

# Habitat Happenings

March 2011

## Women Build a 'miracle step' for homeowner partner

On September 11, 2001, Elaine watched the planes slam into the World Trade Center from her office window in downtown Manhattan. The devastation of that day continued many weeks after the buildings fell as people attempted to return to work in the midst of toxic dust. "The smell was still there for a long time," she remembers. "It was horrible." Eventually, Elaine realized that her children and her health were suffering as a result of the physical and emotional trauma of the terror attacks. She packed up her family and moved south, landing in Raleigh in January 2007.

Elaine lives in a small and somewhat drafty apartment where she spends much of her time cultivating a recently discovered passion for crafts. Her closets are filled with birdhouses, jewelry boxes, prayer boxes, sewing, crocheting, and other homemade gifts. "Once I turned fifty," she laughs, "I realized I love to work with my hands." That has come in handy on the Habitat worksite, where Elaine has already volunteered on four different houses. This spring, Elaine and her daughter will begin building a new home for their own family. Elaine can't wait to move in so she can decorate and plant flowers outside her front door.

"I always wanted a home of my own and couldn't afford it," she says. "I pay over half of my income on rent. When I have my home, I'll never have to worry about the rent going up." Elaine is the partner homebuyer for the 2011 Women Build home. Being

*continued inside*



## Neighborhood Revitalization efforts well underway in Long Acres

- ▶ Habitat's newest program, A Brush With Kindness, kicked off in mid-February at the home of a longtime Long Acres resident. ABWK is aimed at providing minor exterior repairs to existing low-income homeowners. Home projects in February included soffit and gutter repair, replacing an exterior door, installing porch railings, and clearing brush.
- ▶ Thanks to your help, we broke ground on the first four of nine new homes to be constructed in Long Acres in 2011. These homes will bring in new first-time homeowners and help curb the neighborhood's recent dramatic decline in owner occupied houses.
- ▶ The NRI Coalition, a group made up of residents, businesses, local government representatives, schools, nonprofits and communities of faith, meets regularly to create a shared vision of revitalization for the area. The Coalition's efforts have resulted in new community outreach such as:
  - St. Augustine's College and the Food Shuttle partnering to deliver food to homeowners in need.
  - The addition of JobLink's career services to be held once a week at the Ralph Campbell Center, a convenient community space for neighborhood residents.

To stay updated on NRI efforts, visit our website and sign up to receive Habitat Wake's monthly enews!



▶ **Barbara, a Triangle Transit bus driver and future Long Acres homeowner, is thrilled to see the foundation starting on her home.**



▶ **Rebecca's home not only looks more inviting, but it is safer with an added porch rail and more efficient with the replacement of an exterior door.**



▶ **Our first A Brush with Kindness project was enthusiastically supported by community volunteers.**

**Save these Dates:**

Blueprint Breakfast — March 31

Southern Ideal Home Show — April 1-3

NCSU 5K/10K/Race for Habitat - Centennial Campus — April 16

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

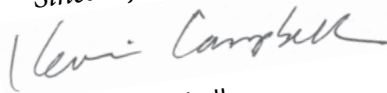
As I write this, we are experiencing our first few early spring days. Spring is a time of great transformation and it causes me to remember the words from Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." What better time than now for that?

Construction work in SE Raleigh's Long Acres community has begun after months of organizing and sharing a vision of a transformed community. It is exciting to see it unfold and to see neighborhood residents step up to claim that their neighborhood is recovering after years of decline. Please come out and join us this spring as we build 4 new homes and repair many others.

All of the fun isn't being had in Long Acres, either. The spring marks another Women Build event in Augusta Crossings in east Raleigh and also our first-ever CEO Build in east Cary, with 21 area CEOs working together to fund and then build a home with Shanita and her family.

So, as spring brings renewal and transformation to your life, take some time to join with area families and whole neighborhoods to be a transforming presence with them. I think you'll find yourself in a cycle of transformation and renewal that is hard to escape!

Sincerely,



Kevin Campbell  
Executive Director



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## OUR MISSION



Habitat for Humanity of Wake County

develops partnerships

to build healthy, affordable homes

with and for God's people in need,

promotes self-reliance through homeownership,

affirms the dignity of the family,

and creates sustainable communities.

# Women Build a 'miracle step' for homeowner partner continued from cover

a part of this special project is especially meaningful to Elaine. When she was chosen for the Women Build home, Elaine said, "It was just like all these women came together and said, 'Let's see if we as women can do this thing for her.' It was just spectacular! Every step has been like a miracle."



Elaine beams with excitement when she talks about building her new home: "I wish they'd let me work on it every day!" But it isn't the actual house that means the most to Elaine. "A gift this wonderful is something my children will always have," she says confidently. "I want my kids to be good people, good stewards, and always have some place to come home to. We are always going to have this house. If you've always had certain things, it seems like the norm. But to me, it's beautiful. It fills me inside to bursting!" She is thrilled to be able to pass the gift of a home on to her children and grandchildren, calling her women-built home "a legacy" she'll be proud leave her family.

Elaine continues to struggle with her health after breathing in the smoke and dust in the awful days that followed 9-11. As our country acknowledges the tenth anniversary of the attack this fall, Elaine will be finishing up a safe, energy-efficient home where she is able to care for her family and for her own health. "It'll take away a lot of worries," she says. "I have a lot to be thankful for."

Elaine's Women Build home breaks ground in March and will be completed in late summer/early fall. To get involved in Women Build, contact Missy Hatley at 744.2402 or [missy.hatley@habitatwake.org](mailto:missy.hatley@habitatwake.org).

## Volunteers lead first Abraham Build effort

Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faith communities are working together to plan Habitat Wake's first Abraham Build home. The home build, scheduled to begin this fall, will be a celebration of the shared history and tradition of the three religions.



"This is an important time to come together and show we really have more in common, more to bring us together than to separate us," said Veronica Bitting, Habitat Wake's Faith and Community Relations Manager. The Abraham House will help Christians, Jews, and Muslims from all over the county to learn about each tradition in an atmosphere of tolerance and cooperation while putting their faith into action.



Are you looking for a meaningful interfaith experience? Planning meetings will take place each month. If you'd like to learn more about the project, please contact Veronica Bitting at 744-2403 or [veronica.bitting@habitatwake.org](mailto:veronica.bitting@habitatwake.org).

## Increase Your Impact

Right now, all donations from new donors and increased gifts from current supporters will be matched by at 50% by The Stewards Fund. This is a great time to make your dollars go further to help families in need of safe, decent housing.

*Please consider making your first gift or increasing your pledge to maximize the impact of your gift.*

## Spring Cleaning?

Donate tax-deductible reusable building materials and hardwood furniture to the Habitat Wake ReStore

For information on our Free Pick up Service for pre-approved loads, call 744-2420



# ReStore

For details visit [www.HabitatWake.org/restore](http://www.HabitatWake.org/restore)

# Greater Things Church Breakfast

Martin Street Baptist Church hosted Habitat Wake's first Greater Things Church Breakfast on February 17. More than 100 church representatives attended an inspirational morning of testimonies from the pastors of several local churches and homeowner Sharon Bethea as well as music from the Shaw University Ensemble and Connections Church.

Executive Director Kevin Campbell challenged all churches to put their faith into action by joining Habitat Wake's Neighborhood Revitalization efforts in Southeast Raleigh and throughout the county. Thank you to everyone who took part in this event. There are greater things to come!



▲ *Rev. Vernon Tyson and Veronica Bitting*

*Jim Middleton compliments homeowner speaker Sharon Bethea on the testimony she delivered during the program.*



PHOTO BY ADAM WANSLEY

**1** The tour started at the home of Anita Wells, who recently completed construction on her home in Raleigh.



PHOTO BY PATRICIA PEMBERTON

**2** Home Tour Honorary Chair Betsy Cowling with homeowner host Anita Wells and volunteer Nancy Hawk



PHOTO BY ADAM WANSLEY

**3** Guests like Gene Davis, Veronica Bitting, Mary Kaitland Davis, and Chad Griffith returned to the ReStore which was transformed for the night into a fantastic event with delicious food and live music by Craig Thompson of Old Habits.

# Annual Holiday Home Tour

The 9th annual Holiday Home Tour raised more than \$63,000 to support

**We sincerely thank  
2010 Home Tour**

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Nelleen Mims

**In Honor of Claude and Odette Arnold**  
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**In Honor of Audie Barefoot's 60th birthday**  
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**In Honor of Steve Braun's birthday**  
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**In Honor of Clif and Linda Eason**  
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Brenda Ransom

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**In Honor of Drew and Jen Gallant**  
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**In Honor of David Gibson**  
Sara Edwards

**In Honor of Karen Gill**  
Cedric Coleman

**In Honor of Jim Graham**  
Thomas Andrews

**In Honor of Bud Grandpre on his birthday**  
Thomas Krebs

**In Honor of Chad and Caroline Griffith**  
Sandy Riddle

**In Honor of Jacky Grimm**  
Julia H. Rahmes

**In Honor of Gordon Grubb**  
John J. Healy

**In Honor of Dr. and Mrs. James Hurt**  
E.D. Gaskins

**In Honor of Carl & Carla Johnson's 50th Anniversary**  
Thomas Myette

**In Honor of The Kane Family**  
Phoebe Briley

**In Honor of Cyrus King on his 88th birthday**  
Edward G. King

**In Honor of Edward Lindsay**  
David Lindsay

**In Honor of Kevin Lynch**  
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**In Honor of Peggy Melin**  
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**In Honor of the Thursday morning Small Church Community at St. Francis of Assisi**  
Adelaide Ross

**In Honor of the Wedding of Jim Vankirk and Hedy Hollyfield**  
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**In Honor of Marcus Woodling**  
Susan W. Woodling

# Home Tour & Party

Tour & Party held on November 22  
Support our affordable housing mission.

## All of the generous our Sponsors!

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4 Haynes and Katie Sherron with John and Kimberly Towles

5 Larry Ferguson, Cathy Davis, Mary Allison Nowell and Chester Allen

## Memorial Gifts

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Coy Irvin

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Habitat Wake in your will?

For more information,  
please contact Nancy Jones  
at 744-2401 or nancy.jones@  
habitatwake.org.

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[www.HabitatWake.org](http://www.HabitatWake.org)

## Houses Currently Under Construction — Spring 2011

### Rachid's house in Raleigh

House Leader: Naomi Downs, Americorp

#### Silver Hammer Sponsor

Talecris

#### Nickel Hammer Sponsors

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### Elaine's house in Raleigh

House Leaders: Nancy Hawk,  
Judy Szustakowski

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### Dumitri & Liubovi's house in Raleigh

House Leader: Bob & Sally Chapman,  
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Genworth

### Barbara's house in Raleigh

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### Shanita's house in Cary

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