



Women

Build III

Newsletter

Habitat for Humanity Newark
Summer/Fall 2008

Women Build III Construction Starts Soon!

Women Build III has now raised \$50,000. That gives us more than 50% of the \$90,000 needed to sponsor a house for a deserving low income Partner Family.

We expect the next Newark Habitat house will be a two-family home. Together, Women Build III and Abraham House II will co-sponsor the build. Abraham House is a group of more than a dozen different spiritually-based congregations in Essex County that includes numerous religious organizations including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindu and Ethical Culture.

Why West Orange: In Habitat Newark's first 20 years its efforts concentrated on one of Newark's most economically distressed neighborhoods: the Central Ward. Now, in its third decade Habitat Newark's construction projects are stretching into other sections of Newark and towns in Essex County as affordable building sites become available. Thirteen percent of families living in Essex County have incomes below the poverty level.

We expect the build to begin sometime in the fall,

2008 Update

Kathryn Cassidy, Newark Volunteer of the Year. Women Build's Kathryn Cassidy was honored as Volunteer of the Year at Habitat for Humanity Newark's May 15 Gala.

Kathryn is a leader in Women Build's fund-raising efforts and our volunteer coordinator. Last fall she attended



Habitat International's first Women Build Construction Leadership training where she and 24 other women volunteers learned building and leadership skills as they built a new home for a woman and

her family in Citronelle, Alabama. She has joined HFHN teams that went to New Orleans building in Musician's Village in 2007 and St. Bernard Parish this year.

After a 40 year teaching career in the Newark school system Kathryn started volunteering on construction of the first Women Build House. Initially, she worked once a week, then twice and sometimes three times a week—essentially embarking upon a second career. Through Habitat, and specifically Women Build, Kathryn has continued to help the children of Newark by building homes for some, and by example, showing women and girls of all ages the power they possess. Now an experienced builder, she became a team leader, showing small groups not only how to use their tools, but also to believe in themselves, to ask for help when needed, and to work to solve problems which they encountered.

National Women Build Week. On May 10 Women Build III celebrated National Women Build Week with a day of events. Over 30 women attended the event. Crews of women builders worked on homes currently under construction at Habitat Newark building sites, others



toured a completed Habitat Newark home or landscaped the Habitat Newark children's park. All enjoyed the pot luck luncheon. During lunch Newark

Municipal Council President Mildred Crump, Women Build III's honorary chair, and Newark Councilman at Large Donald Payne Jr. joined our group's celebration.

A national event, we joined over 150 Women Build affiliates celebrating the 10th year of the partnership between Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's working together to build affordable homes for families currently living in substandard housing. **In recognition of our participation, Lowe's contributed a \$5,000 gift card to help build our third home. Thank you Lowe's.**

Women Builders join Habitat Newark Volunteers in New Orleans.

In April a group of 30 volunteers from Habitat Newark journeyed to New Orleans to help the area rebuild after the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Our Women Builders included



Jane James, Kathryn Cassidy, Carol Manning, Anne and Colleen Zagar, and Sheila Wolfensohn. To read about the trip go to:

http://www.habitatnewark.org/volunteer_stories.htm.

Watch for Women Build on Comcast.

Women Build Co-chair Lynne Blaesser recently taped two sessions (one about Women Build and the other on Habitat Newark) with Comcast/CNN as part of their 5-minute New Jersey Newsmakers community services clips that air every 25 and 55 minutes after the hour on the CNN Headline News channel (Comcast channel 58 in the Maplewood area). The programs should air in September.

You can view the Women Build segment at http://www.habitatnewark.org/women_build.htm#video



\$40,000 Still Needed: Help Us Complete Our Third Home

Remodeling? Help Women Build by Donating Your Reusable Cabinets and Goods for Resale at Habitat's Virtual ReStore. A Win-Win for All.

Unlike some Habitat affiliates which run retail outlets selling quality used and surplus building materials at a fraction of normal prices, Habitat Newark's ReStore operates as a virtual one on the internet. In three years volunteer Julian Blau has generated over \$100,000 in sales for Habitat Newark by selling donated goods on the eBay online marketplace. Most are quality, reusable kitchen cabinets, appliances and related items that otherwise might be discarded during a kitchen remodel.

When a potential donor calls the Habitat office seeking to donate goods or materials, Julian visits the donor to examine them for potential resale value. If, for example, the goods are kitchen cabinets that can be resold, he inventories and photographs them to post an accurate description of the items. Typically, the donor's contractor will carefully remove the cabinets and

put them in the donor's garage for the winning bidder to pick-up.



When sold, Habitat Newark Women Build will get the proceeds; the donor gets a tax deduction; the buyers get quality goods at a very reasonable price; and, the donated

goods are recycled rather than sent to a dump. Certainly the virtual ReStore is a win-win for all. Learn more about Habitat Newark's ReStore on our website www.habitatnewark.org To donate, call Jean Bell at 973.624.3330 and **tell Jean and Julian you want the proceeds to support Women Build.**

Women Build III T-shirts Now

Available. Designed by our own Women Builders, we now have bright green T-shirts available for purchase at the Habitat Newark office (ask Jean Bell). \$15 each, sales proceeds will help fund the construction of our third home.

Thanks Rosa Aiello and Alice Miesnek for making this happen.

Corporate Sponsorships Welcome.

We are looking for ways to expand our corporate sponsorships. *Do you work for a company that will match your donation to Habitat Women Build?* Just send in your company's matching gift form with your donation.

Does your company have formal programs for women? If so, perhaps we can work together as we build our third home. For example, bringing women in leadership or leadership training programs on-site for a day of building-- what a wonderful way to empower working women to do things they have never done before as they build together. Or, if your company supports women's or local community projects, you can help Women Build by drawing attention to our efforts to provide housing for a working family.

Would your company like to help sponsor a house? If your company would like to donate the balance of the funds needed to construct our third home, Women Build III would be pleased to share sponsorship and add your company's name as a co-sponsor.

Giving Tree. We are looking for locations that would be willing display a Giving Tree for a short time. The tree's ornaments request donations via tags that



indicate the cost of items needed for the build (doors, hammers, windows, et. al.) Do you know of a high traffic location (church, synagogue, store, retirement home, etc.) that would display a tree?

Want to help, but building is not for you?

Volunteer to help us raise the money to finish our third house for a family currently living in substandard housing. You can put your talents to use in many ways: fresh ideas to raise funds, spreading the word to women's groups, publicity, assisting with our events, whatever! Interested? Join us at our meetings or contact Lynne Blaesser (mlblaesser@aol.com).

The W.A.T.C.H. Circle of 50. Initiated last year, **The W.A.T.C.H Circle of 50** challenges volunteers to pledge to raise at least \$50 for our third Women Build house. "Women Accepting the Challenge of Housing" is an outreach

challenge, asking Women that accept to look to ways to not only raise funds, but also expand awareness of Women Build III's efforts to improve the communities of Essex County. Please accept the challenge. You can join the Circle by sending in your pledge to **Habitat for Humanity Newark-Women Build, P.O. Box 3246, Newark, NJ 07103.**



Want More Information? Contact Women Build Co-Chairs:

Lynne Blaesser (mlblaesser@aol.com)

Carol Paster (cjp212@hotmail.com)

Women Build III

INVITES YOU TO JOIN:

THE W.A.T.C.H CIRCLE OF 50

"WOMEN ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE OF HOUSING"

Each woman named in the Circle pledges to raise at least \$50 for third *Women Build* house. The house will be built in the fall of 2008 as part of *Women Build* Habitat for Humanity Newark.

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian based organization dedicated to changing the world, one house at a time. *Women Build* is the initiative of women joining together to build a home for a woman and her family.

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE GROWING CIRCLE!

Tax deductible contributions should be made out to:

Habitat for Humanity Newark-Women Build

P O Box 3246, Newark, NJ 07103

THE W.A.T.C.H. CIRCLE OF 50

ADD MY NAME TO THE CIRCLE! I PLEDGE TO RAISE _____ UNITS OF \$50

TO HELP BUILD ONE HABITAT HOUSE

NAME.....

SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....