

# Habitat Happenings

December 2010



## CEO Build to kick off Spring Builds

Habitat Wake is launching its first CEO Build, a specialty build exclusively reserved for 21 of Wake County's top corporate officers and chaired by Kevin Trapani, President and CEO of The Redwoods Group. Working alongside the partner family who will purchase the home, executives will kick off the build in spring 2011 as volunteers on the construction site. In addition, each company will have the opportunity to bring employees out to the site for a workday. A sponsor contribution of \$5,000 per executive or corporation is required.

The CEO Build will give Wake County business leaders the opportunity to build relationships with senior-level executives outside of the workplace. CEOs will demonstrate their company's commitment to the Wake County community and involve employees in the opportunity to make a difference in the life of a local family.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to do something great for the community and your business! Contact Nancy Jones for more information at 744-2401 or [nancy.jones@habitatwake.org](mailto:nancy.jones@habitatwake.org).

## Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!

This December, we are working hard to complete Virginia's home so that she can be "home for the holidays."

Virginia is the very proud mother of 5-year old Karmillo. She and her son have been through a lot together in his five years. He was born with Down Syndrome and endured three surgeries before he was three years old, including open heart surgery.

For the first few years of his life, Virginia struggled to maintain work while attending to his medical needs. But you won't hear her complaining. Even a mention of her son brings a broad smile to her face. She describes him as "a lovable, chummy little guy that is always smiling." Today, Karmillo's health is good and he is thriving as a kindergarten student.

Virginia applied to the Habitat program in 2008 and was approved soon after. Initially, her home was to start construction in 2009, but that was pushed back nearly a year due to the availability of sponsorship funding. Virginia has patiently waited for her home build to start. "Occasionally, I would drive by the lot hoping to see that the foundation had started. When that day finally came, I was so excited," she said.

Virginia and Karmillo currently live in an apartment complex near Capital Boulevard. "I have many nice neighbors, and also some people that I do not enjoy," she explains. "One time, a young boy who is just 11 years old confided in me that a man had tried to sell him a gun in our parking lot. Can you imagine trying to sell a gun to a child?"

Virginia moved to the United States from Kenya in 2001. At 19 years old, she enrolled at Shaw University and came to Raleigh live with her aunt. She works as caregiver in the home of an elderly gentleman. "He treats me like family," she says, "and I feel good that I can help him keep his independence and live in his home."

"Working on my own home is so exciting. I've learned so much already," Virginia says, "I have to thank Rick Kelly, my house construction superintendent for his kindness and patience in teaching me. He is a wonderful person to lead the construction on my home." Virginia is looking forward to the physical and financial security that will come with being a homeowner in a safe neighborhood. And, she is working hard alongside Habitat volunteers and staff to make sure that her home for the holidays is a permanent one this year.



▲ Virginia, right, is pictured with Americorps construction staff member Kate.

**Save These Dates:**

Virginia's Home Dedication  
2011 Blueprint Breakfast

December 16  
March 31

Dozens of volunteers signed the shutters on homes that were a part of the Framing Frenzy. Soon-to-be homeowners and neighbors Jackie and Juanita are presented a signed shutter from Larry, a member of the Crazies crew.



The Zebulon community hosted the Crazies group and local volunteers, including those from Zebulon First Baptist Church and Zebulon Baptist Church, at a pre-event dinner on Friday, Sept. 24 on the lawn at Zebulon's Town Hall. Mayor Bob Matheny and the Town of Zebulon staff welcomed the Crazies to town and set the tone for a weekend of community building!

## Framing Frenzy in Zebulon

September 24-27, 2010



Tom Gerdy and his band of Road Trip Crazies travel to several states each year to lead framing events for Habitat for Humanity. Bringing lots of experience and knowledge, as well as a ton of enthusiasm and passion for the job, the nearly 50 "Crazies" worked with more than a hundred local volunteers to frame 4 homes in one weekend.



Dozens of volunteers provided well-deserved water, Gatorade and meals for the construction volunteers who came to help build.

# ReStore ad encourages landfill diversion

Thanks to the pro bono work of Raleigh advertising agency Baldwin&, the Habitat Wake ReStore has a new Public Service Announcement. The polished 30 second spot features an animated talking toilet trying to cheer up a toaster oven that has been discarded at the local landfill. The final caption reads: *Don't take it to the landfill. Take it to the ReStore.*

In addition to the creative provided by Baldwin&, the voice was provided by Pond Creative in San Francisco and all animation and production from The Forgery in Wilmington, NC.

While the immediate goal of the PSA is to encourage landfill diversion and material donations to Habitats here in the Triangle, the spot was intentionally designed to be shared with other affiliates across the country... making it, most appropriately, *reusable*.

[View the ad at www.HabitatWake.org/restore.](http://www.HabitatWake.org/restore)

## New Cornerstone Society Recognizes Legacy Gifts

As a part of our 25th anniversary, the Cornerstone Society has been established to recognize the important role of legacy gifts in eliminating poverty housing.

By contributing to the Habitat Wake Endowment Fund, or creating a planned gift for the future, you will join other members of the Cornerstone Society in building hope for families.

There are a variety of giving opportunities which qualify for Cornerstone Society membership including outright gifts, bequests, insurance policies, and trusts.

Individuals and couples who notify us of their plans by the end of 2011 will be considered charter members of the Cornerstone Society and receive special recognition.

As you plan for your future and the security of loved ones, there are numerous planned giving options that allow you to make a meaningful charitable gift to support the ministry's homebuilding after your lifetime.

For more information or to notify us of your decision to make a charitable gift, please contact Nancy Jones, Director of Development, at 744-2401 or [nancy.jones@habitatwake.org](mailto:nancy.jones@habitatwake.org)

*"The effect of giving, sharing, volunteering, and working for a better world is both wonderfully simple and wonderfully practical. We have better lives."*

Dr. Robert H. Schuller

## Women Build returning in spring 2011

Habitat Wake's next Women Build project will break ground in the spring of 2011. The 2011 project will take place in the Augusta Crossings neighborhood of Raleigh.

The first step is raising funds to cover the cost of building materials. To do so, we are seeking 20 individuals or groups to sponsor the home at the \$3,750 level and lots of women volunteers to help build. Groups who pledge now can raise funds until March 2011.

The 2011 Women Build homeowner partner, Elaine Tucker, attended an Open House for intended volunteers on October 21. "I am so very grateful to everyone here," Elaine said. "My family has wanted a house for so long but it just hasn't been possible. Thank you for making this really happen." It's not too late to get involved. Visit [www.HabitatWake.org](http://www.HabitatWake.org) for more information.



▲ **Future homeowner Elaine Tucker, center, is pictured with her daughter Kareeme and Women Build volunteer house leader Judy Szustakowski.**

We extend special thanks to to Platinum and Silver House Sponsors of the 2009-2010 year.

**Platinum Sponsors**

- An Anonymous Family
- Apostles Build 2009
- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- IBM Corporation
- Nationwide Insurance
- The Power of Seven Missions
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

**Silver Sponsors**

- Cisco Systems
- Credit Suisse
- First Presbyterian Church
- Hayes Barton Baptist Church
- Highland United Methodist Church
- Lowe's Home Improvement
- Triangle Builders Guild
- White Memorial Presbyterian Church

**Contractors Circle recognizes the support of the building industry**

This year, we stepped up our efforts to recognize those in the building community who donate labor and materials on Habitat Wake homes. It's no secret that the industry as a whole has experienced difficulty. Now, more than ever, we appreciate companies who find a way to do community service work to help our mission!

The Contractors Circle recognizes contractors, subcontractors and professional trades whose contributions to Habitat's mission make our community a better place to live.

Contractors Circle members commit to:

- donating labor and/or materials for at least one Habitat home per year;
- completing work in a time frame consistent with an agreed upon construction schedule; and
- offering customary warranties to Habitat homeowners.



**Thank you to this year's Contractors Circle members:**

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|----------------------------|---|
| Alliance Plumbing          | Lighthouse Electric                     |
| ARS-Metro                  | Lights Unlimited, Inc.                  |
| Baker Roofing              | Martin Marietta Materials               |
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| 1st Choice Custom Cabinet  | NC Gutter Guys, Inc.                    |
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| CertainTeed Roofing        | Stock Building Supply                   |
| Floorspec                  | Taylor's Nursery                        |
| Greenscape                 | Tom Buzzard and Company                 |
| Kidd Plumbing              | Tri City Insulation & Building Products |
| Lee Brick and Tile Company |   |

**Have you remembered Habitat Wake in your will?**

For more information, please contact Nancy Jones at 833.1999 x227 or [nancy.jones@habitatwake.org](mailto:nancy.jones@habitatwake.org).