



A Newsletter for Friends of Habitat for Humanity CFC

July 2015

Greetings!

I am honored to introduce myself as the newly appointed CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County (Habitat CFC). Though I am only two weeks into my tenure with this remarkable organization, I am no stranger to the world of philanthropy or the acute nature of the affordable housing need in our region. I come to my new position having just ended a twenty-seven year affiliation with the United Way - the last sixteen as the President and CEO in Greenwich, CT. I have devoted the bulk of my professional life to the identification of unmet needs, the development of sustainable solutions, raising and investing funds in effective programs and services. I am excited to shift my focus from a broad set of issues affecting one community, to the more specific and well defined housing needs of our entire region.



I chose to join Habitat CFC, because I have been truly inspired by the work and mission of this organization. I love the fact that Habitat CFC staff and volunteers take unwanted and underutilized properties and turn them into beautiful homes for families who never thought that home ownership would be possible. I am enamored by the idea that our families devote 500 hours of their time to building their homes and participating in classes and support services designed to ensure their success as homeowners. I am impressed that Habitat CFC sells these homes to deserving and capable families with zero percent interest mortgages - and I am awed by this organization's incredible success rate - achieved by 98% of the 191 homeowners over the past thirty years. More important than any of these facts, I have been blown away by meeting some of our local families, learning what their homes have meant to them and seeing how they have positively impacted every facet of their lives.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support for Habitat CFC. I hope to build on this organization's proud legacy while working together to provide homes, hopes and dreams for deserving families throughout the region.

Sincerely,

Stuart D. Adelberg
Chief Executive Officer

News

Lowe's Heroes Contribute to National Women Build Week

Habitat CFC Women Build supporters and Lowe's Heroes employees were among more than 50 volunteers addressing the need for affordable housing in the Bridgeport area as part of Habitat's National Women Build Week May 2-10, 2015.



National Women Build Week is a weeklong event created by Habitat for Humanity International's Women Build program that challenges women to devote at least one day to help build affordable housing in their local communities. The week also spotlights the homeownership challenges faced by women. Lowe's donated nearly \$2 million to this year's National Women Build Week and each year provides the support of Lowe's Heroes and conducts how-to clinics at stores to teach volunteers construction skills. Thank you to everyone who came out and participated this year! Read more about Women Build [here](#).

Habitat Celebrates 30th Anniversary at Lively Gala

Habitat CFC celebrated our 30th Anniversary at the Wee Burn Beach Club in Rowayton on May 2, 2015. The festive celebration featured a cocktail hour, dinner, live auction and dancing. The night also included the presentation of the 30th Anniversary Honoree Award to the MBIA



Foundation for their leadership and longstanding commitment to making Fairfield County a better place for all families. The Second Mile Award was presented to Pastor Eric Fjeldal of the United Methodist Church of New Canaan and Habitat CFC Board Vice Chair, who has gone the 'second mile' for Habitat CFC with his longtime support of our organization. Habitat CFC Founder, Rev. John Olson, was in attendance along with many past Presidents, Board Members and Core Volunteers. See photos from the event [here](#).

Our Volunteers

We thank our wonderful volunteers for their enthusiasm, dedication and generosity. Every year thousands of you give your time and energy to help make future Habitat CFC homeowners' dreams come true. You "Help Build It"! There are many ways to get involved with Habitat CFC - volunteer as an individual, form a group or get the company you work for to form a team! Visit the [Volunteer](#) section of our website to learn how to become more involved!



On May 15, 2015 Gartner employees participated on a build at Barnum Avenue in Bridgeport, It was one of 14 Gartner Build Days scheduled during 2015! Watch the video below as Christina, a Gartner employee, explains why volunteering with colleagues is important to her.



Builds in Progress



Mayor Finch Joins Habitat CFC for Pope Francis House Groundbreaking

We are building a home in honor of Pope Francis! In May, Habitat CFC, along with Mayor Finch and other community leaders, broke ground for construction to begin on 51 George Street in Bridgeport. The completed house will be purchased by Marlon Zepeda and his family.

The Pope Francis House is partially sponsored by an anonymous donor who has been inspired by Pope Francis' dedication to economic justice, equality and peace. The donor and Habitat CFC hope to inspire others by inviting volunteers from local churches and schools to participate in not only the construction of this home, but also help with the remaining financial support necessary to complete the build. By building this house, we are making it possible for the Zepeda family to purchase an affordable home and are further assisting with our efforts to revitalize Bridgeport neighborhoods! Learn how you can be part of the Pope Francis House build [here](#).

Our Milestone 200th and 201st Houses Under Construction

Excavation is finished and construction has begun on Beach Street in Bridgeport, the future site of our 200th and 201st houses! Thanks to the House Sponsors - Citi Foundation, Community Bridgebuilders Coalition (CBC) and Sound Coalition - as well as the many volunteers who have worked on the project to date, we will see these homes finished by the end of the year.



Youth United Breaks Ground on 4th House Project

Habitat CFC's Youth United program gives young people, ages 5-25 years old from different backgrounds, faiths and organizations, the opportunity to work together to raise money and to build a house for a Habitat CFC family. This program enables young people to invest directly in the community while learning more about the impact of

community service. In May, Youth United held a Groundbreaking Ceremony at the future site of their group's fourth single-family house to be built for the Pamphile family on Maple Street.

The funds for the home's building materials were raised by members of Youth United through car washes, making and selling craft items, a bottle/can-recycling program, and a basketball scoring contest. "In addition to the \$50,000 raised by our members, Youth United received a \$10,000 matching gift grant from State Farm Insurance Company, which was applied to the donations received for this home," explained Phyllis Machledt, Habitat CFC Board Member and Co-Advisor for Youth United. Read more about Youth United [here](#).

Our Families

Meet Our Soon-to-be Homeowners - The Dian Mitchell Family and Pierre Mbay Family

Habitat CFC held a Double Dedication Ceremony on June 27, 2015 for the [Dian Mitchell family](#) (101 James Street) and the [Pierre Mbay family](#) (103 James Street). Learn more about these families by clicking on their names.



The Double Dedication Ceremony included a prayer of dedication from Reverend Pleasant McGowan, a presentation of gifts to each family of a bible, quilt, house keys and toolbox set, and homeowners' remarks. After the ceremony, the families welcomed all in attendance to share in a meal they prepared.

If you know of a family living in the coastal Fairfield County area that would benefit from purchasing a Habitat CFC home, please share the following link: [Apply for a House](#)

Join Us for these Fun Upcoming Events



22nd Annual Golf Benefit Outing

Tues. September 15th - Habitat CFC's 22nd Annual Golf Benefit Outing at the Country Club of Fairfield.

[More information](#)



18th Annual Run for Home 5K

Sat. October 10th - Habitat CFC's 18th Annual Run for Home 5K at Seaside Park in Bridgeport.

[More information](#)



Homeowner's Mortgage Burning Celebration

Sat. November 21st - Habitat CFC's Homeowner's Mortgage Burning Celebration. Food, Music and lots of Fun!

Details to follow in August.

[Donate Now](#)

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Downsizing? Renovating? You Donate, We Pick Up!



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