stability, struggling employees, lack of volunteers, or ineffective governance, leaders are called upon to break down barriers and confront issues head-on. They can’t do it alone: it requires communication, building trust, and setting a vision. With clearly defined roles and guiding principles, impactful leaders can build a cohesive team and move thinking from ME to WE.

Our team efforts to focus on awareness and engagement are yielding great results. The community is becoming more versed in what we do and the lives we impact, donations are increasing, and our volunteer base is growing. Staff and volunteers, working together, create and enhance the mechanisms that promote building hope, changing lives, and creating a positive impact in our community.

Over the past year, we embarked on a collaborative project with UNM and CNM in the Barelas Neighborhood, called ecoMOD. The concept began with an idea presented to Construction Manager Bill Reilly followed by board approval. The process required input and planning from five internal departments, the Barelas Neighborhood Association, and the City of Albuquerque. All of the data is being compiled in a proposal that will go to the City Council for final approval. Additional planning and collaborations will then bring the project to fruition. This is a prime example of the commitment, passion, and innovation that helps to ensure that GAHH will thrive long into the future.

The Board of Directors has embraced the leadership challenge and is setting the vision that fuels our actions and moves us forward. No department in our complex organization can act alone; it is collaboration that moves us from ME to WE and THEN to NOW. Our homeowners inspire us; our staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors define us; and our donors elevate our purpose. We hope you will remain with us on this exciting journey!

Reducing Your 2017 State Taxes

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

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity Legacy Society

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

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

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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.
Homeownership Changes Lives

Friends and family gathered just in time for Thanksgiving to celebrate Victor Hoak, an Army Veteran, and welcome him home to his new Habitat home! When he spoke, Victor graciously said, “It’s been quite a journey getting here. Starting about a year ago I was unsure where I was going to live. This is just so great, I wish the world could experience this more often. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.” Congratulations Victor. We are forever grateful for your service to our country and we are inspired by your hard work and dedication to bettering your life; may your journey be blessed.

Congratulations to the Herrera Family! Kristina and her two children moved into their new Habitat home on December 17, 2016. Enjoying the holidays with the ones we love in a safe and comfortable home is always the best reason to celebrate! Thank you to all who have helped GAHH build affordable homes by volunteering and donating. Your gift of time and money is greatly appreciated.

On February 11, 2017, the House that SWAT Built, in memory of past SWAT member and longtime friend of Habitat Dave Ericson, was dedicated and keys were handed over to new homeowner Sonia Hinijos and her son, Angel. Among her many words of appreciation Sonia noted, “My number one accomplishment is having my own home. It’s been an honor working with all of these volunteers and SWAT. Thank you.” Bill Reilly, Habitat Construction Manager, added a few words about Dave Ericson, for whom the house was dedicated, saying, “When Dave stood behind you it was to give you advice; when he stood beside you, he was there to support you; but when he stood in front of you, he was there to protect you. These keys that open Sonia and Angel’s house represent all the advice, support, and protection that Dave represented to so many. Congratulations!”
Building a Future Together

Spearheaded more than a year ago by Habitat friend Susan Shipley, the Unity Project is a collaborative effort by an array of faith-based organizations that came together for a common purpose – to provide volunteers and financial resources to build a home for a family in need. The popularity of this project has since grown into the building of two homes, Unity I and Unity II. The commitment of every person is astounding and we are grateful to all those who have blessed these two habitat homes.

On behalf of her congregation and the Presbyterian coalition, Marilyn Stoops said, “It was a new beginning in 1994 when Covenant Presbyterian Church helped build a Habitat house. Now we begin a new coalition of congregations, churches, mosques, and synagogues. Working side by side always promotes closer relationships and a greater understanding of our common ministry and mission.”

“I am grateful to be here with members of other faiths who want to represent the best of what their religion is all about,” noted Raven Peters, Pagan clergy and a member of First Unitarian Church. “There is no more sacred work that that which leaves our world a better place for having been here.”

Kirsten Marr, with First Presbyterian Church, added, “The evolution that has happened to bring together an even greater array of faith-based communities is beautiful. We look forward to many more years of these partnerships and the resulting homes that will be provided.”

Melissa Bustillos will be the homeowner of the Unity II house. Her story is not unlike that of many single mothers juggling a full time job and small children. “There were so many struggles and if it were not for the guidance and support from Sister Ada, I don’t know where I would be today,” she said. She met Sister Ada when she began work at APS 10 years ago; Sister Ada has mentored Melissa every step of the way since. “I’ve been a single working mother since they were babies. It’s not always easy, but I want to make sure my kids have a safe place to call home and build happy memories.”

There are many people involved in making a dream come true for a Habitat homeowner. Approximately 2,500 hours of volunteer labor goes into building one home and there is a significant fundraising effort to garner donations to support each build, about $105,000 per home. It really does take many hands to make Habitat’s mission a reality.

Far Left: Soon to be Habitat homeowner, Melissa Bustillos, with her children during the opening ceremony for the Unity II House.
Middle: Unity II homeowner, Melissa Bustillos, with her daughter and her mentor, Sister Ada.
Left: Unity House I opening ceremony with representatives from one of the faith-based sponsors, Congregation B’nai Israel.

Faith Based Groups supporting the Unity Project include:

- Albuquerque Mennonite Church
- All Saints Lutheran Church
- Archdiocese of Santa Fe
- Blake Road Baptist Church
- Canterbury Campus Ministry, UNM
- Congregation B’nai Israel
- Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Del Norte Baptist Church
- Family Worship Center
- First Christian Church
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- First Presbyterian Church
- First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque
- First United Methodist Church
- God’s Work, Our Hands – ELCA
- Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
- Kadampa Meditation Center, N.M.
- Legacy Church
- Mesa View United Methodist Church
- Monte Vista Christian Church
- Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church
- Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic Church
- Pagan Societies
- Rising Sun Christian Community
- Sagebrush Community Church
- San Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church
- Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church
- St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
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- St. Chad’s Episcopal Church
- St. John’s United Methodist
- St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Catholic Church
- St. Luke Lutheran Church
- St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Eubank Ward
- Unitarian Universalist Westside Congregation

Help Build Mesa del Rio-Phase 2
www.habitatabq.org
DONATE NOW
Supporting Hope

Coming to Albuquerque is Like “Coming Home”
– by Jeff and Hildy Radke

We have been privileged to sponsor eight homes for Habitat for Humanity in memory of our daughter, Patrice. She chose this particular charity and New Mexico before her death in 2001. She was with us at our first build in Belen, NM, in 2000. Five of our most recent builds have been with GAHH.

We have grown fond of you people! Coming to Albuquerque is like “coming home.” We invite friends and family from all over the country to join us, and we begin a week to 10 days of hard work, merry-making, and creating memories. It is a wonderful opportunity to actually get up close and personal and to get your hands dirty helping deserving folks in need.

Those who come have been enriched by the experience. There are some who join us repeatedly during our builds in Albuquerque and who have gotten involved in Habitat in their own communities. It seems that when we join hands and hearts to help others, our lives are greatly blessed as well. It’s good work that you are doing. Keep it up!

“%e are inspired by the Radkes’ dedication to honoring the memory of their daughter by building homes with HFH. Having Jeff & Hildy and their “crew” of supporters is truly a celebration for us all. The staff and SWAT look forward to the Radkes’ return and all the fun, friendship, and relationships that we forge and strengthen. That they have chosen Albuquerque Habitat and blessed us with five homes is a touching tribute to their generosity. We are blessed and grateful to have them in our lives.”
– Joan Costello

Kristina’s family, alongside Jeff and Hildy Radke and friends, during the opening ceremony for the latest “Celebration of Life, in Memory of Patrice Ann Radke” home.

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100 HOLES FOR HABITAT

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Monday, September 18
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Donor Honor Roll

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity thanks the many individuals, foundations, companies, churches, and organizations that have donated between October 1, 2016 – February 15, 2017. Your generosity supports the construction of affordable, safe, and efficient homes in Albuquerque. Thank you for building hope and changing lives through homeownership.

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Many thanks to the Lunchbox donors who fed our construction volunteers October 2016 – February 2017.

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Volunteer Team Builders
Many thanks to the volunteer groups that helped at the job site and in the Restore October 2016 – February 2017.

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Sandia High School
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If we inadvertently missed you on our list or if a correction is needed, we apologize. Please contact Beth Goldman (beth@habitatabq.org). Thank you.

From One Home to Another

Julia started volunteering at the ReStore three years ago after she retired from UNM Hospital as a nurse. She’s a busy person, but volunteering allows her to use her people skills and do something she loves. She said “I have a lot of energy. I’m a little hyper, I guess, and volunteering gets me out of the house for the day.” She knew about ReStore because she was a customer for a long time. “I like to fix things and do projects around the house. I really love painting and hammering and working with my hands so the ReStore has always been a place I loved,” she said. “Volunteering here now is great.”

Laura, Julia, and Annette in the ReStore

Julia recommends that anyone interested in volunteering at the ReStore be a “people person” and like helping customers. There is a lot of interaction with customers. “We have a lot of repeat customers. You get to know people because they come into the store all the time,” said Julia. “There’s always something to do and it’s never boring.”

ReStore volunteers are a diverse group of people of all ages and backgrounds, from retirees to local businesses to groups from ARCA and the APS Transitional Services program. “We are not just a thrift store,” said Dona Swenson, ReStore Manager. “We are a community and we are a team. ReStore is a great place to find hidden treasures and a wonderful place to give your time and energy.” Find out more about the ReStore and how you can help Habitat build community, one home, one family at a time by visiting www.habitatabq.org.

ReStore is here to serve you:
• Is your business opening or closing? Check out the ReStore inventory or schedule a pick up.
• Are you a college student looking to decorate your dorm? ReStore has fun, inexpensive items from lamps to chairs to wall hangings. Check us out!
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