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John Reyes presents the Gonzalez family the keys to their home.



Gonzalez Family House Dedication

The sounds of singing echoed along the North Clinton corridor in East Trenton on December 16, 2006. Passing cars slowed to listen to the glorious hymns at this Habitat house dedication ceremony. The Sponsors, The Mercer County Mission Cluster of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans were joined by church members, volunteers, supporters and friends of Habitat.

The large front porch provided a perfect setting for the Rev. Dan Whitener, Pastor of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Ewing to begin the service. He led prayers and read from scripture. John Reyes and Al Cowell, members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, were happy to present the Gonzalez family with a bible, keys and some house warming gifts. The Bishop of the New Jersey Synod – ELCA, E. Roy Riley Jr., closed out the ceremony with a final blessing as the spectators prepared to head to Habitat's East Trenton Center for a reception. At the end of the day, The Gonzalez family was full of joy and gratitude for their beautiful new three bedroom home. They thanked everyone who poured their time and effort into the project. The participating churches of The Mercer County Mission Cluster of Thrivent Financial For Lutherans are listed below.

Mercer Lutheran Mission Cluster of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
Ewing, NJ

Advent/Adviento Lutheran Church
Trenton, NJ

Bethany Lutheran Church
Trenton, NJ

Bethel Lutheran Church
Hamilton, NJ

Christ The King Lutheran Church
Kendall Park, NJ

Lutheran Church of The Messiah
Princeton, NJ

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Bordentown, NJ



House Dedication participants extend into the street in front of the completed home on a beautiful morning in December 2006.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Lawrenceville, NJ

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Princeton Junction, NJ

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Trenton, NJ

Resurrection Lutheran Church
Hamilton Square, NJ

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
Trenton, NJ

St. Mark Lutheran Church
Hamilton, NJ

St. Peter Lutheran Church
Lambertville, NJ

St. Paul Lutheran Church
East Windsor, NJ

Director's Corner

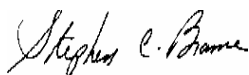
At Habitat for Humanity, we are extremely proud of our recent accomplishments in the East Trenton neighborhood - a family moving into a three bedroom house, the ongoing construction of seven additional homes and the opportunity to provide community services.

Our mission of "Building houses for God's people in need" goes beyond these accomplishments. By providing housing in the East Trenton Area, Habitat, its partner families and its many volunteers, are making positive contributions to the surrounding community.

The challenges and problems in this area may seem overwhelming at first glance. We hear about violence, poverty, and hopelessness. However, this is a very small portion of what goes on in this neighborhood. The good people of East Trenton are responsible, hard working and upwardly mobile. They share our common desires to live a life full of opportunity, have equal access to education, secure stable living conditions, to enjoy safe neighborhoods and to share in God's bounty among all his people.

I see great opportunities for the East Trenton neighborhood now and in the future. With your continued support, we can put an end to substandard housing in our East Trenton neighborhood.

Peace upon you,



New Construction

Habitat is in the midst of constructing five new single family row homes across the street from the recently dedicated home on North Clinton Avenue. This prodigious new project will provide simple, decent and affordable housing for five families who are currently residing in substandard living conditions. Offering these new dwellings will certainly provide the means for first time homeowners to raise their children in a positive and secure environment.

The formerly empty lot is already a bustling center of activity. The five foundations have been equipped with basement walls and volunteers are hard at work in the onset of the building process. We are very thankful that three of the row homes have attracted sponsors, but two are in need of committed support!



Basement walls are placed into the newly poured foundations on North Clinton Ave.

The East Trenton Center

The East Trenton Center was extremely busy this winter providing emergency food, shelter and clothing services to those in need in the community.

Food Pantry:

From November 2006-March 2007, 889 people received food from the pantry's resources.

Philabundance:

The Friday food distribution program of free fruits and vegetables was very popular this year. 569 bags of food were distributed between November 2006 and March 2007.

Clothing Distribution:

Thanks to very generous supporters, 265 winter clothing items were received by families in need. Items included: coats, hats and gloves for adults and children. We are extremely grateful for all the donations that were received.



Habitat for Humanity's Executive Director, Steve Brame, hands out Christmas presents to youth in the area. The generous gifts were donated by the students at Hopewell Elementary School. Items included: new toys, games and art supplies.

The Overflow Program:

Shelter services for the homeless began on December 16, 2006 and will end on April 16, 2007. From the beginning of the program through March 1, 2007, a total of 1,232 beds have been filled. Night after night, many have found shelter from the cold in this facility.

Thanksgiving:

The generous donations of many people made the Holiday season joyful for many in East Trenton. On Thanksgiving, 240 families received baskets to fill their Holiday tables and give thanks for their blessings.

Building On Faith

**Habitat for
Humanity -
Trenton Area**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Peter Fields

John Gager

Leonard Hunt

Laura Lewis

Sandra Stackhouse

Sheldon Sturges

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Stephen Brame

STAFF

Beth Carey

Martin Carey

Liz Leonard

John Roy

Calvin Williams

**Many Invaluable
Volunteers**

Thanks to a lot of hard work and compassion, the duplex on 645-647 North Clinton Avenue is now approaching anticipated completion. Sponsors Nassau Presbyterian of Princeton, Witherspoon Presbyterian of Princeton, and Woodside Presbyterian of Solebury have poured in much of their time and all of their heart into this project. It is truly amazing how far this home has come since Spring 2006; it's future owners could not be happier.

Zaida and Jackie, the owners-to-be, can be counted on week after week to help construct their homes. Both of the families have hammered out nearly 500 hours of their "sweat equity" requirement, and look to sweat out even more hours to complete the interior work that still needs to be refined.



Members of The Bristol Myers Squibb Sales Force Automation Team pose for the camera during their volunteer day at Habitat.

The permits required to begin the interior work should be received very shortly, and volunteers are anxiously awaiting the installation of the dry wall, paint, spackle, and much more. Looking ahead even further, the dedication ceremony will be held in the early spring of 2007 as we chalk down two more satisfied families.

Volunteerism

Trying to keep Habitat homes affordable for low-income families would be impossible without our dedicated volunteers who give their all at our site and in our office. The volunteers who keep coming in week after week have been the backbone of Habitat for Humanity-Trenton Area for twenty years now, erecting nearly seventy houses in the region.

To help keep this tradition alive, join Habitat for Humanity this upcoming spring for a fulfilling and lasting experience. All individuals and organizations are invited to take part in providing future homes for seven deserving families.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 609-393-8009 ext. 228 for more information, and to schedule an orientation or to discuss our Team Building Program.



Members of a Merrill Lynch Team Build stop after a lunchtime meal to take a picture under the East Trenton Center sign in November 2006.



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College Connection



Partner Families, Students from Mercer County Community College and Regular Volunteers stand beside the new home on North Clinton Ave. The students from the MCCC TV Club have been diligently working on a Public Service Announcement for Habitat. Look for information regarding this televised announcement in the very near future.

Brimming with dedication and energy, young Habitat volunteers are building homes and hope throughout the world. In the Trenton area, several local colleges have established partnerships with Habitat over the past years. These partnerships have enabled Habitat to provide low income housing to numerous deserving families. Colleges can become involved with Habitat in several ways including: building or rehabilitating homes, educating their campus and local community about affordable housing issues, and raising funds to assist Habitat in fulfilling its mission.

Habitat for Humanity—Trenton Area has set a challenge to all campuses statewide to become involved with our affiliate. The plan is to spotlight the most active college in each newsletter and a recognition event for the winners will be held at The East Trenton Center annually. Through the energy and idealism of today's youth, people all over the world are learning that everyone deserves a simple, decent and affordable place to live and that we all must take responsibility for housing the world -

Want to Volunteer?

We are looking for both individuals and groups to help with our construction work. No experience is required. We will teach you everything you need to know. It's fun and you may even pick up some new skills. Call our Volunteer Coordinator at 609-393-8009 ext. 228 or email at volunteer@habitatnj.org