



# Habitat for Humanity of Merced County NEWSLETTER

Issue 42

July 2007

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michelle Paloutzian

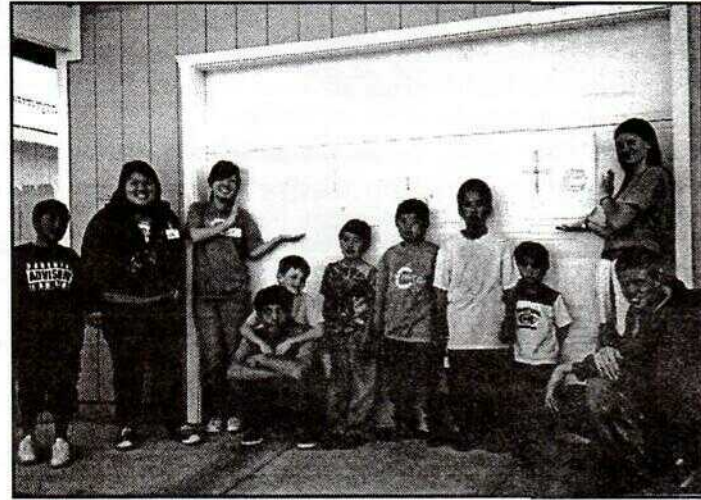
When people find out that I am involved with Habitat for Humanity here in Merced County, one of the **first things** they want to know is "When (or where) are we building the next house?" I usually have to let them know we are still trying to **acquire** property to build on, and unfortunately, this is disappointing **news**. The question I like the **best** is "How can I get involved?" because of the potential result of that person's **excitement** and willingness to engage in our work I like hearing the question, but answering the question can be just as frustrating as trying to secure a **construction** site. So many people want to be involved, but organizing **volunteers** to do productive and meaningful work is a huge task. We need volunteers to **organize** the volunteers!

While we're **developing** and recruiting the team of people who can oversee a **volunteer** program (**Is this you, perhaps?**), we need others who can step up, organize themselves and be leaders. No prior **experience** is necessary; just be willing to investigate, **learn**, ask questions and find answers. The more you increase **your** knowledge and understanding of what Habitat for **Humanity** is all about, the more **help** you will be to the organization, even if just as an advocate.

Here is how you can start your own Habitat **self-education**. Consider **this** your Summer reading list.

- *Love in the Mortar Joints: The Story of Habitat for Humanity*, by Millard Fuller and Diane Scott, August 1980, 192 pages.
- *No More Shacks!: The Daring Vision of Habitat for Humanity*, by Millard Fuller and Diane Scott, July 1986, 220 pages.
- *The Excitement is Building: How Habitat for Humanity is Putting Roofs over Heads and Hope in Hearts*, by Millard Fuller and Linda Fuller, July 1990
- *The Theology of the Hammer*, by Millard Fuller, March 1994, 151 pages.
- » *A Simple, Decent Place to Live*, by Millard Fuller, November 1995, 235 pages.
- *Bokotola*, by Millard Fuller, February 1997, 176 pages.
- *Building Materials for Life, Vol. I*, by Millard Fuller, June 2002, 145 pages.
- *Building Materials for Life, Vol. II*, by Millard Fuller, November 2003, 166 pages.
- *More Than Houses: How Habitat for Humanity is Transforming Lives and Neighborhoods*, by Millard Fuller, July 2004, 224 pages.
- *Creating a Habitat for Humanity: No Hands But Yours*, by Jonathan T.M. Reckford, March 2007, 112 pages.

Take one or more titles with you to the beach, the mountains, on the plane, by the lake or **wherever** you are spending your vacation time or weekend away. You, me and everyone in Merced County might benefit from your self-imposed **Summer school**.



A busload of children, participants in the "Children at the Church" (CATCh) program at the United Methodist Church of Merced, toured Habitat houses in LeGrand and Merced on May 8th. Part of the group, shown here where the Monterrozas had prepared a sign on the garage door, is welcomed by Manuel, Patricia, Adriana and Sofia. Over a number of weeks the children gathered an offering for Habitat in the amount of \$229.89.



## All in the (Habitat) Family

- + **Aunita** Armstrong died on April 21, 2007. For quite a span of time, she wrote acknowledgments to Habitat contributors. Condolences may be sent to her sister, **Mary Spaulding**, at 657 **Vallie Ct.**, Merced 95340.
- + **Richard "Dickie" Collins** died on July 4th. He was among our first board members and with his contractor's license and skills was critical to the success of our first several projects.
- + **Helen Erickson**, niece of Isabel Castro, and **Freddy Sandoval** were united in marriage at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Planada on Saturday, May 12. Helen plans to continue her education at CSUSacramento this fall.
- + **George Gallaher** is currently receiving radiation at Mercy Cancer Center for **non-hodgkins** lymphoma.
- + **Dave and Nancy Heaberlin** cruised to various Baltic Sea ports June 18 to July 1. A sizeable group of County Bank-related people were aboard the Princess ship which started and stopped at Copenhagen.
- + **Caitlyn** Kennedy, a UCMerced student who has been serving on our Habitat board, is moving on. Come fall she will be a junior at Southern Utah University in Cedar City. We thank **Cait** for helping us while here.
- + **Mildred "Millie" Mitchell** died June 14th. She was a tireless and valued volunteer during our affiliate's earliest years.
- + Board member **Fred Pillsbury** just returned from a week-long look at such national parks as Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. The trip was under the auspices of Merced College.
- + **Antonio Rosas** recently graduated from **LeGrand** High School. Congratulations!
- + **Mary Ann Reynolds** has been traveling 'big time.' Recently she toured in the southeast and included in her route HFH's international headquarters in **Americus**, Georgia. More recently she flew to Nicaragua where she visited Merced's Sister City Somoto. She's looking into participating in the Jimmy Carter Work Project in Los Angeles this October.
- + **Bill & Jeanne Sanford** spent much of April on a 6,026 nautical-mile cruise from San Pedro to the Panama Canal and back . . . Bill still has some radiation remaining relating to his prostate problem.
- + **Jim Tolladay** flew to Salt Lake City where he had successful eye surgery on February 22nd.

## Habitat Partner Families:

the offspring - up, up and away!

By Diane Bair, Chair, Family Selection and Partnership

Part of my committee responsibility is to keep in touch with our partner families. Recently, I undertook to make fresh contacts with all our families. I harvested a lot of good news — news I'd like to share with you here in our newsletter. I was especially impressed by how well the children are doing.

Project #1 (Isabel Castro) was dedicated April 1995. The Castro household is busy as usual. Isabel's niece, **Helen Erickson**, put graduation from Merced College and marriage in a single month. She expects to be a junior at CSU Sacramento **this** fall. **Laura** is taking courses in radiology at Merced College.

Project #3 was dedicated in October 1997. **Budina Bunch's** household is also a busy place. **Neisha** is three, **Dustin** is six years old and in kindergarten. **Shanee** and **Krystal** are in the 10th and 12th grades respectively. **Kuaneisha** and **Eric** now live in San Bernardino. **Troy** is working at **McLane** Pacific. **Budina** has recently had surgery on her shoulder and carpal tunnel. We wish her well in her recuperation.

Project #5 (Angelica and Antonio Bravo) was dedicated in July of 2001. **Fernando Bravo** is continuing work on his Master's degree in Public Administration at CSU Stanislaus. **Luis** will be attending Merced College.

Project #6 was dedicated in September 2000. **Carmelo** works in construction in the Bay Area. **Antonio** is making plans to attend diesel mechanics school in Sacramento. **Nicholas** will be a seventh grader at **LeGrand** Elementary School.

Project #10 was dedicated November 2004. The **Monterrozas** are happy in their Habitat home. **Adriana** just graduated from Golden Valley High School and **Sofia** is poised to be a fifth grader at **Alicia Reyes** school.

Our last project (#11) was dedicated July 15, 2006. **Jennifer** and **Rochelle** are both working in **Yosemite**. **Cory** is about to begin his senior year at Golden Valley High. **Kathy** is having some reservations regarding the onset of "empty nest syndrome."

(Projects not in this report are in Los Banos and are under the wing of the now free-standing **Westside** affiliate.)

Join me, please, in a rousing cheer for the 'next generation!'

## Local Habitat phone relocated

For a number of years **Barbara Lindenberg** has 'sheltered' (housed) our affiliate's official telephone of 358-7280. She has rendered an important and selfless service, and we thank her for 'personing' this vital communication tool. New circumstances require that she "pass the baton" to another. Happily, board member **Patti Houbein** is 'stepping up to the plate' and permitting the placement of our answering machine at her place. Still awaiting the assignment of a new number.

## Getting the word out

One way to get the word out about Habitat is to have board members speak to service clubs and church groups. Immediate past president **Lyle Alien** has done this on a number of occasions. Founding president **Bill Sanford** has been speaking to several groups, most recently the **Castle/Atwater Kiwanis Club**, at **Castle Air Museum**.

## Stay-at-home Tea Report

Remember receiving a tea bag in the mail in March? Very likely, you were invited to enjoy a "cuppa" at home at a time convenient to you. You didn't have to burn any gasoline. And there were probably other pluses. Certainly there were pluses for Habitat. Your responses in terms of cash aggregated to \$1,695. A significant boost to our cause. We thank you heartily!

The following have sent contributions to our affiliate since January 20, 2007 Cut-off date for this listing: received by July 5, 2007. If there are any errors or omissions, please call Bill Sanford at 357-0701.

**Individuals/Families:**

Lyle Alien  
Anonymous  
Dorothy Bizzini  
Lawrence A. Blazina, M.D.  
Julie Brannan  
Catherine C. Buckley  
Albert Cesario  
Robert Dayton  
Eunice Duncanson  
Mary Ellis  
Robert Faretta  
Urla Garland  
Lily Hamaguchi  
Leroy M. Harris  
David & Nancy Heaberlin  
Nelson F. Heisey  
Leo & Karen Hernandez  
David & Jeane Hetland  
Patricia G. Houbein  
Brenda Hughes  
Bob & Ruth Jantzen  
Connie Kelly  
James Kirihara  
Thomas R. Kivley  
Del Kolda  
Kenneth J. Leap  
Marianne E. Levey  
Prudence Mook  
Guy D. Near  
Jerry O'Banion  
Vernon L. Parlier  
Peggy Perkins  
Gordon & Lou Phillips  
Lori Phillips  
Mary Ann Reynolds  
M. T. Ryan  
Jerry R. Schaffer  
Donald W. Schwerdtfeger  
Carol K. Silva

Camilo C. Soto, Jr.  
Myra & Bill Stockard  
Robert G. Storm  
Kathryn Stowell  
Virginia M. Taylor  
Brian & Elizabeth Toel  
Jim & Clarice Tolladay  
Joan E. Trost  
Kathy Upson  
Rosa Valdez  
Judy Van Tassel  
Susan Walsh  
Roderick H. Webster  
Marguerite Whitney  
Roger Wood

**In honor of . . .**

"all the local HFH workers and  
volunteers"  
Alan & Cydne Grimsby  
Lyle & Barbara Alien  
Given by Cecilia Nichols

**In memory of . . .**

Aunita Armstrong  
Given by Bill & Jeanne Sanford  
Vernie Berry  
Given by Rosa Berry  
Richard Breza, Kathryn Breza &  
Walter Breza  
Given by Diane Bair  
Reynold and Geneva Correa  
Given by Jim & Marcie Correa  
Bill Cox  
Given by Mary K. Cox  
Len Kaiser  
Given by Mr. & Mrs. Dario  
Giampaoli

Maurice Lathrop  
Given by Florabelle Lathrop,  
Mary K. Cox  
Shiro Bob Morimoto  
Given by Lily Hamaguchi  
"Our beloved dead of both our  
families"  
Given by Mr. & Mrs. Albert J.  
Cesario  
Hazel B. Pillsbury  
Given by Fred T. Pillsbury  
Carol Pitman  
Given by Marsh Pitman  
Pat Quigley  
Given by Jack L. Rowe  
William Severns  
Given by June Severns  
Helen Stack  
Given by Ace & Barbara Edkin  
Bon Trinadade  
Given by Dario & Jo Giampaoli

**Businesses:**

Albertsons

**Churches:**

United Methodist Church of Atwater

**Foundations:**

East Bay Community Foundation

A thought: write a check now,  
read your name here next issue

**Habitat for Humanity of Merced County Newsletter**

is published 3 - 4 times a year.

Editor: Bill Sanford 357-0701

Our Affiliate's phone number: 209/358-7280

Our meeting schedule:

Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting place: Changes twice a year. July - December 2007 :

Mennonite Church of Winton, 7099 N. California Street, Winton



**Habitat**  
for **Humanity**<sup>®</sup>

## Miscellaneous, but still important

Annual **Dinner**: The main thing now is to save the date. It's set for Saturday, November 3, 5:30 p.m. at Hoffmeister Center. Details in our next issue.

Our next building site will soon be ours - we devoutly hope! If things develop as we want them to, we'll be moving into construction mode before long. And then a new challenge will arise: we need a contractor. Help! Got an idea? Call any of our board members.

You are invited to **visit our** website. Our Vice President, George Gallaher, has devoted considerable time and talent to developing the site. There's a lot there. It's meant to be used. Go to [www.hfhmerced.org](http://www.hfhmerced.org).

Turn a car into a **house** (without hurting anything): From time to time people have vehicles they are prepared to donate. Habitat welcomes such donations. Here's all you need to do to get the process going. Phone 1-8770-277-4344 or go online to [www.carsforhome.org](http://www.carsforhome.org).



*Do you wonder what a ReStore looks like? Across the country you could find over 500 answers to that question. Here's one, just up the road: The HFH Stanislaus ReStore at 630 Kearney Avenue, Modesto*

Annual **Yard Sale** The date is set - Saturday, September 29. The location is currently being sought. Should be **announce-able** shortly. Meanwhile, quite a few items are already in our limited storage, and some faithful volunteers are poised to perform again. Maybe you could be a helper, too. Please give it some thought.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with God's people in need, by building and renovating houses, so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which God's people can live and grow into all that God intended

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Site Selection- Jim Tolladay  
Volunteers Patti Houbeir

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Dave Heaberlin  
Ed Jackson  
Caitlyn Kennedy  
Barbara Lindenberg  
Mary Ann Reynolds

### Habitat for Humanity of Merced County

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Atwater, CA 95301 -0423

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Website: [www.hfhmerced.org](http://www.hfhmerced.org)

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