



# Habitat for Humanity<sup>®</sup> of Tompkins and Cortland Counties, New York

An affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International

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## Ground Breaking at 100 Breed Road, Lansing

On April 26, a hot and sunny Sunday, a group of about 70 people gathered together to officially kick off our first Tompkins County build in about 15 years.

The future home owners, Amber Little and her two sons were present at the opening ceremonies along with Amber's parents who live in Lansing.

Amber was introduced by Barbara Nellenback, the director of Tompkins Community Action's Self Sufficiency Program. Amber has been learning to manage her finances and prepare to be a homeowner through this program. Sally Hoyt of our Family Support Committee, briefly described her role as Amber's family partner or as we like to call it, her fairy godmother. She will help the family with the "joys" of homeownership.

Father Scott Kubinski offered a prayer and a blessing of the land and Ed Siemon, our Tompkins Co. construction committee chair, offered insights into the building plans and schedule. The plan and elevation views of the 3-bedroom house allowed us to visualize it sited on the still empty lot.

At the end of the ceremony, instead of the usual spades in the ground, we built the storage shed instead. By the end of the afternoon, the walls of the shed were up. The shed will be used for storing tools during the build and rakes and lawn mowers after.

For pictures and more go to Dan Veaner's article at [www.lansingstar.com](http://www.lansingstar.com) and search for Habitat for Humanity.



Shed Building at Breed Road



Amber Little and Son at Ground Breaking

### *New Program!* TCHFH Women Build

Women Build is a Habitat for Humanity International program that encourages women to make a difference by building homes and communities.

Women Builds provide an environment in which women can feel comfortable learning construction skills they might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn.

TCHFH is currently recruiting women who may be interested in joining this program. Our upcoming house at Breed Road will be our first partially women built home! Whether you'd like to train or be taught, lead construction or learn new skills, we want your helping hands on the site.

Contact Shannon to get involved:  
[tompkinscortland@habitatnys.org](mailto:tompkinscortland@habitatnys.org)

**Habitat at your service: A night at Rogue's Harbor**

On March 25th TCHFH and Rogue's Harbor teamed up for a night of food, fun, and fundraising! This was our first official partnership event with a local business and it was a huge success; we raised over \$2400 in one night!

With Habitaters as the wait staff and generous Rogue's employees donating their time, many TCHFH supporters (and new friends) were served a delicious dinner. Generous tips and 10% of food sales were accepted in the name of TCHFH. The evening ended with silent and live auctions thanks to Chris Allinger for helping us bring in the big bids!

Thank you to all those who donated auction items or attended and made the event such a success. Lastly, a HUGE thank you to Rogue's Harbor, particularly Eileen and Sandra. We never expected such generosity - what wonderful community partners! [www.roguesharbor.com](http://www.roguesharbor.com)

**Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

*May 30* Green Building Expo at Lime Hollow - we were there.

*May 31* Ithaca Festival, Gorges Green Expo - we were there.

*June 13* HFH NYS conference at SUNY Cortland- cheaper to register early!

*June 14* (noon to 3PM) HFH Volunteer Recognition Picnic -Dryden Lake Park

*June 21 - August 1* ValuHome (Cortland) in-store fundraiser for TC HFH - check out the raffle prizes!

**If You've Gotten a Mailing from Us!**

Please be generous. We need your donations to ramp up our building so that we can help more local low-income families become homeowners. We are still raising funds to complete our Lansing home for the Little family and we are looking ahead to Arthur Ave. in Cortland. We need to raise about \$25,000 before we start.

**Our First Bequest**

TC HFH received a very generous bequest from the estate of Helen S. Culler in support of our affiliate's local work. Jonathan Culler of Ithaca, her son and executor of the estate, said his mother thought highly enough of Habitat to designate a gift in her will. This donation will be used to complete our current building in Lansing.

**Hot News! - We are Looking for an Executive Director NOW**

TCHFH received a HFHI 3-year capacity building grant. We are now able to hire our first executive director to help us build 3 houses per year by 2012! We are currently seeking the right person for the position which starts July 1st. If you know of someone who may qualify, our job opening is posted on [ithaca.craigslist.org](http://ithaca.craigslist.org).

**Construction Supervisor & Go-Fer Training!**

Are you interested in becoming a construction supervisor for TCHFH? Do you enjoy leading others? Do you have contracting or building experience? Do you enjoy being on the work site but prefer to keep away from the power tools? Whatever the case, this training is for you!

On Wednesday, June 10th at 7:00 PM at All Saints Church in Lansing we will host a training and informational session for anyone interested in being a construction supervisor or go-fer for TCHFH. If you're considering one of these roles but feeling un-sure of what they involve, please join us.

Work at Breed Rd. will begin soon and we are in desperate need of volunteers to help us guide volunteers and maintain a safe and happy site.

If you're looking to get more involved with TCHFH, this is a great way to be a part of the action on site - our supervisors and go-fers are our heroes!!!

Contact Shannon with questions, [tompkinscortland@habitatnys.org](mailto:tompkinscortland@habitatnys.org)

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](http://www.tchabitat.com)) if you would like to contribute to HFH through a painless monthly automatic deduction from your checking account or credit card.