



A Newsletter for Friends of Habitat CFC

## February 2016

### Greetings!

As you can see from the articles in this month's newsletter, February was an extremely busy month here at Habitat CFC. There were times that I felt we were all running at 100 miles an hour and I actually began to worry about how much activity our relatively modest organization could handle at one time. I am proud to tell you that we wrapped up the month with a sense of satisfaction, having successfully accomplished a great deal - yet never losing sight of why we do the work in which we are engaged. This thought was actually brought "home" to me in the simplest way late last week.



Last Thursday, I was working late on some last minute details for Saturday evening's big Habitat CFC benefit, when our Director of Family Services, Iris Cordero Taylor came into my office and asked if I had a minute. Of course I did, and when I looked up I realized that she wasn't alone. Tagging along with Iris was a little boy who had asked to talk to me. I recognized him immediately as Jey Soto - from the family that had just hosted their wonderful home dedication last Saturday. Jey walked up to my desk and in his very soft voice - simply said "Thank You." Those two words really made my day! I had been so busy with all that we were doing that I didn't realize the Sotos were beginning to move into their new house that very day and Jey was just as excited as you would expect him to be. The funny thing is that I had considered asking the Sotos or their children to be at our benefit to share their experience with the crowd, but I decided against it. I realized that Kim and Jeymar and their children had somewhere much more important to be on Saturday night - they deserved to be together, enjoying each other's company for the very first time

in their brand new home.

Every month can be as busy as February, as long it concludes with such a happy ending!

Sincerely,



Stuart D. Adelberg  
Chief Executive Officer

[Donate Now](#)

## News

### Congratulations to the Soto family!

A Future Habitat homeowner family has something to feel warm about this winter. Jeymar and Kimberly Soto and their family are moving into a new Habitat CFC home in Bridgeport before the cold winter ends.

The Sotos, lifelong Bridgeport residents, have been living in substandard housing and are eager to move into their newly built Habitat Energy Star rated home. Their current apartment's insulation is poor and makes winter heating very expensive for the family. "We can't wait to be in a new warm home, that we can afford," said Kimberly Soto.



The Soto Family with City of Bridgeport representatives at their house dedication.

On February 20th, Habitat CFC celebrated with the Sotos and a crowd of family and friends at the family's House Dedication. Everyone was in high spirits as the Sotos received the keys to their new house! For photos of the dedication, check [here](#).

## Habitat Party

### Habitat CFC Party Raises over \$150,000 to Build Another Habitat Home!

Habitat CFC's Party was a hit at the *Fairfield Theatre Company Warehouse* on Saturday night! Guests had a great time outbidding each other in the silent auction during cocktails, tasting an eclectic southern-style dinner prepared by *On The Marc* and then dancing the night away while listening to Connecticut's own country music band ***Hazzard County!***



All of this PLUS we exceeded our goal of raising \$150,000 during our Fund A Future program! It means Habitat CFC will be

able to build an additional home for a hardworking low-income family in Fairfield County!

Thanks to everyone who attended and to the individuals who participated from afar by bidding online and sending donations, without your help we wouldn't have reached our goal!

**Photos are up on our facebook page [here](#)**, thank you Bob Capazzo & Big Picture for these great shots! And check out this **[video](#)** shot at the party. Thank you 'A Touch of Color Photography' for documenting the event for us!

## Meet Our New Chairman of the Board and Staff Members

### Rev. Eric Fjedal Becomes Chairman of the Board



Habitat CFC is honored to welcome Rev. Eric Fjedal as our new Chairman of the Board. Eric has been involved with Habitat CFC for many years... from working as a volunteer (which he still does regularly), to coordinating the United Methodist Coalition builds at Habitat, to sitting on the Habitat Board. His most recent position was Vice Chair of the Board. In stepping up as Chair, Eric takes on the roll that Dave Short most capably held for the past two years. Dave will continue on as a Habitat Board Member.

Other changes to the Board include George Keith taking on the role of Vice Chair and Oliver North, Treasurer. Habitat CFC is excited to have such a strong and committed Board to oversee our organization!!! Current Board Members include:

**Chairman**, Rev. Eric Fjeldal

**Vice Chair**, George Keith

**Treasurer**, Oliver North

**Secretary**, Marc Brunetti

**CEO**, Stuart D. Adelberg

### **Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County Board**

Brian H. Cook

Robert Giglietti

Chris Lafond

Elizabeth A. Massoud

Ellen Quinn

Cory Rivera

T. David Short

Carolyn Vermont

Ralph Walker

**Welcome Dan Flynn and Nereida De Lopez**

Dan has been hired as Habitat CFC's Director of Finance and Operations and Nereida as Family Services Specialist. We are thrilled to have them join the Habitat CFC team!



Dan Flynn comes to Habitat CFC with close to 10 years of experience in a variety of finance roles. He started his career in public accounting in the Boston area earning his CPA designation before transitioning into corporate accounting/finance positions at mid-size technology companies. "Having grown up in Trumbull, CT, I am excited to be back in the area and looking forward to making a difference in the lives of the many families Habitat CFC serves," Dan said.

"It's an honor and a blessing for me to be part of Habitat for Humanity," Nerida said. "I look forward to serving the organization, the families and all involved." During her 30 years working in the Bridgeport Public School system, Nereida serviced the public in many capacities including personnel secretary, home-school coordinator, special education program assistant, transportation specialist, special education ombudsperson and as a supervisor for the tutoring program. Nereida was also the chair of a citywide conference for over 25 years.

## Volunteer

Need knows no season so  
Habitat CFC builds year-round.

We plan jobs for our volunteers to do indoors when  
the mercury begins to drop.

[Sign Up Today](#)

A graphic for a volunteer recruitment poster. It features a blue background with white snowflakes. At the bottom, there is a row of white houses with blue roofs and windows. The text is centered in the upper half of the graphic.

## Youth United Goes Loco...



Come to Taco Loco and support Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County! You can help Youth United build a Habitat house right here in Bridgeport!

**When: Wednesday, March 2nd ~ 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Where: Taco Loco, 3170 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605**



25% of the pretax sales for food, beverages and takeout, with a fundraising flyer, will be donated to Habitat CFC.

Flyer must be presented either in paper or electronically

Only one flyer per transaction

**\*\*Must be 21 or older with proper I.D. to consume alcoholic beverages**

[Taco Loco Flyer 2016](#)

## ReStore Finds . . .

### Thank You Pella!

The Pella Corporation recently donated 88 windows of various sizes to Habitat's ReStore in Stratford. "We are grateful to receive such a sizable donation from Pella," said ReStore Manager Rich Desautels. "Pella is known for its quality and workmanship and these windows will be useful to our customers." The donation comes at a time when the ReStore is adding 20,000 square feet of additional space. A portion of the new space is already open to customers. When the expansion is complete, the ReStore in Stratford will be one of the ten largest ReStores in the nation. "With the additional space, we will be getting in more and more useful items such as the Pella windows for our customers to select from," said Desautels. "You never know what you are going to find at the ReStore!"



For more info. on the store and to see items for sale, check the ReStore Facebook page [here](#).

## More Ways to Get Involved



[DONATE](#)



[VOLUNTEER](#)



[APPLY](#)

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



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**Downsizing? Renovating? You Donate, We Pick Up!**



**1785 Stratford Ave., Stratford, CT 06615**

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