



# Habitat for Humanity®

## of Tompkins and Cortland Counties, New York

An affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International

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### Breed Rd. Update

The lively sounds of hammers and power tools can finally be heard at 100 Breed Road. If you've been patiently waiting for work to start on our next house, wait no more! This has been a busy summer and August in particular has been a month of great progress at the site.

We want to thank all of the volunteers and supervisors who have helped us so far. Clearing brush and trees has been more of a workout and undertaking than expected but the site looks great and is finally clear enough to maneuver around and work on.

Our freshly shingled shed is looking lovely and a volunteer-built pre-fab table is allowing us to start construction of wall panels before the foundation is even in place! We love to multi-task and, with a few more hands on site; we can make up for lost time and really keep things going. Please consider giving us a few hours, a few afternoons, or a few of your friends for a workday!

By the time you read this article, chances are that our foundation will be dug and we'll be starting to lay our EcoBlock. If you're an EcoBlock veteran from working on the Tompkins St. house - come show us how it's done! On the contrary, maybe you've never even heard of EcoBlock. What better time for a hands-on lesson in what it is and why it's just a small part of what makes this house environmentally friendly.

In short: Breed Road is buzzing but we need your help!

Please check your calendar, dust off your tool belt, and be the next TCHFH supporter to help us put our mission in action.



*Volunteers Working At Breed Road Site*

### Habitat Receives \$80,000 Grant

In a highly competitive environment, TCHFH submitted a grant request to dramatically increase its building. In June we were awarded an \$80,000 Capacity Building grant funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through HFH International. These funds cover the costs of creating a new high impact staff position, as well as innovative training and technical assistance.

Thus we hired our first Executive Director (ED), Christy Voytko, in July. "This new position is an integral part of the continued growth, development, and sustainability of our affiliate as we build more and build louder." says Angela Loh, President of the Board. Grant funding for the ED position diminishes over the 3 yr. grant period but fund raising will be a major function of the ED.

With this grant, Habitat is most excited about having a bigger impact on the community and serving more families in need. We plan to increase our home production rate from one to three homes per year by 2012. We need your help to accomplish this!

### Donation Houses

Have you seen our brightly colored donation houses in select businesses in the area? There will be 23 of them out there. They are the products of Ben Boynton (a Board member and cabinet maker) and the youth group at Bethel Grove Community Church (led by Pastor Eric Hause) who assembled and painted them.

See how many you can spot! We'll give you a head start - a map of all the locations will be posted on our website in a month if you want to go on your own "house" trail and find the rest of them.



*A Donation Home waiting for board members to put it to work!*

**We Can Count on VALU Home**

We celebrate the wonderful employees at ValuHome Store in Cortland who sold \$4500 worth of raffle tickets for its annual Habitat fundraiser. They noted that customers remarked about the tough financial times this year compared to last year when they were able to raise about \$6000 in ticket sales. Please continue to shop there and do thank them for their longstanding Habitat commitment.



VALU Home Employees

**Calling All Lutherans!**

We have a wonderful opportunity to help a local low-income family become a new Habitat homeowner next year. This opportunity specifically counts on YOU – our local Lutherans and/or Thrivent members.

Thrivent Financial has a Thrivent Builds Homes (with Habitat) program that will fund 65% of a local Habitat build. This program requires us to collaborate with sufficient numbers of local Lutherans and Thrivent members. So, please join us to take advantage of this fabulous chance to make a real change in a family's life.

Your participation can pull Thrivent Financial for Lutherans funds into our community and help us build an extra house. It will be a real blessing, especially in these depressed economic times, to help one more family move out of substandard housing and into their own decent, affordable energy-efficient 'green' home.

To find out more about the program, and to help us gauge the level of interest from our local Lutheran community, we are holding an informational session on Sept. 20th at 12:30PM at the Ramada Inn on Triphammer Rd., Ithaca. Please RSVP by sending email to David Jung of the local Thrivent chapter (jung\_david\_r@yahoo.com) before Sept. 19th.

Or contact Angela Loh (loha@frontiernet.net) or David, if you can't make the session but would like to learn more or sign up!

**Calendar**

- Build Days every Saturday (8AM – 1PM; Noon - 5PM) and Wednesday (4-8PM): contact our Volunteer Coordinator (tompkinscortlandhabitat@gmail.com) to sign up
- TCHFH at Ithaca Apple Harvest Festival, Sept. 26
- HFH NYS Fall Conference at SUNY Cortland, Oct. 24 (check www.habitatnys.org for more details)
- Harvest Fundraiser at Rogues Harbor Inn:
  - o Habitat Night every Wednesday in October: 10% of receipts donated to TCHFH)
  - o October 28: Wrap up dinner/auction (for more info.: email: tompkinscortland@habitatnys.org)

**A BRUSH WITH KINDNESS**

- (ABWK) is a new home preservation program of HFHI . Here are the details:
- 1. For low income homeowners who struggle to maintain their home
- 2. Focus is primarily on the exterior -- painting, minor repairs, cleanup and landscaping.
- 3. Homeowner must go through the same HFH tenets of eligibility: need, family selection, sweat equity and ability to pay back of the cost of materials over time.
- 4. This is a more holistic community (neighborhood) development approach.
- 5. Rehab is defined as costing more than 15% of the cost of building new.
- 6. Repair through ABWK is defined as costing less than 15%.
- 7. Repairs to 1-3 homes if 15% is spent would count as one complete build.
- 8. This would be great for youth groups and college students and some could be accomplished in a weekend or two.
- 9. Think of possible block parties for this work.

**WANTED:**

- 5 KW generator
- printer/copier/fax machine
- office desk
- vacant lot within 15' of BOCES
- house to rehab

I would like to contribute to the building of the next Habitat house.

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: TC HFH. P.O. Box 4683, Ithaca, NY 14852

Or go to our web site ( www.tchabitat.com) if you would like to contribute to HFH through a painless monthly automatic deduction from your checking account or credit card.