

2013 Habitat Happenings

....it's not just hammer and nails

Volume 9, Issue 1

Cars for Homes



This year, our affiliate has been focusing on an exciting new way to raise funds, Cars for Homes. Auto donations support Monroe County Habitat for Humanity's local and global mission of eliminating poverty housing and homelessness saves you the time and energy of finding a buyer.

Net proceeds generated from vehicle donations in our county are distributed to our affiliate to help repair homes for individuals who are challenged by age, disability, income or other circumstances through our Home Preservation program. Please call 877-277-4344 to donate your automobile or contact Monroe County Habitat for Humanity at (570) 476-9846 with any questions.

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...

...Yes it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.

Mother Teresa

Monroe County Habitat for Humanity A Partner in Your Community

If you think Habitat only builds houses, take another look at us. Our construction expertise and resources are put to good use for many projects that help address affordable housing in Monroe County.

In 2013, we dedicated our 18th home. We launched our A Brush with Kindness/Home Preservation Programs. We partnered with a coalition of churches to provide a much needed top-of-the-mountain food pantry & community center. Read more about our 2013 projects in this newsletter.

In 2014 we plan to dedicate a 19th home, expand the home repair programs, and find a permanent home for our retail warehouse business.

We're always looking for more ways to serve our community. With your much needed financial help, there is so much more we can do here in Monroe County. Please give generously.



MCHFH Welcomes New Affiliate Coordinator

Monroe County Habitat for Humanity welcomes Kelly Kemmerer to our staff. As Affiliate Coordinator Kelly will be handling the day to day office responsibilities as well as fundraising projects, special events, committee support and volunteer activities.

Kelly was born and raised right here in Stroudsburg. She graduated from East Stroudsburg University, earning a Master's degree in management leadership in public administration and has interned with our affiliate for the past two years. Kelly loves to travel, trying new restaurants, read a good book and most of all spend time with her daughter Tailynn.

Box Truck Purchased

Our thanks go out to ESSA for donating funds to purchase a box truck. We are happy to announce that we were able to purchase one from Penske Truck Rental at a discounted price.

The 12 foot box truck will be used for construction and for donation pickups.

Get Plugged In!

Volunteers don't need to feel limited to working at builds. We want to focus on your individual talents in order to maximize the results of your much appreciated efforts. Office work is an integral part of Habitat's pursuit to spread awareness for the lack of worldwide housing. Check our website at www.habitatmc.org for our "Get Plugged In!" schedule.

Remember, our success relies heavily on the support and special talents of our volunteers, so help us help you by attending "Get Plugged In!"

2013 Bike and Build



On Saturday, June 15th Monroe County Habitat for Humanity hosted a team of 30 young adults from Bike and Build.org. This is the 11th year the Bike and Build team has spent the day with MCHFH. Habitat volunteers joined the B&B team working at the warehouse in Stroudsburg and the Five Loaf House in Pocono Pines. At the end of the workday MCHFH volunteers hosted a picnic for the work crew at Albertson Park in Stroudsburg so everyone could spend time relaxing and getting to know each other. The B&B team began their journey on June 5 in Providence, RI and ultimately completed it in Half Moon Bay, CA (a journey of over 4,100 miles).

**Help make another
Home happen!!
*How far does your
donation go?***



Kitchen Cabinets	\$1000
Four Walls	\$500
Front Door	\$250
Window	\$100
Kitchen Sink	\$75
Gallon of Paint	\$50
Doorknob	\$25
Box of Nails	\$10

***You can now make your donations online!
Go to www.habitatmc.org and then to the
'Donate' page. Click on***



***All donations are made securely through our
PayPal account.***



On Tuesday November 12th MCHFH held a fundraising night at Wendy's in East Stroudsburg from 5 to 8pm. Bob the Builder and Wendy were there to meet and greet everyone eating at Wendy's that night. Irene from Aardvark Entertainment painted faces throughout the event for children and adults. Wendy's donated 15% of sales from the evening to MCHFH. We also received donations from the customers at the event! Thank you Wendy's and everyone who came out to support us!



For 6 weeks during September and October of 2013 Vicki Hicks, owner of the Massage Academy of the Poconos graciously donated 10% of the proceeds of certain treatments towards a new program offered by Monroe County Habitat for Humanity, Home Preservation. Thank you Vicki Hicks and the Massage Academy of the Poconos!



On Wednesday November 6th and Thursday November 7th from 4pm to 10pm, East Stroudsburg University's Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) held a fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse in Stroudsburg to benefit MCHFH. Texas Roadhouse agreed to donate 10% of proceeds during these nights to Monroe County Habitat for Humanity. Cash donations were also collected during the event. Thank you IFC!



On September, 18th from 5pm to 2am Marita's Cantina partnered with MCHFH for a fundraising evening. Ian Schreier, owner of Marita's planned specials for the evening including \$1.50 tacos and 50 cent beers and \$1.00 mixed drinks. Ian also bought 150 t-shirts which included MCHFH's and Marita's logo and were sold during the event. Thank you for your support Marita's Cantina!

Pocono Quarter Auction

On the evening of Wednesday September 18, 2013 at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, MCHFH was the beneficiary of the proceeds from the Pocono Quarter Auction. What exactly is the Pocono Quarter Auction? It's a group of independent vendors who table at the auction and put 2 items up for bid. To bid participants rent a paddle for the night's auction with MCHFH donated items for bidding and sold 50/50 raffles at the event –with all the above mentioned proceeds going to us! The house was packed with over 160 people attending the auction. It was a huge success with everyone having fun and best of all the night's festivities netted Monroe County Habitat for Humanity \$1450.00. Thanks to all MCHFH volunteers for helping out at the event and collecting donated items for the action. We all had fun while raising money for our organization!



Oktoberfest has become a tradition worldwide, and not to be outdone MCHFH held an Autumn Beer Tasting Event at Liquid Martini Bar on October 13th. Michael Tepedino provided use of his restaurant and supplied a varied and exotic selection of autumn beer selections including several Pumpkin beers. This event provided some much needed revenue for our chapter, while increasing public awareness of our organization, and the ever increasing need for the services we supply to our community.



On September 28, 2013, Mt. Pocono celebrated the arrival of Autumn with a harvest festival. Vendors and businesses were set up on each side of Main Street (Route 611). We were entertained with live music and activities for young and old alike.

Over the last two years, Monroe County Habitat for Humanity had worked tirelessly on three homes in Mt. Pocono that we had purchased at foreclosure. The homes were brought up to code and refurbished as necessary. These three homes are occupied by families that are now proud homeowners. Monroe County Habitat for Humanity wanted to participate at HarvestFest because of our accomplishments in Mt. Pocono.

We were blessed with a beautiful day and as a result there was a large turnout of people. HarvestFest usually sees between 4500 and 5000 people. Our volunteers were kept busy providing information about Habitat, selling T-shirts, giving out volunteer applications, and accepting donations from generous patrons. It was a great day for all the volunteers that participated.

Raise the Roof Concerts

For many years now, Raise the Roof Concerts have taken place on the third Sunday of September in conjunction with National Day of Prayer for Habitat. This concert is also called 'A Habitat Awareness Concert' to help inform our community of the need for adequate housing in our area and through out the world.

This concert invites everyone in our community to an evening of beautiful music, singing and instrumentals. Area church choirs are invited to participate each year bringing their gifts and talents to us. There is no charge for admission, but a free will offering is taken to help support the work of our affiliate. For many years now, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has provided partially matching funds to increase the offering. There is congregational singing, and we always include the wonderfully written 'Under this Roof' written by Stephen S. Robb, M.D. which touches the hearts of all. There is also a prayer for shelter from the International Day of Prayer and Action for Habitat that is prayed by all. In the past, we have enjoyed testimonials from families who have shared their stories of success in obtaining housing and words of encouragement from our president and Executive Director on what our local affiliate is currently working on.

A time of fellowship and refreshments always concludes our evening. We encourage you to attend our next Raise the Roof concert on September 21, 2014. Look to our website for time and place.

Home Preservation Program

Through the new A Brush With Kindness/Home Preservation Program, Monroe County Habitat for Humanity provides necessary home repairs for low/moderate Monroe County homeowners. This program serves the many seniors and physically challenged people on fixed incomes who otherwise would not be able to remain in their homes safely without help.

A Brush with Kindness	Exterior painting and minor house repair
Critical Home Repair	Repairs to alleviate health, life and safety code issues (i.e. wheelchair ramps, install home detectors, roof repairs, etc.)
Weatherization	Improve energy efficiency and indoor air quality (i.e. window and door repair or replacement)

The projects selected will be based on need and product availability. The process is as follows:

An application must be completed and turned in Habitat for Humanity (the home that is in need of repairs must be owner-occupied). The repair application is vetted by Habitat using established guidelines.

Applicants must perform sweat equity to the extent that they are physically able to do so. Sweat equity can be completed either on the project or in our office.

Home Dedication

A family of three has a new home, thanks to Monroe County Habitat for Humanity and many hard working volunteers.

Approximately 25 people attended the dedication ceremony which was held Tuesday, June 4 at the recently rehabilitated home in Mt Pocono. Rev. Gregory Loughney, assistant pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish, started the ceremony with an opening prayer and blessing. Executive Director Nancy Ceglia thanked the volunteers, especially the construction committee, for their dedication and hard work. A basket, including a bible, a plant, a loaf of bread and sugar was presented to the family. Nancy then turned over the keys to the new owners.

Over 150 volunteers put in 4000 hours to rehabilitate the house. In addition the family worked over 400 hours alongside the volunteers. The home is the last home refurbished with monies received from a Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant that was received in 2009. The Commissioners of Monroe County applied for this funding, which comes out of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, on behalf of MCHFH.



Five Loaf House

Built in 1918, Five Loaf House has served food to the Pocono Pines community under many names through the years: the Lakeside House, the Knottle Hottle Inn, and the Lake House. Though these restaurants were often very popular and well-loved by the community, the Lake House unfortunately closed around 2009 and the property was put up for sale.

With the economic downturn, the people of Pocono Lake Wesleyan Church became increasingly aware of the needs around them. After receiving several requests by local families in need of housing and not having a way to help them, the church began looking for creative ways to engage these needs. Around the same time, it became clear that the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Council's food pantry would need a new home. Again, no realistic options presented themselves.

Finally, on February 22nd, 2013, the people of Pocono Lake Wesleyan purchased what had been the Lake House. With the generous assistance of Monroe County Habitat for Humanity and the support of the churches of the ecumenical council (Blakeslee United Methodist, Faith Lutheran, Pocono Lake United Methodist, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and Salem United Church of Christ), the abandoned restaurant began its transformation into what we hope will be a place of transformation for many people and families.

For more information on how to help visit www.habitatmc.org or www.fiveloafhouse.org.

Family Fun Night at Friendly's

Monroe County Habitat for Humanity will host Family Fun Night on Thursday, January 23rd from 5 to 8 pm at Friendly's in East Stroudsburg. Bob the Builder will be there to greet guests and there will be free Face Painting provided by Jody Obena. Friendly's will donate a percentage of all sales of this evening to MCHFH. The percentage of sales that Friendly's donates to MCHFH depends on the number of guests that come in and present the enclosed flyer. Bring your family out for a fun night and support MCHFH!

Fifth Annual Celebration Dinner

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The 5th annual Monroe County Habitat for Humanity Celebration Dinner was held at Terra View at Stroudsmoor on October 24th. The facility was a perfect setting indoors and out. Background music provided by Erin McClelland and Andrew Moses blended perfectly with the fantastic selection of hors d'oeuvres elegantly served by the congenial, professional wait staff. The dinner was dedicated to the memory of volunteer Frankie Lewoc. We were blessed with a terrific selection of items for the silent auction, and the live auction provided by Robert Teel was an excellent addition. George Roberts acted as Master of Ceremonies and kept the evening moving smoothly with his jovial personality. The attendance of 120 guests was up from prior years, and even though the ticket prices were reduced to a very affordable \$45, we were able to generate a net profit in excess of \$4,500.



Make sure to save the date to celebrate MCHFH's 20th anniversary at our 6th annual celebration dinner.

*Keep track of our current happenings
Find out how you can help!*

*Visit our website
www.habitatmc.org*

Golf Outing



Thanks to Dennis Mooney and his committee for putting together a terrific golf outing. Over forty golfers gathered at Buck Hill Golf Course on June 21. The skies were sunny and clear for the shotgun start at 1:00 pm. After a great day on the course there was a buffet dinner, with a drawing for many raffle prizes. Many thanks to all our sponsors and players and, congratulations to all winners for the day. The outing has raised over \$132,000 over the past 17 years. Hope to see you on the course in 2014.



Cars for
Homes™



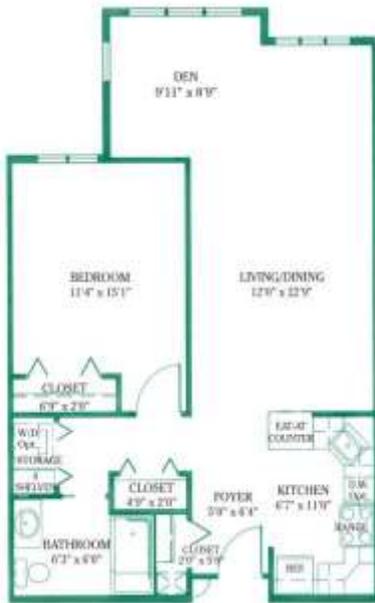
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My Plans For The Weekend!



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