



August 2011



2011 Women Build partner homebuyer Elaine laughs with volunteer Brenda

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 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.”

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

Resources for your congregation



Each month, Habitat Wake sends our Building on Faith e-newsletter with a printable insert for your congregation's newsletter or Sunday bulletin. You can sign up with an email to Kim (kim.westermann@habitatwake.org) or by visiting our website. The Building on Faith e-news contains a reflection based on the lectionary for that month, resources available to congregations, homeowner stories and other news items for your faith community. Please help us keep you informed & sign up today!

This is the fifth edition of **Building on Faith**, Habitat Wake's newsletter for faith communities and partners. Sign up to receive our Faith e-newsletter every month: www.HabitatWake.org

For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Cor 3:9)



A project to provide housing solutions for four families through new construction and home renovation – part of a broader neighborhood revitalization effort in Long Acres, Raleigh.

Apostles Build needs volunteers!!

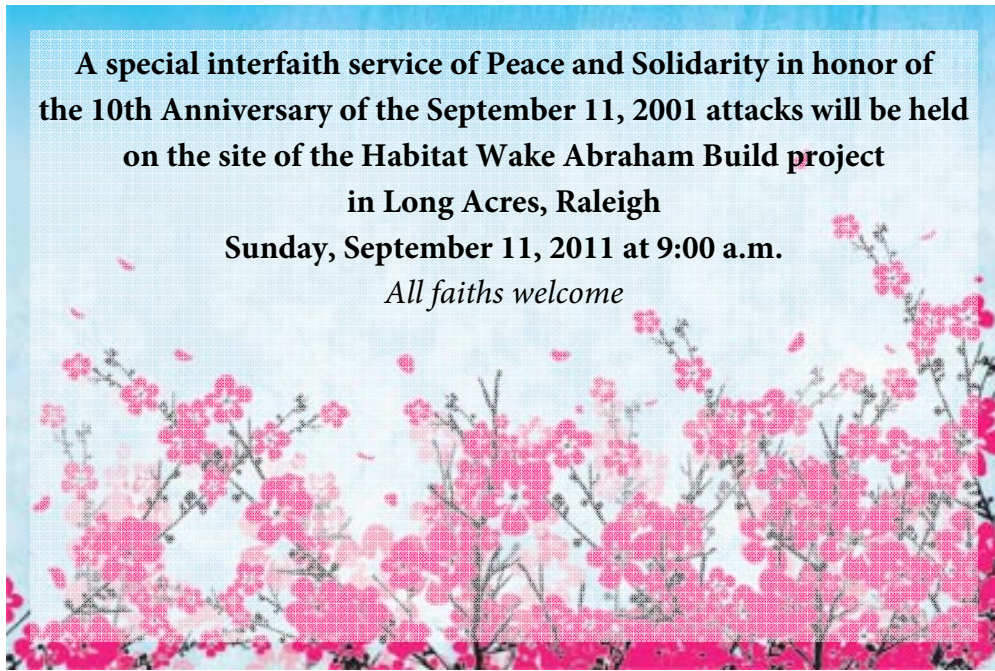
Contact us today (shanna.newell@habitatwake.org or 919-744-2417) to get your congregation on the volunteer schedule for our special Apostles Build project in Long Acres this fall. As a part of our neighborhood revitalization efforts in partnership with the City of Raleigh and other agencies, the 2011 Apostles Build will construct three new homes and rehabilitate a fourth. Our expansion of Apostles Build means **we need more volunteers than ever** - regardless of whether or not your congregation is a financial sponsor.

Apostles Build is a great opportunity to involve your faith community in a meaningful and concrete Christian service project. Habitat staff will be onsite to train volunteers and supervise the work - no construction experience is necessary! Join us this fall.

The Apostles Build home breaks ground on Sept 17th.

Contact Veronica for details: veronica.bitting@habitatwake.org or 919-744-2403.





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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."



Coming Fall 2011!

New in Cary
Habitat for Humanity
of Wake County
ReStore
www.HabitatWakeReStore.org for details

Three ways to celebrate and support Abraham Build



Habitat Wake's Interfaith Relations Committee is sponsoring Wake County's first ABRAHAM BUILD beginning this fall. This project will build relationships and a means of manifesting each faith's belief and mandate for peace and service to mankind. Christianity, Judaism and Islam are closely related in origin, belief and Holy Scriptures. Representatives of over 20 communities of faith are planning fundraisers, ceremonies and events that will engage our entire community.



Join us **Saturday, August 13, 2011** for 'An Evening of Jazz & Silent Auction' at the Historic Goodwin House, 220 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh. Doors open at 7 p with live music, hors d'oeuvres, a showing of original art by local professional artist Eric McRay, great company and many great items you can bid on! All included for just \$35! Purchase your tickets online or call Veronica Bitting at 919-744-2403. <http://www.habitatwake.org/getinvolved/abraham.html>



Please also join us for our Groundbreaking Ceremony & blessing at **8:30 am on Sunday, August 28th** and our Peace & Solidarity Ceremony on **Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 9:00 am**. Guest speakers will include Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker, and keynote speaker Dr. Abdullah Antepli, Duke University Chaplain. Both celebrations will take place at the Abraham Build site in Long Acres: 429 Parnell Drive, Raleigh, 27610.

Judaism, Christianity and Islam all require that we faithfully pursue peace and justice for all. Please join us! Contact Veronica: veronica.bitting@habitatwake.org or 919-744-2403.



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