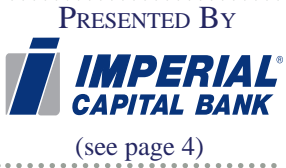


THE QUARTER INCH



"Inch by inch, home by home, milestone by milestone, we'll keep you informed of our activities & accomplishments."

January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December



4 Homes, 5 Days, 500 Local Volunteers *The 2006 Builder Blitz*



Photo by MSI Productions

The first week of June, 2006 was an unprecedented one for San Diego Habitat for Humanity. The 2006 Blitz Build was the first nationwide event of its kind, created to commemorate Habitat for Humanity International's 30th anniversary. The Blitz, however, stretched much farther than the city of San Diego. More than 130 Habitat affiliates participated in the 2006 Home Builders Blitz in large urban areas and in rural communities across the country. The 2006 Builders Blitz joined 1,000 professional home builders across the country with Habitat for Humanity volunteers and helped to build over 400 simple, decent homes for low-income families.

San Diego Habitat for Humanity's participation in the Blitz was made possible with the devotion and perseverance of the City of Escondido, Habitat volunteers and staff, as well as three local build partners. As a way to increase affordable homeownership opportunities in the community, the City of Escondido funded the land acquisition through a forgivable loan. John Laing Homes, KB Home, and Smith Brothers Construction each donated a full house sponsorship. Each of these three home builders enlisted the help of their own subcontractors and suppliers to attain materials and professional labor for the project. SDHFH Executive Director Cheryl Keenan stated, "We are so grateful for the City of Escondido's commitment to meeting the affordable housing needs of its citizens by partnering with Habitat. The extraordinary support of John Laing Homes, Smith Brothers Construction, KB Home, and a number of companies that exemplify giving back to the community, is a gift that will forever transform the lives of these families and the community at large." Jeff Smith, owner of Smith Brothers Construction stated, "We became involved so as to give back to the community in reaction to our successes of the past several years. I am also a big fan of Habitat and its creed of offering a hand up instead of a hand out. I feel that owning your own home is a cornerstone to the American way of life." Cameron Triebwasser, Director of

Continued on Page Eleven

Out of the Flames, Hope Rises *The Fire ReBuild*

In October 2003, what has become known as the Cedar and Paradise Fires killed 17 people and destroyed 2,453 homes, 22 commercial properties and 758 outbuildings on 329,950 acres of land in San Diego County. San Diego Habitat for Humanity immediately took on the mission of rebuilding homes for families who had little or no insurance to help them return home after the fires. The San Pasqual Indian Reservation was badly damaged by this disaster. Approximately 40% of all homes in Valley Center were destroyed. Through the fundraising efforts of the Morongo and San Manuel Bands of Mission Indians, as well as other bands, Habitat was able to rebuild homes for 17 elders, band members, and lineals at San Pasqual. Four additional homes were also built by SDHFH for families who lost their homes in the fires.

Construction kicked off in June 2004 with a mini-blitz build in conjunction with the US Navy. Nearly 150 Navy volunteers from the USS Ronald Reagan began construction on the first four homes in a one-week period. Expanding on this excitement, SDHFH began a building campaign that would last nearly two years. Habitat also worked in partnership with FEMA and Indian Health Services to ensure that families would

Before



After



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A Message From the Executive Director

Welcome to our first issue of “The Quarter Inch Report”. We are very excited to update the community on our construction projects, events, and family updates. We recently had the pleasure of hosting Paul Leonard, former CEO and Board Member for Habitat International during his visit to San Diego Habitat for Humanity. I have just finished reading his newly released book, *The MUSIC of a Thousand Hammers*. Indeed, it is amazing standing on a construction site with volunteers and partner families watching and listening to the sounds of people coming together sawing, hammering, laughing, and crying to create miracles. This experience transforms the lives of those receiving decent shelter for the first time and allows them to believe that dreams do come true. Habitat for Humanity makes a difference in eliminating poverty housing in the world and makes decent safe shelter a matter of consciousness for all humanity. The awareness and momentum of creating decent affordable housing in San Diego is gaining energy. We have built 67 homes in the county and we currently have the opportunity to help 46 more. This comes at the tail end of building 21 homes for fire victims and participating in the building efforts for Katrina and Tsunami disasters. In addition, we offer tithing to other countries including: Romania, Honduras, Mexico and Thailand. Of course, we could not do this without the prayers and offerings of all of you that believe in Habitat for Humanity’s ability to continue the goal of putting roofs over heads and hope in the hearts of families.

To share a little information about myself, I received my Brokers license in Real Estate and a General Contractor’s license and subsequently joined Cimarron Development as Senior Vice President and Partner, responsible for project development. I have specialized in real estate services and residential and commercial construction and in turn have conducted training seminars on the development process, management, and marketing and real estate negotiations for various development organizations. The town of Guadalupe, Arizona hired me as a Supervisor for federally funded grants for a self-help housing program where my responsibilities included: training families in construction skills, supervising the work of program contractors and program participants, estimating costs of construction, and studying objectives and requirements of various programs of other governmental agencies that offer assistance to homeowners. I received extensive training from the federal organization, HUD, to carry out these responsibilities. Additionally, I participated in extensive training from Homestart, an affordable housing program through grant money received from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. With this training, I was hired as a consultant for the Sunnyslope Village Revitalization in Arizona, responsible for land acquisition and development of the affordable housing program. I am married to Tom, a commercial broker with Coldwell Banker Commercial, and have four wonderful children and two amazing grandchildren. I am proud and honored to be chosen as Executive Director of San Diego Habitat for Humanity. I have a true passion for this ministry and believe that the Habitat homes are “holy ground” and the hands that build them are the hands of the Lord.

“Behold, how fine and pleasant when families dwell together” (Psalm 133). Thank you for your support. God Bless You.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Keenan
San Diego Habitat for Humanity
Executive Director

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“We are honored to support SDHfH.”

BY THE NUMBERS

\$488,000 <i>median San Diego home price</i>	\$150,000 <i>income to own a median priced home</i>	\$64,900 <i>median area income for a family of four</i>	\$32,000 <i>current average income of a Habitat family of four</i>
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How We Found our Home: The Story of San Diego Habitat for Humanity

By Dr. Dennis Briscoe

The roots of the San Diego Habitat for Humanity affiliate are to be found in the early interests of Georgia and Dennis Briscoe and the involvement of their Sunday school class at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Mission Valley of San Diego. The Briscoes became interested in Habitat for Humanity when its founders, Linda and Millard Fuller, contacted them early in its development. After a short period living at Koinonia Farms in Georgia, where the Fullers were exposed to the ideas that formed the basis of Habitat for Humanity, the Fullers left for a lay mission to the Congo. There, they successfully put the basic concepts to work, building a small community of homes with 50 families in Mbandaka, the Congo.

When the Fullers returned to the U.S. to officially form Habitat for Humanity International, they contacted all their friends and acquaintances to solicit their assistance. The Briscoes, particularly Georgia, were hooked. Even though their support was minimal in the beginning, they sparked an interest among their friends in the adult Sunday school class at First United Methodist Church. Over the next four years, the class raised approximately \$40,000, which was donated to the international work of HFHI.

After the group at FUMC became involved with fundraising for Habitat, the Fullers began visiting San Diego every year to speak to interested parties. First United Methodist Church stayed with the Briscoes and continually asked when they would start an affiliate in San Diego. Many interested community members came together in Spring, 1987. Approximately 50 people were present at the initial meeting, representing many constituencies and expressing their strong support for the idea of starting a Habitat affiliate in the San Diego-Tijuana region. This binational affiliate was to become the only one of its kind in the history of Habitat and was designed from the beginning to create a cross-border partnership for working together on the problem of affordable housing throughout the metropolis of Tijuana, Mexico and San Diego, California.

In late summer 1988, Dennis Briscoe decided that one way to prompt increased attention for Habitat, and the problem of affordable housing in the Tijuana-San Diego region, would be to invite former President Jimmy Carter to bring his summer Habitat Blitz Build to San Diego and Tijuana. Their vision was that this would provide the first opportunity for Habitat International to include an "overseas" location for their summer Jimmy Carter work camp and it would provide an opportunity to build houses in both San Diego and Tijuana.

Dr. Briscoe extended the invitation and vision to the Fullers, who then passed it on to former President Carter. President and Rosalyn Carter believed it was an excellent idea and accepted the invitation for June 1990. With the aid of Habitat International, the Carters, and about 3,000 volunteers from around San Diego, the U.S., and other countries, 100 homes were completed in Tijuana during the one-week blitz build and seven in Encanto, in Southeast San Diego, for a total of 107 homes. The San Diego church and philanthropic community donated approximately \$1.5 million for this project and thus began the process of putting the concepts of Habitat for Humanity (and the huge need for affordable housing) on the political agenda in both San Diego and Tijuana.

In late 1990, David and Jean Klassen, of Edmonton, Canada, became interested in the efforts of the Tijuana-San Diego affiliate, particularly in Mexico, and proceeded to find ways to raise enough financial and lumber resources from the Edmonton affiliate and from Canadian government sources for building approximately 100 houses in Baja California, 50 in Tijuana, near the Jimmy Carter project, and 50 in Tecate. This project was labelled "Hands Across Three Borders" and became a major focus of the affiliate for about 2 ½ years. Hundreds of individuals and many groups worked with the Tijuana-San Diego affiliate and the Mexican family house recipients to complete these homes.

By the mid-1990s, the SD-TJ affiliate had completed approximately 285 homes in Baja California and 10 new and rehabilitated homes in San Diego. However, by 1995, interest at the board level of the affiliate had shifted from a focus on Tijuana, which continued to suffer from lack of Mexican leadership, to a primary, and eventually exclusive, focus on San Diego. By 1996, the San Diego affiliate had become independent of the work in Tijuana (taken over by Habitat for Humanity International) and the name of the affiliate was changed to San Diego Habitat for Humanity.

Since then, SDHFH has hired a new Executive Director (Cheryl Keenan) and grown the staff to 11 full time employees. The affiliate has been focused entirely on new and rehab construction in San Diego County, completing 67 homes to date, with each new-year experiencing an increase in activity from the prior year. And now, in the year 2006, the San Diego Habitat for Humanity is finally on the verge of becoming one of the larger affiliates in the Habitat family and fulfilling the dream that Georgia and Dennis Briscoe had two decades earlier.



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As a thank you for all your hard work and dedication, San Diego Habitat for Humanity and The Theatre in Old Town have partnered up to offer volunteers, sponsors, and donors up to 4 half-price tickets to any weekday performance of the hit musical-comedy FORBIDDEN BROADWAY: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT throughout the month of October!

RESERVE YOUR HALF-PRICE TICKETS: Please call The Theatre in Old Town box office (619) 688-2494 and mention the San Diego HfH discount.

Additional tickets for friends and family can be purchased at the time of the call. Half-price tickets for each performance are limited, so please call the box office ASAP!



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Milane Lane: Street of Dreams



From Left: Elizabeth Neubrand (PR) with Construction Supervisors Ken Kosman, and Mike Gehl.

The Milane Lane Celebration and Dedication took place on Wednesday April 5th, 2006. Despite the windy and rainy morning, "The Street of Dreams" was revealed to an array of supporters, donors, volunteers and Escondido city officials. The weather did not dampen the spirits of the audience. Mike Gehl, Habitat Construction Supervisor, presented the seven-home project overview. The Milane project was San Diego Habitat for Humanity's first subdivision development. Escondido Mayor, Lori Holt-Pfeiler, thanked the staff and volunteers of San Diego Habitat for their dedication to the project. Full house sponsors for the Milane project are Coldwell Banker Residential, John Laing Homes, KB Home, Laird Norton Family & Company, Lanoga, and Dixieline. Smith Brothers Construction donated the labor for their sponsored home. The Milane subdivision, consisting of seven 3 and 4 bedroom homes, is located on the corner of Lincoln and Ash in Escondido and is San Diego Habitat's second housing project in Escondido. The project consisted of a new road, a small park for the residents' use, and a greenbelt to be dedicated back to the City of Escondido. The City of Escondido funded San Diego Habitat for Humanity's acquisition of the property and much of its predevelopment through two forgivable loans. Four of the seven homes were "blitzed" from foundation to roof as part of the 2006 Builders Blitz Week. The remaining three will be completed by the end of summer thanks to our hard working volunteers and generous donors. The House Blessing and the Giving of the Keys celebration will follow in September.

MLB hits a Home Run for Hurricane Victims

The first ever World Baseball Classic was launched in March of 2006. Baseball teams from every corner of the globe competed for the world baseball championship. The semi-final and final games of the series were held in San Diego's very own Petco Park. Between March 18th and March 20th, during the final games of the World Baseball Classic, Major League Baseball, the San Diego Padres and Bank of America joined in a collaborative effort with San Diego Habitat for Humanity and Habitat International to help those devastated by the 2005 hurricanes. Three homes were built adjacent to Petco Park and were then transported to the Gulf Coast region to benefit victims of the Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. The homes were built by Bank of America and SDHFH volunteers, as well as construction supervisors from both SDHFH and HFHI. The World Baseball Classic finalists, Team Japan and Team Cuba, took time out of their busy schedules to autograph the interior walls of the three homes.

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, a number of Major League Baseball executives, San Diego Padres executives, and Bank of America associates were present for the build. The Major League Baseball ReBuilds program began with an initial \$1 million donation to Habitat for Humanity in October 2005. "The needs created by the hurricanes last year continue to be great. As the attention of media and baseball fans around the world focuses on San Diego, we feel this is a perfect setting to highlight both the needs and the opportunities that exist to help those who were affected in the Gulf Coast and in communities around the country. We are proud to continue our support for Habitat for Humanity, and are pleased that valued business partner Bank of America is joining us in creating both a house and a home for three deserving families," said Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig.

"Reaching out to communities and individuals with special and sometimes urgent needs will always be important to the San Diego Padres," said Sandy Alderson, the club's Chief Executive Officer. "With this local construction effort occurring in conjunction with the inaugural World Baseball Classic here in San Diego, there is much to celebrate, both off and on the field."

Bank of America, an official sponsor of Major League Baseball and the San Diego Padres, has donated \$100,000 to Habitat for Humanity with an unprecedented \$1.5 billion charitable giving goal over ten years. "We are very pleased to lend our support to this worthy effort," said Robert Tjosvold, Market President for Bank of America in San Diego. "The devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina demonstrates the critical need not only for the immediate future of the Gulf Coast, but for long term affordable housing that serves the needs of local communities everywhere. The rebuilding efforts of our partners are a key element of a much larger necessity."

This concentrated effort caught the attention of national media. On March 20th, SDHFH had the pleasure of hosting Natalie Morales of NBC's the Today Show as she visited the site of the Petco MLB ReBuilds to interview veteran Padre, Dave Winfield, about the joined efforts to build three homes for Katrina Victims. MLB continues with its efforts to partner with Habitat for Humanity to "ReBuild" the Gulf Region.



Volunteer Highlight: Guy Shirley

Lending a hand at home before serving his country



LT(jg) Guy Shirley began his volunteer work with San Diego Habitat for Humanity at the 18 home San Pasqual Build for the 2003 wildfire victims. Volunteer participation for the project, organized by his fellow naval officers, was intended to be a one-day venture. However, as the heat and the hard work of the day progressed, Shirley deemed this work tough, but rewarding. He approached Construction Supervisor

Mike Gehl, a retired Navy Captain, to ask if he could volunteer the following Saturday. Help was certainly needed and Shirley reported to the San Pasqual Build site the next week. Every Saturday thereafter for the next fifteen months, Guy Shirley made the 45-mile trek each way to the San Pasqual Build.

When asked about his dedication to this project, Shirley responded, "I liked working with Ken, Mike, and Jack [Habitat Construction Supervisors]; they are good guys. Instead of sleeping in on Saturdays, I figured I should do something better with my time where I could learn something and do something good at the same time."

Due to Shirley's exemplary volunteer efforts, he was asked to help with the 2006 Builders Blitz. In his own words, Shirley explained his experiences with the Blitz, "I was so excited I drove to the site Sunday night and slept in the bed of my truck. I have a sleeping pad; I blew it up and crawled in the bed of the truck to fall asleep. I woke up at 4:30 in the morning and brushed my teeth with a bottle of water sitting on the tail-gate of my truck. I was the first of the volunteer construction crew to arrive." It was not only that Sunday, but every night after, that Shirley and fellow volunteer, Liz Douglas, slept on site. They would rise early to prepare and organize the site before the other volunteers arrived.

Shirley explained that the challenge of building four homes in five days, as well as working side by side with the Habitat families, was what attracted him to this particular project. Shirley recalled, "I remember I would see Mrs. Lu (Habitat partner family member) every morning as she helped to set up the coffee and the bagels and she was always smiling and I was always smiling. We knew we were both very excited about the whole thing in general."

Shirley's dedication to the completion of the project was unparalleled. "As the week was coming to the end and the house was behind schedule I would work until Mike told me I had to quit. We pushed the schedule a couple of days because if we did a little bit extra everyday we could get on top of it. After it was all done, my hands were swollen and I had a rash on my back from the work belt and horrible blisters on my feet and I felt awesome!"

Fellow volunteers will not be seeing Guy Shirley on Saturdays for the next six months. Duty has called him this time to Iraq. In looking back on the few precious weeks before his deployment, Shirley had this to say, "As I prepare to leave for Iraq, and look back at the Blitz week, I feel really happy to be a part of the project. Friday at the awards what I was happy to see was the giving of the

keys to the families so they could move into their home, and when the kids of the families gave the builders their framed pictures, and Ken gave the bibles to them, and Joe singing and playing the guitar- that was good stuff. It made for a really good closure to a crazy hectic week. It makes me smile." Guy promises to keep in touch with his San Diego Habitat family and we promise to pray for his well-being and safe return. It will be a joy to see him once again, blistered and tired on the roof of a Habitat house working hard to get the job done, and as always...with a smile on his face.

Group Highlight: USS New Orleans *Hearts and Priorities in the right place*

The crew of the USS New Orleans has been contributing time with our affiliate since mid 2005. The USS New Orleans, a Navy LPD transport ship, is currently under construction in Avondale, New Orleans, LA and will call San Diego its home port early next year. These energetic Navy volunteers have worked on 4 major projects, including San Pasqual, Wildcat Canyon, 6th and Orange, and currently our Milane Lane project. Over the last year, the crew of the New Orleans has contributed more than 1,800 volunteer hours. The volunteer activities have been coordinated by EN1 Eric Martin and EN1 Ray Miranda. These two coordinators have done a tremendous job of providing a very reliable volunteer resource several times each month for the past year. EN1 Miranda said that their command is committed to helping out the community and they chose Habitat for Humanity for a variety of reasons. He personally enjoys working with Construction Supervisors Ken and Ron and appreciates the opportunity to work side by side with the families in building their new homes. He added that the crew each has their own reasons for helping Habitat, but that each one enjoys the experience and they look forward to this weekly volunteer opportunity. With the current turmoil in the world, it is reassuring that service men and women are not only protecting and defending the freedoms that we believe in, but they are also helping our communities and those in need. Based on our observations, the crew of the New Orleans is making our community and country a safer and better place to live.

Calling All Volunteers!

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED:

- ~ ReStore Customer Service (Tuesdays through Saturdays)
- ~ Hostelling International site (Saturdays only)
- ~ Office Administration
- ~ Newsletter and Fundraising Committees
- ~ Grant Writing Assistance

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- ~ 11-unit condo project in Carlsbad
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For more info or updates please call 619-283-2663 or email:

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 JOSEPH D. COSTELLO
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KAREN NISHI
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 KEVIN F. GREER
 KRIS HIGGINS
 LA JOLLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 SCOTT YODALL
 STRATEGIC TAX SOLUTIONS
 TEMPLE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY
 SCHOOL
 THESA LORNA JOLLY
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF VISTA
 VANN & CAROL PARKER
 WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH

And thank you to the
 1,286 other individuals,
 Churches, and corporations
 who have faithfully
 supported our efforts.

Names listed are for donations
 received July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006.

The Paul Leonard Donor Recognition Dinner

San Diego Habitat for Humanity held an exclusive donor recognition dinner in honor of visiting guest Paul Leonard, former CEO and Board Member of Habitat International, and his wife, Judy. The Leonards came to San Diego on their nationwide tour during the 2006 Builders Blitz week in celebration of Habitat for Humanity International's 30th anniversary. Leonard's involvement with Habitat for Humanity began in 1992 when his church and Centex Real Estate Corporation built homes in Charlotte. Centex also sponsored a home in the Jimmy Carter Work Project in Washington, DC. Leonard retired from Centex in September 1995 and was elected to the Board of Habitat for Humanity International in October 1995. The Paul Leonard Recognition Dinner was held at the Hilton San Diego Resort in Mission Bay on June 7th. It was well attended by donors, volunteers, affiliate staff and board members. Board member Dan Hapke emceed the event and Paul Leonard was the keynote speaker. Donor attendees Paul and Cay McCracken were awarded for their lifetime achievement. Paul McCracken shared his reasons why he stays involved with SDHFH, "I was one of eight children raised during the Depression. My father was ill and couldn't work and we didn't have a decent roof over our heads. As a volunteer for Habitat, I have witnessed what it means to have a decent home. I agree with Habitat's policy that everyone deserves a decent place to live. My wife and I are proud to be among the supporters of San Diego Habitat for Humanity." Bob and Elaine Halliday and Jack and Mary Goodall were also recognized for their lifetime achievement and incredible support to SDHFH.

The Change A Life Foundation was honored for their significant contributions to San Diego Habitat for Humanity. The foundation is dedicated to furthering the mission of their non-profit partners by providing crucial support to individuals who have suffered from a catastrophic life event. "It is a great pleasure to partner with Habitat for Humanity in San Diego. We are thrilled that Change a Life Foundation has been able to help by providing almost a quarter of a million of the dollars needed to complete the homes of 26 families since 2002," shared Lisa Fujimoto, Executive Director of Change a Life Foundation. The evening concluded with a video of the work Habitat has accomplished around the globe. We are looking forward to next year's Donor Recognition Dinner, which is planned for October 2007 with President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter.



Hats Off to Women Luncheon Benefit & 2007 Women's Build

Save the Date: November 1, 2006



The Westgate Hotel

For more info contact: Elizabeth Neubrand
619.283.4663 ext. 317elizabethn@sdhfh.org

San Diego Habitat for Humanity is planning our first annual *Hats Off to Women Luncheon Benefit & 2007 Women's Build* scheduled for Wednesday November 1, 2006. This unprecedented event will bring together San Diego's most intriguing and successful women from an array of political, humanitarian, and business backgrounds. Congresswoman Susan Davis will chair the event and the luncheon is to held at the historic Westgate Hotel in downtown San Diego. Nancy Graham, President/COO of the Centre City Development Corporation, will be the featured keynote speaker.

The luncheon will provide an opportunity for women to network for a worthy cause while celebrating the many hats women wear professionally and personally. The goal of the luncheon is to raise \$125,000, the cost to construct one home for a San Diego family in need. The invitees will have the opportunity to participate in the 2007 Women's Build where they will work side by side with the Habitat family to build their home.

Women from all walks of life will join together to create a legacy for combating substandard living conditions for low-income families. Nearly 70 percent of Habitat homes are built by and for single mothers and their children. Please attend the luncheon and Women Build and unite with us in our mission to eliminate poverty housing in our community by building decent, affordable homes.



Honorary Chair:
Congresswoman Susan Davis

Guest Speaker:
Nancy Graham, *President/COO*
Centre City Development Corporation

Honorary Committee Members Include:

- Senator Denise Ducheny
- City of San Diego Councilmember Donna Frye
- City of San Diego Councilmember Toni Atkins
- Escondido Mayor Lori-Holt Pfeiler
- Solana Beach Deputy Mayor Lesa Heebner
- Del Mar Mayor Crystal Crawford
- Imperial Beach Mayor Diane Rose
- Oreda Chin, *San Diego President of the National Association of Women Business Owners*
- Nancy Scull, *Partner with Luce Forward Hamilton Scripps*
- Estha Trouw with FOX 6 News
- Kathi Diamant with KBPS TV
- Charlotte Stark with KUSI TV



There's No Place Like Home

The Prentice Family

Cecilia and Augustus Prentice have lived in a small one-bedroom apartment in Escondido for the past four years. Since moving in, their family grew to include Izabella, now two years old, and Jazmin, who is now one year old. All four family members slept in the sole bedroom, overcrowded with a double bed, crib, and basinet. There was no functioning heat and the electrical system often failed. Their apartment was located on the corner of a busy intersection and several accidents occurred in front of their residence. It was unsafe for the children to play outside and there was no common or recreational area in their apartment complex.

Cecilia and Augustus struggled to find an apartment large enough for the family of four that was also affordable in Escondido. They were quite attached to their community, family, jobs, and faith community, which were the touchstones of their lives.

Both Cecilia and Augustus hold down steady employment; however, their incomes made it impossible for them to be homeowners. Celia works as a caregiver at a home for the disabled. Eventually, she would like to study to become either a nurse or a medical billing administrator. Augustus works as a carpet cleaner. Both working parents' income falls in the 60% range of the area median income (AMI) for San Diego County. Hoping for a miracle, the two attended a Habitat orientation and were accepted into the program.



Celia and Augustus Prentice and their two children, Izabella (Age, 2) and Jazmin (Age, 1) Lot #2 (3-bedroom)

Cecilia's and Augustus' home was built during Blitz week by KB Home. During the construction phase, the Prentice family contributed 500 hours (250 hours per adult) of "sweat equity" in the construction of their home and other Habitat homes. They have moved into their new home and have continued to help build other homes for Milane families who will move into their own homes in September.

Becoming first-time homeowners was a lifelong dream of Cecilia's and Augustus'. They saw brighter futures for their two girls with the safety and stability that a permanent home provides. They were excited to have a yard in which their girls could play outside safely, and were eager to get to know their future neighbors. A life in which the Prentice girls could grow up healthy and thrive was of the utmost importance to them. Celia, who immigrated from Mexico and became a permanent US resident in 2002, knows struggle firsthand. She yearned to be a strong example to her daughters that they, too, can overcome adversity and achieve their dreams. The Prentice home proves that this is possible.

ReUse, ReCycle, RESTORE



The ReStore is an aspect of Habitat for Humanity that has been kept in the dark for too long. The ReStore is a retail home improvement outlet facility that sells new and gently used building materials, appliances, furniture, and other household items at deeply discounted prices. The ReStore promotes environmental conservation by recycling items and keeping building materials out of San Diego landfills. An additional purpose of the ReStore is to provide the general public with an affordable shopping resource for their own home improvement needs.

Managing such an enormous and purposeful endeavor falls on the shoulders of Cecilia Presley, who has been the ReStore Director for eleven months. Prior to that, Presley spent twenty-five years in the Navy, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer. When Presley began at the ReStore she had a major undertaking to tackle. In the short time that she has served as director, the ReStore has seen vast improvements. The ReStore is an important place for Presley, for she understands that it is through these funds that Habitat is able to affect people's lives and give back to the community.

Presley is not alone; however, when it comes to keeping the ReStore up and running. Volunteer groups from the USS Nimitz, US Bank, and the YMCA have helped with various projects such as painting and organizing the store to create a friendlier shopping environment. The ReStore has been fortunate enough to receive material donations from Lowe's, Lennar, Home Depot, Illuminating Interiors, Andersen Windows, Taylor Diversified Inc., Stair Source, John Laing Homes, KB Homes, Spooner products and many other donors. The ReStore also has a great partnership with Jackson Design and Remodeling whose home remodeling customers donate money, old appliances, and other reusable construction materials to Habitat. "Together we can make a difference and San Diego Habitat for Humanity is our charity of choice... It makes perfect sense and we really enjoy working with Cecilia," said Todd Jackson, President of Jackson Design and Remodeling.

The ReStore is open to the public and is located at 10222 San Diego Mission Road in San Diego's Mission Valley, just east of Qualcomm Stadium. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The ReStore is always in need of volunteers and material donations. In order to contact the ReStore, please call (619) 516-5267. The ReStore is where shopping builds a better community!





THE STUD REPORT

From the Trenches

By Joe Gilbreath

It has been a busy and somewhat hectic construction year to date for the affiliate; however, we will shortly transition into a slightly slower period that will allow us to catch our breath and prep for a heavy construction period that will extend well into 2009 and beyond! Our goal is to develop a steady state of continual home construction with a uniform and manageable steady rate of growth. A key element will be early identification of future projects, and a methodical project design and development process that allows new construction to begin as current projects are completed on a predictable time schedule.

The year to date in review: We began 2006 with eight of seventeen of our San Pasqual fire victim homes to complete. Work progressed steadily and homes were completed in July, with only minor punch list items remaining. In February, construction began on our last fire victim home, the Bellantes, with the groundbreaking conducted on February 11th. The home is near completion with a house blessing ceremony scheduled in August.

In the midst of these two projects, we began our most ambitious development project to date – the seven home subdivision called Milane Lane, located in the City of Escondido. This project was unique for our affiliate in that it involved the construction of a public street with underground utilities. Complicating the coordination for this project was the fact that four of the homes were to be “blitzed” as part of Habitat International’s nation-wide Blitz week. Building slabs and underground utilities were in place prior to the start of Blitz week, June 5th – 9th. Three of the blitzed homes were built and finished by professional homebuilders, and ready to move in to by June 9th. The fourth blitz home was built by volunteers and was completed with the exception of landscaping and some minor finishes. Three families were able to occupy their new homes by the end of the week. The entire Blitz week was an incredible display of teamwork, cooperation, generosity and good will by city officials, builders, subcontractors, suppliers, caterers, church groups, local vendors, car dealers, and an army of Habitat volunteers. The remaining four homes will be completed in late August.

If these three projects were not sufficient in keeping our small construction staff hopping, we also took on several other projects including: the Major League Baseball Build, conducted during the World Baseball Classic playoffs, in which we built wall panels for three homes for shipment to the Gulf Region in support of the Katrina rebuilding activities, the renovation of a duplex in cooperation with the City of Linda Vista, and the renovation of one of our buy-back Habitat homes.

As we look to the future we anticipate breaking ground on a seven unit condominium in Escondido this fall. As that project reaches 50% completion in mid 2007, we anticipate breaking ground on a single family residence in Vista, as well as our most ambitious project ever – a 20 single family home subdivision in Oceanside. Ground breaking on this project will be followed shortly by a ground breaking on a second condominium in Carlsbad.

The 2007- year will be an ambitious one for sure. Our slow construction period this fall will be a sorely needed time for us to sharpen our tools, hone our project management skills,

and do some detailed planning and preparation for a heavy and extended construction period. We will also need this calm before the storm to reflect on the fact that “Habitat’s ministry is based on the conviction that to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ we must reflect Christ’s love in our own lives by loving and caring for one another. Our love must not be words only—it must be true love, which shows itself in action.”

No matter how many ground-breakings we have, or how busy our days become we must never forget, “*Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it*” (Psalm 127:1).



In From the Field

By Joe Carton

Many of you over the years have attended one or more of our House Blessings. These events bring closure to a house build, but are also an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the effort put into the building of a new home. House Blessings bring together homeowners, friends, family, volunteers, staff, and donors to see and feel the results of months of work and participation in taking a concept from scratch and turning it into a reality for a deserving family.

I’m blessed in leading folks through song to recognize what they have accomplished on these projects. One of my favorite blessing songs is “All Are Welcome”, by Marty Haugen. I’d like to quote the fifth and final verse:

*“Let us build a house where all are named, their songs
and visions heard,
And love and treasured, taught and claimed as words
within the Word
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith
and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter; all are
welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this
place.”*

As the above verse explains, every home we build generates stories, loving memories, and tears of joy and laughter.

I’ve been with San Diego Habitat for almost ten years now, and I’ve been blessed to witness and be a part of our growth and development. Other articles in this newsletter will talk of the homes we are building, but please know this, we all are individually driven by our own love for our Lord, and if we allow this love to be our driving force, there will be no stopping us. In *His* time, not only will all be welcome, but all will be served! See you on the worksite!



CONSTRUCTION CORNER

HOMES COMPLETED: 67
UNDER CONSTRUCTION: 4
ON THE DRAWING BOARDS: 46

2006 Builder Blitz

Continued from Page One

Public Relations, KB Home said, "KB Home San Diego was proud to participate in this incredible experience. Our team rose to the occasion and built a beautiful home for the Prentice family in less than five days. Without our team's dedication and tireless spirit and the unparalleled efforts of the San Diego Habitat team, this would not have been possible." John Mecklenburg, San Diego Division President for John Laing Homes expressed, "Being involved with Habitat for Humanity and the week long Builders Blitz was a great example of the heart and passion of John Laing Homes' desire to be involved in the communities we build in and of course, 'doing the right thing'. We knew from day one that we were doing the right thing by simply looking at the smile on Mrs. Lu's face. Her smile was truly all the thanks we needed and completely validated that John Laing Homes did the right thing." Rick Mays Construction donated the labor to frame 2 and a half homes. Mays states, "We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Habitat for Humanity on the Builders Blitz. We framed two houses in one day. We had over 40 employees volunteering their time and effort for this worthy cause. This experience was very rewarding and gratifying for all of us at R.L. Mays Construction. We look forward to working with Habitat on future homes." Mike Rochholz owner of Secure Roofing donated roofers for two of the homes. Ramona Eichhorn of Illuminating Interiors, a lighting showroom, spent the last year volunteering for Habitat for Humanity's San Pasqual project. Illuminating Interiors shares her same philosophy and recently donated all the lighting for the Milane Lane project in Escondido, which included four Blitzed homes. Illuminating Interiors plans to continue their support to Habitat for Humanity. Sign*A*Rama has been a long time donor of SDHFH, never accepting any payment for their work. Their donation included a sign displaying the names of the families, build partners, and sponsors for the event. Steve Mader, owner of Sign*A*Rama commented, "Habitat is a great organization. With my increased busy work schedule, I can not find the time to volunteer as much as I once did. Donating signs for Habitat building sites, vehicles, and the Restore fulfill my desire to help this worthy cause."

Once the word was out that the Habitat for Humanity Blitz was to take place in Escondido, the offers of sponsorship were overwhelming. Toyota of Escondido donated two Highlanders for the week to shuttle the 500 plus workers to and from the build site. Starbucks, Einstein Bros. and Panera Bread Bakery provided coffee and breakfast every morning. Lunch was supplied for over 100 daily volunteers by First Congregational Church of Escondido, City of Escondido Employees Association, Rancho Bernardo Presbyterian Church, Torrey Pines Christian Church, and Imperial Capital Bank.

Among the activities of the Blitz week was the donation of a film crew by MSI Productions. The crew captured footage of the entire week and will create a thirty-minute documentary highlighting the Blitz in detail. The documentary will eventually air on local television. MSI partner Tom Bollard, along with award winning producers Lawrence Seifert and John Gray, joined together to create this video documenting the important work being done by SDHFH. A premier viewing of the completed video is currently being coordinated.

There were many events during the Blitz week, one of which included a visit from former CEO and Board member of Habitat International, Paul Leonard, who was accompanied by his

wife, Judy. Upon his arrival, SDHFH Construction Supervisors Mike Gehl and Ken Kosman lead them on a tour of the Blitz homes. The unremitting Blitz Week construction took a quick break to listen to Paul Leonard as he delivered words of inspiration to the many volunteers working on the San Diego Blitz site. Cheryl Keenan, SDHFH Executive Director, stated, "We are so honored and excited to host Paul Leonard and his wife Judy as they tour our San Diego Habitat for Humanity Blitz site. It will be wonderful to have Paul speak to the hard working volunteers and partner builders who are donating their time and efforts to building four homes in five days." Among the other speakers were John Mecklenburg of John Laing Homes, Rainer Busch, SDHFH Board Member and KB Home VP of Operations, Tally Weber of Smith Bros. Construction and Mayor of Escondido, Lori Holt-Pfeiler.

Friday, June 9th concluded a week full of intense activity and nonstop building. In order to commence the amazing week of partnership and giving, SDHFH held the House Dedication and Giving of Keys to our Habitat partner families followed by an awards ceremony to recognize the dedication and contribution of our builder partners and sponsors for the Blitz. Escondido Mayor, Lori Holt Pfeiler, and the Escondido City Council were among the public officials attending the event. The four sponsoring Home Builders presented each family with keys to their new homes. At the House Blessing ceremony, Tally Weber, Sales & Marketing director for Smith Brothers in San Diego said, "Amazing things happen when people work together." A barbecue dinner and live music, donated by station K32, followed the much-deserved night of recognition, which made the 2006 Builders Blitz both a successful and memorable one.

The Fire ReBuild

Continued from Page One

have temporary housing *during* construction and safe, sanitary homes *after* construction.

San Diego Habitat's first home using the Insulating Concrete Forms was built for Rosemarie Michelsen an 89-year old woman in Crest. Nine of the fire rebuild homes were constructed used Insulating Concrete Forms (ICF), a 'green' building technique, which results in fire and mold resistant, energy-efficient homes. Due to the tragedy of losing her home, Rosemarie wanted to make sure her new home would be as fire resistant as possible. The Insulated Concrete Form Association donated the fire resistant wall system to Rosemarie. Another home was built for Laman and Carman Sadler, a couple in their late 70's. Although suffering from health issues, Laman was so overwhelmed by the faith and love of the volunteers that it was difficult to keep him from helping out during the construction of his home. The third fire rebuild home was for Chuck and Laurie Amos and their kids, Brandon and Amanda. After losing their home, the family was living with no electricity and no septic tank before Habitat was able to help them. The fourth home was constructed for Lori, Lonnie, Melanie, and Melinda Bellante in Wildcat Canyon, Lakeside. This family was trapped by the flames and were forced to huddle in a ditch until they could escape. Tragically, Lori was burned on 8% of her body trying to protect her family.

San Diego Habitat for Humanity is proud to have rebuilt 21 homes for families who have suffered losses by the October 2003 wildfires. The 17 San Pasqual Reservation homes and the four single-family homes throughout the county are a momentous outcome for our staff, volunteers, and donors who stepped up to the challenge and came through once again.


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Hats Off to Women

Luncheon Benefit & 2007 Women's Build



Save the Date:
 November 1, 2006

*For more info
 see Page 8*

Please Contact
 Elizabeth Neubrand
 619.283.4663 ext. 317
 elizabethn@sdhfh.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

These are our Top Three Needs:

- ~ Newsletter Sponsorship
- ~ Data Entry & Admin Volunteers
- ~ Event Donations
(silent auction items, music, photography, catering, etc.)

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