

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF MERCED COUNTY NEWSLETTER



OUR CURRENT PROJECT IS WELL ON THE PATH TOWARD COMPLETION

Every construction project seems to progress in short spurts where progress is readily visible and longer periods where progress is being made but isn't as obvious to outside observers.

We are at one of those steps in the construction progress of the partner home at 195 S T Street in Merced. People are diligently working on the finishing phases of the home. The steps involved in the finish phase take time. For the most part they are the parts that are visible when the house is done. Joints have to come together in a neat and seamlessly seamless fashion. The partner family is patiently awaiting the day they will move in. We say, please be patient, this part takes time.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

by Jennifer Adamson

Hello everyone my name is Jennifer Adamson and I am the Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Merced County. I am glad for this chance to inform you about our volunteer orientations. These Volunteer Orientations will help us and you get the best out of your volunteering. Anyone interested in volunteering for Habitat needs to attend our Orientation to learn the history of Habitat, view the Safety Video, see the progress of a construction site, hear the opportunities that are available, receive a Volunteer Handbook, fill out a volunteer application form and a Release of Liability Waiver. This is your opportunity to get involved with a non profit organization that is helping low income people own a home of their own! You will need to attend before you will be allowed to work on site. If you are part of a group we can offer you private volunteer orientations. If you wish to arrange one contact me at: volunteercoordinatorhfhmerced@gmail.com.

Volunteer Orientations will be held every other month at St. Paul Lutheran Church Library, 2916 N. McKee Rd. Merced. Our next one will be held on Monday, April 29th @ 7pm. For more info, call Jan Sorge 722-6101

Interview with Habitat for Humanity Intern, Stephanie Miller

- How did you learn about Habitat for Humanity?
 - I performed an Internet search for internships and volunteer opportunities, because I was interested in getting involved in the community. When I saw that Habitat for Humanity was looking for interns I knew I had to give them a call. Habitat for Humanity is a wonderful organization that gives wholeheartedly to its community, and I have always wanted to work for them. Jan Sorge gave me a call and an interview, and I was brought on as an Intern.
- What do you do for Habitat for Humanity?
 - I am an Administrative Assistant Intern. It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to apply and build skills for the benefit of our community members. My positional duties include putting together the paper needs of the organization, such as handbooks, waivers, sign-in sheets, etc. I will also be putting together a business plan to help Habitat for Humanity gain a ReStore and office space, which will enhance the vitality of the organization for the future.
- What do you like best about volunteering for Habitat for Humanity?
 - First and foremost it is about putting forth my time and effort in helping support the empowerment of our community. There is a special feeling that comes from giving of oneself for others. It has also been a great privilege to work with individuals who selflessly give so much of their time and hearts to this organization. It is a wonderful group of people that I get to volunteer for.
- What are some experiences that you have had while volunteering?
 - Helping student volunteers take down the Christmas trees at the Merced County Court House was a lot of fun. It was wonderful getting to know the student volunteers and seeing what Habitat for Humanity can offer outside of building houses. The volunteers had a great work ethic and made me feel very welcome. The experience helps to reinforce the joys of helping Habitat for Humanity.
- What are the benefits of volunteering for Habitat for Humanity?
 - Some of the best aspects of volunteering for Habitat for Humanity are the personalization and flexibility. There are a wide array of positions or tasks that will fit around your personality, skills, and time. For instance, if you love to plan parties, organize, or network you will be a wonderful asset to helping with fundraisers. However, if you are the shy type there are various administrative tasks and duties that you can help with. One does not have to be stuck in a position that does not suit him or her. Habitat cares for its volunteers just as much as it cares about its cause.

News from Nicaragua

by Jose Quinonez

Ten-year-old Sherling Góngora Arauz found it hard to express her feelings at the dedication of her family's new Habitat for Humanity house in Managua, Nicaragua.

She could only cry. She had written a letter to the volunteers who helped build her family's house, though, and it was read aloud in English. The last line: "When you leave, there is an empty space in my heart."

By then, everybody on the build site was in tears.

"The little girl just started hugging everybody," said Helen Usera, a 42-year-old management consultant in Rapid City, South Dakota, who was one of a dozen volunteers who paid their way to Nicaragua to build and to advocate for decent housing.

"When we started to pray over the family's new home, Sherling just clung to me. It was so genuine and so emotional. I remember thinking, 'Wow, this is why we're here.'

"At that moment, it wasn't about the adults anymore. Those two young children — Sherling and her brother — were going to have a concrete floor, a solid home. That's what it's all about."

'An insider viewpoint'

Sherling and 3-year-old Samuel and their parents, Rosario and Michael, had been living in a one-room structure — three walls and a tarp — in a barrio called Sol de Libertad in Managua. Michael works long hours in transportation, while Rosario takes care of the children. They had little hope of breaking the cycle of poverty and showing their children a better future.

But in December 2012, a volunteer team from Habitat for Humanity's "Build Louder" program helped Rosario and Michael create a new home and a new beginning for their family.

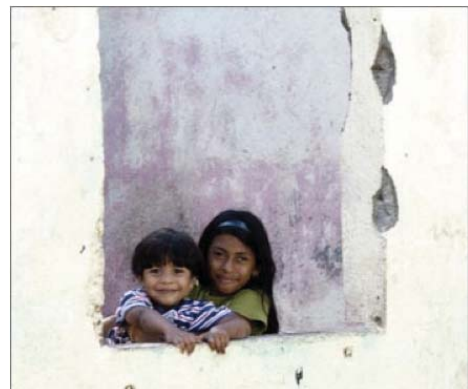
The Build Louder program adds an educational component to Habitat's standard Global Village trips. In addition to spending one or two weeks building with families in need of shelter, Build Louder teams learn about poverty and housing policies and become better advocates for shelter issues that affect entire communities and countries.

"When people come on these trips, they not only see the incredible need, but they also meet the people that we serve. With the right tools and the right information, they can take what they've learned and go to people that can make a difference — government officials, other organizations and corporations. That connection makes them better advocates for decent housing worldwide.

"Once they understand shelter issues on a very deep, personal level, they are energized to do whatever they can to change all the policies that trap people in poverty housing."



At the beginning of the build week, volunteers were asked to write on a cement block one word that best expressed their reason for making the trip.



**Message from the President
Michelle Paloutzian
April 2013**

Last year at this time we were still waiting for plan approval on the project at 195 South T St. Today, we are preparing to texture and paint the interior and getting started on the landscape irrigation. How quickly time seems to go by when we are busy!

I imagine most people are like me; we have many things on our "to do" list we don't ever get done. Things like contacting old friends, donating our old clothes, and yes, even volunteering with the many great organizations in our community. Time moves along and we find ourselves caught up in getting from one day to the next. Opportunities to make a difference locally just pass us by.

Don't let this happen to you! We have so many opportunities for you to serve! Just mark your calendar for on the 2nd Tuesday of every month to remind yourself that you can join us at our board meetings to see what's going on with our affiliate. We meet at 6:30 at St. Paul Lutheran Church library. No need for a reservation, just drop on by!

Did you know that our construction activities are updated weekly on Facebook? Find Habitat for Humanity of Merced County and send a request to join. Along with information about what is going on at the job site, we also let you know about our fundraising activities and community events where we will have an information booth. If you are interested in working on the house construction, you will need to attend a volunteer orientation. Dates and times for all of these can be seen on Facebook and also on our website at <http://www.hfhmerced.org>.

"Every person who is involved in Habitat for Humanity in any way is important to this work. Every letter written, every slide show presented, and every contribution – physical labor, a shared idea, a can of paint, or a gift of money - is immensely important. And every house built, renovated, or repaired in any one of the scores of Habitat projects around the world is a significant part of the process of sensitizing, inspiring, and motivating people to get rid of shacks and replace them with solid homes."

Millard Fuller, co-founder of Habitat for Humanity, from his book, *No More Shacks!*

If you can donate one time, or make it a monthly habit, your contribution is valued. If you can show up one time, or make it a weekly habit, your contribution is valued. If you can pray one time, or make it a daily habit, your contribution is valued. What can you do?

Wanted: Hand Tools

One of the local hardware stores contacted a board members asking if there are any tools that we would accept as a donation. The list below is an outcome of that request. If you feel led to donate any of the tools listed or wish to dedicate cash for the purchase of any of these tools, please contact our affiliate and we will gladly give you an "in-kind" receipt for donated tools or ensure that your cash donation is used to purchase the tool(s) of your choice. We have had some of our hand tools since 1994 and they are beginning to show some wear. Having the right tool for a job makes the job go better and the result more professional.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF MERCED COUNTY WISH LIST FOR TOOLS

- 2-Hand staple guns Model T 50
- 1-14 inch pipe wrench
- 1-16 inch pipe wrench
- 1 set spade bits
- 1 set auger bits
- 2-square point shovels
- 1 – 6 ft. level
- 1 – 10 inch compound angle chop saw, major brand
- 2 – 12 volt cordless drills

ALLIED WEST
Printing

1744 G Street, Suite F • Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-8811 • Fax: 723-8812

Thanks to our contributors

The following have sent contributions to our affiliate since February 15, 2012. Cut-off date for this listing is September 13, 2012. If there are any errors or omissions, please call George Gallaher at 358-3811.

Individuals . . .

Sophia Andow
 Julie Brannan
 Peter A. & Pauline Bonsall
 Max A. & Virginia M. Buettengach
 Doris J. Bynum
 Stan Bynum
 Joann Callaway
 Paul & Jacque Cauwels
 Kay & Gerald Chapman
 Col. (Ret.) R.K. & A.P. Chisholm
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 Merced Co. Supervisor, Jerry O'Banion
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 Mary Ann Reynolds
 Geneva Ruggiero
 Vivian Jane Severns
 Bill Stockard
 C.S. tatum
 S. E. Walsh
 Roderick H. Webster
 Terry & Ruth Wilson
 Chi Chi & Roger Wood

In honor of . . .

Michele Callaway
 by Joann Callaway
 Robert Kivley
 by Agnes Simpson
 Bill Sanford
 by S. E. Walsh

In memory of . . .

F. W. Boomer Bermingham
 by Barbra Wainwright
 Vern Brasel
 by Bill & Olivia King
 James "Chuck" Emert
 by Mary K. Cox
 Teresa Frandsen
 by Mary K. Cox
 Tony Lavendore
 by Jerry R. & Elizabeth J. Schaffer
 Kay Nielsen
 by Kathleen Caligiuri
 Hazel B. Pillsbury
 by Fred T. Pillsbury
 Dr. George Porter
 by Jerry & Elizabeth Schaffer
 Jane Stewart
 by Col (Ret.) Albert G. Stewart
 Art Turner
 by Jerry & Barbara Cameron

Special Dedication . . .

In gratitude for Barbara Allen, a loving wife, mother, homemaker, and friend.
 by Cecilia Nichols
 My late husband, John Wainwright
 by Barbara Wainwright
 In celebration of Patti Houbein's Birthday
 by agnes Simpson

Businesses:

Central California Silage Covering
 Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
 Save Mart Supermarkets

Organizations:

Cars for Homes
 East Bay Community Foundation John D. & Barbara C. Wainwright Fund
 Hattie Givens Testamentary Trust



VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is that:
everyone in Merced County has
decent and affordable housing.
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

Calendar

April 9
Board Meeting

May 14
Board Meeting

June 11
Board Meeting

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Michelle Paloutzian
Vice President: Janice Sorge
Secretary: George Gallaher
Treasurer: Patti Houbein

Committee Chairs

Administration:
Church Relations: Janice Sorge
Construction: Lyle Allen
Family Services: Sherry Boyer &
Nellie Venegas
Finance:
Fund Raising:
Public Information: George Gallaher
(209) 358-3811
Site Selection:
Volunteers: Jennifer Adamson

Members-at-Large

Fred Pillsbury
Pete Delacruz

Honorary

President Emeritus: Bill Sanford

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County

P.O. Box 423
Atwater, CA 95301-0423

Phone: (209) 726-0850
Website: www.hfhmerced.org

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