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Welcome Home!

Two partner families are now homeowners! The Booth and the Upshur families have become neighbors on Olden Ave. The dedication ceremony for both homes was held on June 24, 2006. The dedication was lead by Rev. David McAlpin, President of Habitat for Humanity - Trenton Area's Board of Trustees. Readings and blessings were facilitated by Richard van den Heuvel and Rev. Keith Tillett. Family members, friends, volunteers and trustees all gathered at the homes at 12 noon to participate in the ceremony. Afterward there was a celebration held in the East Trenton Center honoring this joyous occasion. Participants gathered to offer congratulations and best wishes to the families.

Keysha Booth and Stephanie Upshur spoke to the crowd to thank them for coming to the celebration and for all the hard work and prayers that had been put into the completion of their brand new Habitat homes. The completed homes stand at 616 and 620 North Olden Ave. It is a beautiful duplex with large living space, ample back yards, and newly paved driveways. Habitat for Humanity was able to build these homes with the generous sponsorship of the Verizon and Tyco Corporations who provided money and volunteers to aid in the construction of the homes. An immense thank you to all volunteers and sponsors who assisted in making the dream of home ownership into reality for these two great families.



Rev. Keith Tillett, Rev. David McAlpin and Richard van den Heuvel give the blessings of the homes at the dedication.



Keysha Booth and Stephanie Upshur celebrate their new homes.



Thrivent Construction Begins

Thrivent Builds Homes is a national Lutheran program that joins nearly 3 million Thrivent Financial members with Habitat for Humanity volunteers, other Lutherans, their families, and their communities. Their goal is to build up to 500 homes in the United States through 2008. They require the participation of Lutheran Church communities to assist in building with Habitat for

Humanity. This is a \$100 million commitment to work in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in building 10-15 homes in Thrivent's 31 regions around the United States. Habitat for Humanity -Trenton Area was very proud to be selected as one of the affiliates to work with Thrivent in this project. Trenton Habitat and Thrivent held their official kick off on June 10, 2006 at 637 North Clinton Avenue. Partner families,



Habitat and Thrivent volunteers at the kick off ceremony.

volunteers, and Habitat staff all came together for the blessing of this property and the start of another new home for these deserving families. The ceremony was led by Reverend Dan Whitener and commenced with volunteers picking up hammers and putting in a hard days work. Construction has been moving along steadily and progress is being made. The Planned completion for this home is Christmas 2006 and completion is in sight.

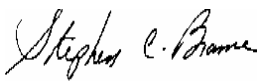
In Our Community — East Trenton Center

Executive Notes

Habitat for Humanity - Trenton Area is part of a world wide Christian organization that embraces people of all faiths to work in partnership with prospective homeowners to create decent, affordable housing and to build strong communities.

Habitat for Humanity-Trenton Area has set a goal of eliminating substandard housing in the East Trenton community. Of the 1650 housing units in East Trenton, nearly 30%, or nearly 500, are vacant and 57% of the non-vacant homes are renter occupied. Most of these homes are aging with over half of them being built before 1940. As a result, our goal is very ambitious, but no less necessary. We have just completed construction of two new homes and we immediately began construction on three more. In the near future we will begin construction of five additional new homes. With the help of individuals, churches, foundations and the business community who have been providing volunteer labor and financial support, our work is moving toward our goal. With your continued support I am confident that we will realize our goal.

Peace upon you.



On June 6, 2006, The East Trenton Center Food Pantry participated in National Hunger Awareness Day at the Mercer Street Friends' warehouse. Governor Jon Corzine, Secretary of Agriculture, Charles M. Kuperus and Habitat staff all helped to sort donations and create bags of food that will be delivered to soup kitchens and food pantries around the area. Liz Leonard, the Executive Assistant of Habitat for Humanity-Trenton Area, who oversees the food pantry, was asked to represent food pantries from East Trenton and its surrounding areas because of the ex-

emplary performance of The East Trenton Center's food pantry. The food pantry is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 am-1pm each week. The pantry is funded and stocked through Mercer Street Friends food program, commodities from the USDA, a grant from the Bonner foundation and private donations of money and food. The success and the continuation of this program are dependent on the dedica-

tion of the volunteers and staff accompanied by the generosity of private individuals and organizations in the area willing to donate food and money. Thank you to everyone who has made this program a successful community resource.



Team Building Days



Members from a Hillier Architecture Team Build .

Many organizations, corporations, groups, friends, and families are taking advantage of our Habitat for Humanity - Trenton Area's Volunteer Programs to make the Habitat dream a reality. All of our programs are simple, effective, and fun! Many businesses choose to

support Habitat through one of our most effective programs called *Team Building Days*, in which no more than a group of 20 employees from a company come together to work on a habitat home while learning planning and teamwork skills. Working on a Habitat house together challenges employees

to trust one another, to break down barriers, and to learn new ways to relate to each other. Being on a construction worksite is much different from being in the office, and this experience is usually a refreshing change of scenery, while having fun and helping the community. Volunteers do not have to have construction skills, since our supervisors will instruct them. This enhances the experience as people are learning new skills as well as gaining a better understanding and appreciation of their co-workers. To support this program, a donation is sought from each participating corporation or business to aid our organization and its mission. Please contact the Development Coordinator at ext. 226 for more information about this program.

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Employee Charitable Contributions

This time of the year many corporations send out their annual charitable contribution forms.

This allows employees to painlessly contribute to their favorite charity. We hope that you will consider Habitat Trenton in your selections. If Habitat-Trenton is not an available choice, please petition your HR administrator to include HFH next year. We will glad to help in this effort.

Building On Faith

Construction is in full force at the Building on Faith sites on North Clinton Avenue. Partner families, volunteers and staff have made tremendous progress on the project. Every Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 am until 4 pm volunteers use their skills to work diligently on these church sponsored homes. The duplex on 645-647 North Clinton Avenue is being sponsored by three different churches. 645 is being sponsored by Wood-

side Presbyterian Church of Solebury, PA, while 647 is a joint sponsorship effort between Nassau Presbyterian Church of Princeton and Witherspoon Presbyterian Church of Princeton. All volunteers are welcome to come out and support Habitat for Humanity's Building on Faith Initiative. The partner families will be delighted to see you hard at work on their future homes.



Jackie Collier, a partner, works on her home.

Princeton University Students Live at Habitat for A Week!



Princeton Students in East Trenton Community Center

The Princeton Community Action group of Princeton University sent a group of 15 students to live, work and sleep at Habitat for Humanity – Trenton Area's East Trenton Center. 11 of the students

were incoming freshmen having their first experience in the Trenton Area and the four leaders of the group were veterans of the program.

The students were at Habitat from September 3rd through

September 8th and were involved with activities including: new construction tasks, renovation duties, food distribution to community members and office work. The students worked very hard from 8am – 4 pm each day getting things done around the center as well as on the worksite. The students slept in the East Trenton Center and cooked their daily meals in the kitchen. This was a mutually beneficial experience for both the students and Habitat for Humanity – Trenton Area. The students brought some new life into the community while gaining a new understanding and respect for the city of Trenton and the people living here. We can't wait to host this program next year!

COAT DRIVE As the cold winds of winter start blowing in, the East Trenton Center gears up for its annual coat drive. The Center will be accepting coats from October to February to be handed out in the surrounding community to people in need. The winters are cold here in East Trenton, and a good winter coat can make a big difference for someone. Please consider donating a coat this winter. It will mean a bearable winter for someone here in East Trenton.



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601 North Clinton Ave



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Make a Difference TODAY

Trenton's housing need is immense, but so is our resolve to meet it. Won't you consider sending a gift today? We all have special people who have touched our lives. Who has inspired you? Why not make a donation to honor him or her:

Yes, I would like to help provide simple decent homes for families in need.

My gift is in honor of _____

My gift is in memory of _____

Enclosed is my gift of

\$50

\$100

\$250

\$500

other \$ _____

Please send acknowledgement to _____

Donor Information

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to :

Habitat for Humanity-Trenton Area
601 N. Clinton Ave
Trenton, NJ 08698

Want to Volunteer?

We are looking for both individuals and groups to help with our construction work. No experience 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 609-393-8009 or email volunteer@habitatnj.org.