



Annual Tag Sale at The Hotchkiss School

Web Page

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation awarded our affiliate a \$5,000 matching grant earlier this year designed to upgrade and maintain our website. We are currently reviewing proposals from professional website designers and hope to see a fresh, informative, and interactive site up and running by the end of the year.



Hotchkiss School Students on Site



Interact Club Southington High School



Another New House! Come to the Dedication

Happy days are here again as we dedicate our seventh Habitat home. Our partner family, the Lights, Dinnie and Leslie and their three children, Katherine, Noah and Maya, are now in the process of moving into their beautiful Habitat home at #30 River Road in Falls Village. Thanks to the outstanding community support that we've been blessed with, we have found the financial resources, volunteer builders, and engaged businesses to provide the materials, services, and labor necessary to produce a home that is truly affordable. The contribution of local private and public schools such as HVRHS, The Hotchkiss School, and Kent School add to the equation.

This accomplishment takes on major significance considering the present environment of economic uneasiness and belt tightening. For we who "labor in the field," a house dedication is Harvest Time, an opportunity to savor our accomplishments while giving thanks to all who made it possible, and most importantly to see another family achieve home ownership. We hope that you'll be a part of this milestone as we dedicate this home on Saturday, December 13th at 3 PM. Please celebrate with us and come see how your support is put to such good use.

President's Letter

Habitat for Humanity has a long and distinguished tradition of working to put roofs over the heads of people who need shelter, folks who would likely otherwise be on the street or forced out of our communities. I am inspired by the vision of Habitat founder Millard Fuller, who describes a "Theology of the Hammer," where a variety of people come together to build decent, affordable homes for our neighbors in need while strengthening our communities. This letter is your invitation to join us in helping to make this vision come alive.

If you have already given to HFHNWCT through time, materials, financial gifts or any other means, thank you. Your generosity is rightly celebrated in this newsletter. If you are new to Habitat, please consider giving yourself the chance to know the feeling of doing the right thing in helping to build a home.

In this corner of Connecticut, we face real challenges in making this vision come to life – but I have every confidence that we can do so together. Even in the face of this economic downturn, faith communities, civic groups, businesses and individuals continue to respond in support of Habitat's mission.

I am honored to serve as President of your local Habitat affiliate, and this is truly an exciting time for HFHNWCT! We have new office space, a new Administrative Assistant, a new Site Supervisor, and a board committed to bringing together our volunteers, donors, and our partner families to build much-needed homes. My commitment as President is to strengthen the identity and presence of Habitat in the communities we serve. I hope you will join us.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Erick R. Olsen

PS – Please feel free to use the enclosed envelope to send your gift in support of Habitat for Humanity today. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

We're Breaking Ground

Because of the burgeoning demand for affordable housing throughout our community, we are keeping the momentum going as we gear up for our eighth Habitat home. This dwelling will be located on #10 River Road, Falls Village.

Fortunately, as winter approaches, the foundation and septic system have been installed. With the help of our new site supervisor, Rick Bette, we have started to frame out this three-bedroom home. With cooperation from the weather gods, we will be able to box in the structure, which will enable us to keep the hammers humming throughout the winter months.

Bette is New Site Superintendant

Rick Bette (below in white shirt), owner of Silent Wind Consulting, has signed on as Habitat's new site superintendant, planning material and work schedules and coordinating the efforts of our volunteers. Rick is a long-time advocate of affordable housing. His company has been doing business in Northwest Connecticut since 2001, specializing in both the commercial and residential markets. A dedicated environmentalist, he has served as Inlands Wetlands Commissioner and Conservation Commissioner for the city of Torrington. His residential designs have been featured on the covers of *Connecticut* magazine, and *Better Homes and Gardens Remodel*. Welcome Rick!



Rick Bette and Susan Distasio



Big Board Changes

Northwest Habitat's Board of Directors is in the process of several big changes. We are saying good bye to some old friends, greeting new friends, and welcoming back some well-known former members.

In February of 2009, the terms of Judi Moore and Henry Rosler, both valuable and dedicated members, will expire and they will leave the Board. Judi has served as vice president and secretary of the Board, and has also run the annual tag sale, and the This 'n' That Shop, important sources of our revenue. She will continue with the last two duties, for which we are very grateful.

This stint was Henry's second as a Board member and his guidance and knowledge will be greatly missed. He is one of our hardest working volunteers, putting in many hours swinging hammers on our houses, working on four of them altogether. In addition, he has been a source of wisdom and good judgment in planning and executing our projects.

Massey and Pogue Return

Returning to the Board are two founding directors of Northwest Habitat, John Pogue and George Massey. John, former President of the Board, is a long-time advocate of affordable housing, beginning in the 1960s on New York's Lower East Side, advocating for tenants in abandoned buildings. He has made enormous contributions to Habitat in the past, and we are lucky to have him back.

George Massey has been another prime moving force for Northwest Habitat. In addition to being instrumental in founding the organization, he has worked tirelessly on its behalf ever since, in the solicitation of donations, and the evaluation and development of building sites. He also brings a deep understanding of Habitat's mission and practices.

New Members Join

Four new members have come on to the Board. In May, Lakeville resident Dale Janssen joined. A New York native, Dale has been a volunteer for non-profit causes since the early 1970s. Although relatively new to the area (she and her husband Lee moved here in 2005) she has already played an active role in the community, both at Habitat and the Church of St. Mary in Lakeville.

Another new member is Marjorie Palmer, who joined the Board in October. Marjorie is a former editor at Reader's Digest and will bring her writing and editing skills to Habitat's causes. She has worked for affordable housing at the community level in New York and has also been a frequent volunteer in this area.

Eric Styles, who is filling a vacant position on the Board, brings with him a committed association with

Habitat. An Instructor and Reference Librarian at Hotchkiss School, Eric is also the Faculty Head of Hotchkiss's Habitat for Humanity Club. In that role, he has co-ordinated our work with Hotchkiss, selecting student heads for volunteer groups, organizing fundraisers and in general, being an important liaison with one of our most important volunteer sources.

And Nancy Moskowitz will join the Board in February. Nancy, a resident of Sharon, is a registered nurse and assistant professor at Dutchess Community College. She has been a long-time volunteer for Habitat at the annual Tag Sale and the Birdhouse sale and we are pleased to welcome her.



Judi Moore at This 'n' That

High School Students Help Out Habitat

A valuable collaboration has taken root between Habitat and the Vo Ag Department of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Under the leadership of landscape instructor David Moran, students have participated in the design and installation of landscaping of the latest Habitat home. We were blessed to employ their talents on other Habitat homes in the past and hope this relationship will be ongoing. For this project, as well as the last, Judy and Patrick Murphy of Old Town Nursery graciously donated all the plant materials. The students have been arriving early in the morning with shovels and bucket loaders to transform the site into one that will be cherished by our new homeowners.



A Successful Habitat Home Show

On a beautiful early summer afternoon, a crowd of Habitat supporters gathered at Lime Rock Park to enjoy the magnificent view of the rolling hills and participate in the Habitat Home Show. There were silent and live auctions in addition to artisans demonstrating their varied talents. There was food and wine aplenty accompanied by music. Those who attended had a festive time indeed. One of the focal points was the wonderful playhouse which had been on display prior to the Show in all the towns that make up our local Habitat affiliate. It was auctioned off with great success at the end of the event.

Co-chairs Lynn Nania, Jane Pinckney, and Anne Bowen want to thank the many, many people who made this fundraiser possible. There are too many to list but of note are the committee members, the Corporate Sponsors, the patrons, playhouse builders, the demonstrators, volunteers, and all those many good people who donated wine, food, decorations, and auction items. The funds raised will help defray the costs of the current construction of houses number seven and eight on the River Road site in Falls Village.



Play House from the Habitat Home Show

New Face, New Office

Dona Olinger has joined Habitat as Administrative Assistant, working out of our new office on Main Street in Lakeville. Dona is a familiar face in the non-profit community of the Northwest Corner. She is the former Director of Therapeutic Recreation, Volunteers, and Pastoral Services for Church Homes Incorporated where, among other things, she designed programs in Pastoral Care and Inter-generational interaction. With her considerable organizational skills, and interest in development, she is an important new member of our team. Welcome Dona!