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Habitat for Humanity believes in a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. That's why our mission is to use our knowledge, skills, community relationships, volunteers and other resources to create and promote safe and affordable home ownership options with the aim of alleviating the cycle of poverty within our community.

YOUR DONATION CAN HELP BUY:

Box of Nails: \$10	Paint: \$75	Door: \$200
Hammer: \$20	Medicine Cabinet: \$100	Front Steps: \$500
Drill: \$50	Window: \$150	Hot Water Tank: \$1000

Charitable Registration #86607 2432 RR0001

Enclosed please find my donation for: \$ _____

I want to become a member. \$10 enclosed

Cheque Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for your gift in support of affordable housing in Halton!



Winter 2009

Together we can Build Homes and Build Hope!



Help Habitat for Humanity provide the security, confidence and hope that a simple, decent and affordable home provides.

Donate . Participate . Advocate

This newsletter is produced by the Marketing and Communication Committee. We would appreciate your comments and suggestions. Please direct comments and suggestions to: rburwell1@cogeco.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR and the INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As another year comes to a close, we have much to celebrate, and much to look forward to.

We planned for this to be a year of further developing our infrastructure and preparing for future projects as we had no land to build upon. But as you'll see in this newsletter, just a few months ago we acquired land in Acton, and with focused effort, were able to get a foundation in place just in time for the arrival of the Soy House from the Royal Winter Fair (see centre spread for more). The Nicolas family is excited to be moving in as soon as their 500 hours of sweat equity are completed. We hope to see you all at the house dedication ceremony when we hand over the keys in the Spring.

Our goal of obtaining land for 4-6 housing units for future builds was off to a good start early in the year, starting with a condo unit in Burlington, which we expect to come to fruition in 2011. We expect to make an exciting property announcement in the New Year which will move us from single detached to multi-unit builds. In the last newsletter we were also able to celebrate our success with the recent purchase of adjoining properties in Oakville and will begin building in the Spring.

And another exciting announcement... we're thrilled to announce and welcome our new Executive Director, Anne Swarbrick, as of Dec 14th. See the full announcement on page 7, and you'll get just a taste of why we're so excited to have Anne joining our team and leading the affiliate through its next phase of growth.

We continue to spread the word about our ReNew It pilot program to help low income families complete essential repairs and maintenance to help them stay in their homes. We're happy to report that we've received grants from the Halton Region to support our ReNew It program, land purchase and launch a new program for 2010 called Homeworks. Homeworks will evolve from the programs that we currently offer to our partner families which help them transition to homeownership. Our ReStore continues to grow, volunteers keep stepping up to support all aspects of our affiliate, and more and more donors and sponsors continue to support our mission. We've had more press coverage than ever, and more of that to come.

As 2009 comes to a close, we thank you all for your support, and are counting on your continued support as we move forward.

A safe and happy holiday to you all!

We look forward to a prosperous new year, for you and with you!

P.S. We are also seeking new Board members. See the posting on our website!



Ed McMahon
Chair



Lynn Fergusson
Interim Executive Director

Recycle Cork and Support Habitat!

Jelinek Cork Group announced a recycled cork program in 2008. When you bring your natural corks into Carafe Wine Makers Georgetown at 221 Miller Drive in Georgetown, they will sort the corks and bring it to Jelinek. For every garden refuse bag that Carafe Wine Makers Georgetown brings to Jelinek, \$15.00 will be donated to Habitat for Humanity Halton! It's a great way to be green and support a great cause!

For more information about this program, contact Carafe Wine Makers Georgetown at 905-873-2667 or by email at carafegeorgetown@sympatico.ca.



Partnerships in Action: HFHH and the Halton Multicultural Council



While the search for a Habitat partner family for our home in Acton continues, our Board of Directors has decided to partner with the Halton Multicultural Council (HMC). We believe we can best achieve our mission through meaningful and mutually beneficial partnerships with others.

Once the Habitat partner family is selected, they will have to complete their 500 Sweat Equity hours before moving into the home. In the meantime, Halton Multicultural Council has leased our Crescent Street property to provide emergency housing for Halton families in need through their Transitional Housing Program for newcomers.

"We provide immigrants and refugee families the support they need when they arrive in Canada and choose Halton as their home. Our Transitional Housing

program for newcomers, funded by the Region of Halton is only one of the ways we assist newcomer families" says Joanna Matthews, Executive Director of HMC.

HMC has selected a family for the Crecent Street home who have recently moved in. They are refugee claimants from Mexico and arrived in Canada in 2008. Until now they did their best to live on their own however things changed dramatically when the mother fell ill.

As a result, the father had to cut his hours as a dishwasher in a local restaurant and take care of the children. When he was ready to get back to work, he was informed by his employer that he was not able to offer more than two hours a week.

As you can imagine, the world fell apart for this young family as they did not have any savings to pay rent or to keep

covering their basics

needs. They would inevitably been homeless. They even considered the possibility of going back to Mexico, but did not have the money for the tickets.

"The family is really excited about this amazing opportunity because thanks to this unique partnership, they are taking a break from their struggle and they are looking forward to a happy Christmas and a new beginning for 2010" says Angela Chaves, Community Liaison for Transitional Housing at HMC.

For more information about Halton Multicultural Council please visit:

<http://www.halton-multicultural.org/>.

Welcome to our New Executive Director

We had much to celebrate at our recent Open House, looking back on the last 10 years of Habitat in Halton, and the 11 homes that have resulted.

It also gave us an impromptu opportunity to announce and welcome our new Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Halton, Anne Swarbrick. Anne brings a wealth of perspective gained from her extensive experience in government and non-profits, which will be put to good use at Habitat. She has been an MPP, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, and Minister of Women's Issues. As a non-profit leader she has excelled as President and CEO of the Toronto Community Foundation, and Executive Director at CATIE (Canadian Aids Treatment Information Exchange).

Anne is an experienced, high profile, energetic and caring leader who seeks out and develops partnerships and opportunities to collaborate. She's experienced in working with diverse volunteer and staff teams, has a track record of driving and implementing change, and has strong community and political ties in Halton. Anne and her husband Gar are residents of Burlington.

We are thrilled to have Anne joining our team as of December 14th, and leading the affiliate through its next phase of growth, to meet more of the growing need for affordable housing in Halton.

We're also grateful to have had Lynn Fergusson step down from her role as Vice-Chair of the Board for the last 3 months to be the Interim Executive Director while we were conducting a search for the new ED. We look forward to having Lynn back on the Board, and assisting with Anne's transition.

Welcome Anne!



Thank You!

Humber College Pre-Service Firefighters

A group of students from the Humber College Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training Program held two very successful fundraisers in support of Habitat for Humanity Halton earlier this fall. They held a barbecue at the college's North campus and a Charity Car Wash in the parking lot of St. Ignatius of Loyola Secondary School in Oakville that featured the students in their firefighting gear washing and drying over 200 cars. Their successful events raised over \$4,400!



Quality Clips

This year, the Quality Clips coupon books raised over \$16,000 for Habitat for Humanity Halton! We are pleased to partner with Quality Clips again in 2010 to help raise the funds needed to allow us to provide the security and confidence that a simple, decent home provides. Thank you Quality Clips for all your hard work and your support of Habitat Halton! In this photo: Anne Maslowski, Director of Development, Habitat Halton and Chery Moffat, Quality Clips.

Union Gas

Union Gas was the lead sponsor on our Peel Street House and they have also contributed to the home's environmental friendliness through their support of Drain Water Heat Recovery technology. "Once installed, this forward-thinking technology will help reduce the water heating cost of future Habitat for Humanity homeowners by up to 30% a year." says Tom Cloutier, Manager of Residential Marketing at Union Gas. "Homeowners will also benefit from increased water heater efficiency, extended hot water usage and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions." Thank you to Union Gas for helping to make the Peel Street build possible!

This photo was taken at our Peel Street House Landing. In this photo: Julia Hummel, Union Gas; Anne Maslowski, Habitat Halton; Ed McMahon, Habitat Halton; Ryan Hamid, Union Gas.



Prosperity ONE

Earlier this fall, Habitat Halton partnered with Prosperity ONE Credit Union at their Annual Prosperity ONE Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament. The event raised nearly \$4,000 in support of Habitat Halton programs! Thank you to all the team at Prosperity ONE who worked hard to organize such a great event! In this photo: Lynn Fergusson, Interim Executive Director, Habitat Halton and Mike Shepherd, President and Chief Executive Officer, Prosperity ONE Credit Union.



Spread the Word

If you are receiving this newsletter you are likely aware that there is a need for affordable housing in Halton. However, because our region is one of the most affluent areas of Canada, many people assume that issues of poverty and housing do not exist in our community.

Here are some things to consider:

- * The lack of affordable housing is not only an early indicator of social and economic distress, it is a reality that thousands of struggling, low-income Halton families face each and every day. In fact, each year, an estimated 1,200 Halton residents become homeless due to the lack of affordable housing. (Source: *Comprehensive Housing Strategy for Halton Region 2006-2015+*)
- * The high cost of housing is a major factor in creating poverty for many Halton families. Recent studies show that 59 percent of tenant households and 29 percent of homeowners spend more than 30 percent of their gross income on housing, and in many cases are forced to choose between buying such vital necessities as food, medicine and clothing or putting a roof over their heads. (Source: *Comprehensive Housing Strategy for Halton Region 2006-2015+*)
- * Additionally, over 50,000 housing units built before 1970 could potentially be in need of major repair as basic home maintenance is often prohibitive for low-income families. (Source: *Comprehensive Housing Strategy for Halton region 2006-2015+*)

Volunteer Corner

Dear Volunteer Team,

Another year has quickly come and gone here at Habitat for Humanity Halton and as always it has been a year of growth, development and hard work. We've welcomed many new volunteers onto our dynamic team and continued to be supported by our long standing volunteers. Together you have taught and learned from each other, supported the development of the affiliate and achieved the goals of 2009. For this I want to extend a huge thank you to you, our volunteers, for taking the time out of your busy schedules to give back. I want to also extend a thank you to your friends and family that support you in your efforts.

On behalf of our staff and Partner Families, I want to wish you and your families a wonderful and safe holiday season and a very happy new year.

We look forward to seeing all of you in 2010, as we continue our efforts in breaking the cycle of poverty for more families in our community.



Season's Greetings!

Deanna Smuk
Volunteer Coordinator



Calling All Volunteers Spring into Action on our 2010 Oakville Build

We are building two single detached homes on Elmwood Road in Oakville and require your help, skills and expertise with the following volunteer positions:

**Crew Leaders
Crew Members**



**Food and Beverage Donors
Food and Beverage
Committee Members**



**Hospitality Hosts
Tool Shed Attendants**



For more information on these positions and how to get your friends and family involved please contact Deanna Smuk, Volunteer Coordinator at 905-637-4446 ext. 223 or volunteer@habitatHalton.ca. Crew Leader training will start in January 2010. Don't delay register with Deanna today!!

Donate . Participate . Advocate.

AT THE FAIR



Tess & Emiliano Nicolas look forward to their new home.

ON THE TRUCK



READY AND WAITING IN ACTON



Peel Street House

On November 17th, volunteers, sponsors, politicians, and members of the community came together to welcome Habitat Halton's newest home: the Peel Street House. The Peel Street House, located in Acton, is our most unique build to date!

It is a prefabricated home, built by Quality Engineered Homes, and utilizes a range of environmentally-friendly soy-based products. Union Gas, the lead sponsor of the home, has also contributed to the home's environmental friendliness through their support of Drain Water Heat Recovery technology.

The house, sometimes referred to as the Soy House, spent some time on display at the Royal Winter Fair before being moved to its permanent location in Acton.

IN PLACE AT LAST!

