



# Habitat for Humanity of Merced County NEWSLETTER

Issue 45

June 2008

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michelle Paloutzian



You may have been wondering what we have been up to being that it has been awhile since we have constructed a house. We have been patiently waiting for the City of Merced to finish up the processes that will allow us to start construction on several new homes. In the meantime, we have been getting our house plans ready, starting the search for new partner families, developing our budget, seeking new sources of funding, receiving valuable training, and starting up a Church Relations Committee. So, while we aren't currently swinging hammers, we still need your help!

If you have a piece of land we could start building on right away, and you are willing to give it to us for little or no cost, let us know.

If you are a good financial manager, if you are professional accountant, or a member of the banking community, please consider joining or leading our Finance Committee. We are working on developing a more formal budget, and you could make a great contribution.

Are you creative? Good at writing? Like talking to people? We are always in need of people to get the word out about Habitat and our events.

Maybe you are good at event planning. We are in need of someone to plan and execute our annual dinner. Most of the work has been done for you, and we have lots of resources; we would just like to find a volunteer willing to be in charge. (It's a potluck! You don't have to worry about the food!).

Do you speak a language other than English? If you speak Spanish or Hmong and are willing to help us translate documents, or produce promotional materials in those languages, give us a call. We would like to have a list of interpreters that we could call upon when the need arises.

If you have great computer skills, and can navigate the web with ease, find documents, upload, download, mail merge, create presentations in PowerPoint, or modify .pdf documents, WE NEED YOU!! Some of our board members might like to have you as their Vice-Chair!

The new partner families we will be selecting soon will need advocates, someone to help guide them through the process of becoming a Habitat homeowner. If you are willing to be a friend to one of our new homeowners, let us know.

Do you want to get your spiritual family involved in the Habitat for Humanity ministry? We can aid in that endeavor. We would be pleased to have representatives from any area faith group contact us for more information.

As you can see, I can come up with a lot of possibilities for ways you can contribute to our mission. Every person's effort towards our goal is valuable, and we are very appreciative of the people who choose to give of their time and talent to our organization. Won't you please prayerfully consider joining us in building simple, decent homes with God's people in need?



*Baskin Robbins manager Sharon Lam (left) hands a check for \$500 to HFH board member Genny Mesa at the Atwater store's grand opening on April 18th.*



## Over 125 people attend orientation for prospective Habitat homeowners

By Diane Bair

On Saturday, April 19, 2008, Habitat for Humanity of Merced County hosted an application workshop in partnership with the Housing Authority of the County of Merced, located at 405 U Street, Merced. The workshop was open to all citizens of Merced County.

The purpose of the workshop was to inform prospective homeowners of the Habitat application process and the responsibilities of owning a Habitat house. At the workshop a half hour Power Point presentation was given in English and Spanish. Presently, Habitat is in the process of obtaining building lots located at 512 West 11th Street, 927 West 8th Street and 195 South T Street.

Approximately 125 people attended the workshop. Habitat has received 30 applications as a result of this workshop. The Family Selection committee is now in the process of selecting our next prospective homeowner.



*Adriana Monterroza and Kathleen McElwain narrate the PowerPoint presentation in Spanish. The date: Saturday, April 19th.*



*Kathy Upson (l), one of our Habitat homeowners (Project #11), and Mary Ann Reynolds (r), a member of our Habitat board, assist applicants with paper work.*



## Thanks To Our Contributors

The following have sent contributions to our affiliate since December 31, 2007. Cut-off date for this listing: May 15, 2008. If there are any errors or omissions, please call Bill Sanford at 357-0701.

### Individuals/Families:

David & Beth Allen  
Lyle & Barbara Allen  
Jack & Phoebe Benjamin  
Dorothy Bizzini  
Paul & Jacque Cauwels  
Albert & Katherine Cesario  
Cristi Cherf  
Ruth Darlington  
Connie & Gary Derr  
Chris & Laura Dodson  
Paul Fromson  
Urla Garland  
Max & Sarah Greene  
Lily Hamaguchi  
Karen & Leo Hernandez  
David & Jeane Hetland  
Maurus & Veronica Hoffart  
Patricia G. Houbein  
Brenda Hughes  
Stuart & Nancy McElwain  
Cecilia Nichols  
Merced County Supervisor Jerry O'Banion  
Vernon & Norma Parlier  
Peggy Perkins  
Gordon & Lou Phillips  
Lori Phillips  
Mary Ann Reynolds  
Bill & Jeanne Sanford  
Myra & Bill Stockard  
Robert & Linda Storm  
Kathryn Stowell  
Virginia M. Taylor

Jim & Clarice Tolladay  
Judy Van Tassel  
Caroline Venable  
Marguerite Whitney

### In honor of . . .

The Kivley, Catelli, Housein,  
Brown & Sherman families  
Given by Tom Kivley

### In memory of . . .

Vernie Berry  
Given by Rosa Berry  
Richard Breza  
Given by Diane Bair  
Mary Loo Burroughs  
Given by Ernest Burroughs  
William Cox  
Given by Mary K. Cox  
Jim Crookham  
Given by Jerry Schaffer  
Bill DeSimone  
Given by Bob & Caryl Wayne  
Irene M. Fraser  
Given by Chris & Genny Mesa  
Denny Hackett  
Given by M/M Jerry Cameron  
Hazel Pillsbury  
Given by Fred Pillsbury  
Carol Pitman  
Given by Guy & Dee Near

Monte Swarts  
Given by Lyle & Barbara Allen  
Jane Stewart  
Given by Al Stewart  
Wendell L. Thurman  
Given by Paul & Gina Fromson  
Fran Weir  
Given by Eunice Duncanson  
Asa Willmon  
Given by Dario & Josephine Giampaoli

### Businesses:

Baskin Robbins

### Trusts & Foundations:

Hattie Givens Testamentary Trust  
East Bay Community Foundation  
(John & Barbara Wainwright)

### Churches:

United Methodist Church of  
Atwater  
United Methodist Church of  
Livingston

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: 209/726-0850

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 2008 :

First Church of God, 2100 Fruitland Ave., Atwater



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for Humanity®



## Just over: Jimmy Carter Work Project #25

For the 25th year, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, called attention to both the need for affordable housing and Habitat for Humanity's work to help low-income families realize the goal of home ownership. This year's Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Project was held along the Gulf Coast, May 11-16 from Houston, TX to Mobile, AL.

In 1984, the Carters led a small team of Habitat volunteers to New York City to help renovate a six-story apartment building with 19 families in need of decent affordable shelter. A quarter of a century later, that modest effort has grown into an internationally-recognized annual event that has taken place in communities around the world.



*Our Habitat board was recently enriched by a new member, Jan Sorge. Jan served as hostess for the board's monthly meetings at St. Paul's Lutheran Church from January to June. The July - December board meetings will be in Atwater at the First Church of God, opposite Atwater High.*

### 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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## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

President: Michelle Paloutzian  
Vice President: George Gallaher  
Secretary: Mary Ann Reynolds  
Treasurer: Hilda Miranda

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Administration: Donna Hall  
Church Relations: Jan Sorge  
Construction: Lyle Allen  
Family Selection/Partnership: Diane Bair  
Finance: Patti Houbein  
Fund Raising: Pat Shay  
Public Information: Bill Sanford 357-0701  
Site Selection: Jim Tolladay  
Volunteers: Patti Houbein

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Fernando Bravo  
Genny Mesa

### Habitat for Humanity of Merced County

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