

# Habitat Happenings

A monthly newsletter for our volunteers, families,  
donors and friends



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September 2008

## Affiliate News

### Habitat Home Improvement Store Celebrates Four Years of Reuse

Four years ago, we opened our Home Improvement Store in Gardena to resell donated items to the public as a way of generating more revenue to build more homes. We had no idea how successful the store would be or the impact we would have on the environment and community.

By donating your unwanted household and building materials to our store, the public has diverted several thousand tons of materials from our landfills. It's

amazing how much of a difference we have all made together in four years.

Our store is also very popular with the community. Some folks stop by daily to check the new arrivals. We have seen some pretty unique merchandise come through our doors like hot tubs, movie sets, classic novels and art work. Other items you may find in stock are patio furniture, windows, doors, flooring and new and used appliances.

By donating and shopping at our store, you can help us build decent affordable homes in Greater Los Angeles because 100% of the stores proceeds go back into building homes.

If you haven't visited our Home Improvement Store, please stop by and check it out. We are open Tuesdays through Saturdays. If you have items to donate, just call Nicki at ext 127 and she'll arrange for a pick up.



#### COMING SOON...

Watch for details on the opening of a 2nd Home Improvement Store. More information coming in the near future!

#### PLEASE JOIN US

BUILDING A GREATER

Los Angeles

*Gala*

A "Diamonds & Denim" *Affair*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2008

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Beverly Hilton Hotel

Green Carpet • VIP Reception  
Live House Auction

#### Honoring

Schwarzenegger/Shriver Family  
*The Family Visionary Award*

The Honorable Henry Cisneros  
*Visionary Award*

Mr. Jerrold Eberhardt and Citi Smith Barney  
*Leadership Award*

Ed Begley, Jr.

*Building A Greener LA Pioneer Award*



For More Information and  
Tickets call Jo-An  
310-323-4663 ext 121,  
[jturman@habitatla.org](mailto:jturman@habitatla.org)  
[www.habitatla.org](http://www.habitatla.org)

## Log In, Click and Vote!

### Support HFH GLA by Casting your Vote

You can help support Habitat for Humanity by casting a vote in Wells Fargo's *Someday Stories*<sup>SM</sup> contest.

Wells Fargo has selected Habitat for Humanity as one of three causes eligible to receive up to \$250,000 as part of its *Someday Stories*<sup>SM</sup> contest.

Visit [www.wellsfargo.com/somedaycontest/hfh](http://www.wellsfargo.com/somedaycontest/hfh) from September 17 through November 10, choose your favorite *Someday Story*<sup>SM</sup> finalist and vote for Habitat for Humanity as your favorite cause.

Wells Fargo will award \$250,000 to the cause receiving the most votes. The cause getting the second-most votes will receive \$150,000 and the third-most votes will

receive \$50,000.

Habitat for Humanity International will distribute its award among the three Habitat affiliates whose supporters generate the most votes during the online contest.

**Votes will be tracked by zip code, so be sure to enter 90248 (the zip code for Habitat for Humanity Greater Los Angeles) in the zip code information line when casting your vote.**

Thank you for supporting HFHGLA and local families in need of decent housing!

Please pass this information on to all your friends, family and co-workers!

Your vote can help us raise up to \$250,000

## Around the Site

### Construction Update

We are making headway at our Fernwood site in Lynwood with the first and second story walls framed and almost all sheathed. Next will come roofing, blue board and wrapping throughout September. We're also making progress at our *A Brush With Kindness* homes. Right now we're working on Joyce Rolla's house and will start on Dorota Starr's home soon.

There are daily opportunities to volunteer in our Home Improvement Store and also at our Housing Center for Excellence and Office. Please sign up for any of these opportunities through our website [http://www.habitatla.org/volunteer\\_up.asp](http://www.habitatla.org/volunteer_up.asp)



## Off the Site

### Youth Programs

Our Youth Programs will be moving into high gear as schools around Los Angeles start the fall semester. If you or anyone you know is interested in our Youth Programs, now is a great time to join. For more information about Youth United, Campus Chapters, Nickels for Nails, or Advocacy go to [www.habitatla.org/youth\\_programs.asp](http://www.habitatla.org/youth_programs.asp).

Our youth have been hard at work throughout the summer fundraising and have even created their own Facebook page. You can become a friend by searching for "Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles' Youth United".



"Nickels for Nails" collection bucket!

### Welcome AmeriCorps

On September 16th, we will welcome our new AmeriCorps members. We will have four members, two working as Construction Crew Leaders, one as the Volunteer Coordinator and one as the Youth Programs Coordinator. We can't wait for them to start and hope that when you see them at the office and on the site you'll make them feel welcome too.



Our 07-08 AmeriCorps

## Mark Your Calendar

### Dates to Remember and Upcoming Events

#### September

##### **Week of the 14th**

Building on Faith Week  
Contact Patty Lee  
[plee@habitatla.org](mailto:plee@habitatla.org) or ext. 106

##### **Wednesday, 17th - 6:30 pm**

Habitat 101 Info Session  
Contact Deborah Lewis  
[dlewis@habitatla.org](mailto:dlewis@habitatla.org) or ext. 119 for information and location.

##### **Wednesday, 24th - 4:00 pm**

Diaz-Echavarría Family  
House Warming  
Louise Street Lynwood  
Contact Janell McKane  
[jmckane@habitatla.org](mailto:jmckane@habitatla.org) or ext. 129

##### **Friday, 26th**

Music Builds Tour (see pg 4 for info)  
Verizon Wireless Amphitheater  
Irvine, CA

#### October

##### **Wednesday, 1st - 6:30 pm**

Building a Greater L.A.  
"Diamonds & Denim" Gala  
Beverly Hilton Hotel  
Contact Jo-An Turman ext. 121 or  
[jturman@habitatla.org](mailto:jturman@habitatla.org)

##### **Friday, 10th - 6:30 pm**

Habitat 101 Info Session  
Contact Deborah Lewis  
[dlewis@habitatla.org](mailto:dlewis@habitatla.org) or ext. 119 for information and location.



### **WORLD HABITAT DAY OCTOBER 6, 2008**

The United Nations has set aside Monday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> as World Habitat Day. People across the world will be calling attention to the need for decent, affordable housing and what better way to do that than with HFH GLA. As the day draws near, please check our website for more information about the UN designated day and activities in which you can participate.

## Faith News

### 25th Annual Building On Faith Week

September 14 - 21, 2008

This is the 25th year that Habitat for Humanity International will set aside a week in September to focus on partnerships with our faith community partners, and to bring attention to the need for safe, simple, decent, affordable housing. The need is now critical in the greater Los Angeles community.



Join Habitat for Humanity Sunday, September 14th at the African American Catholic Center for Evangelization, "The Center", from 5:00pm—7:30pm to kick-off a great week of *faith in action*. A light dinner will be served from 5:00p.m.— 5:30p.m. For more information and to RSVP, **please contact Patty Lee**, Faith and Community Relations Manager at 310-323-4663 ext. 106 or by email at [plee@habitatla.org](mailto:plee@habitatla.org).

# We are Building On Faith

Here are a few ideas about how you, and your community of faith can partner with Habitat for Building On Faith Week.

- Pray for the Habitat ministry
- Advocate and help communicate about our work and mission
- Focus on poverty and sub-standard housing in worship services during *Building On Faith Week*
- Pledge to support HFH-GLA with time, talent and treasures throughout the year
- Take a special offering or collection in support of HFH-GLA
- Encourage volunteers to participate with site building, provide lunches and refreshments
- Sponsor a day of building

Please contact Patty Lee, Faith and Community Relations Manager for more information at 310-323-4663 ext. 106 or by email at [plee@habitatla.org](mailto:plee@habitatla.org).

## Opportunities for Giving

### Help Build More Homes and Eliminate Poverty Housing

#### Make a Donation

Your generous gift will provide materials and resources to help us in our mission to eliminate poverty housing. Just click on the "Donors" tab of our website.

**DONATE your VEHICLE**  
to help build homes.



Call **1-877-277-4344**

or visit

[www.carsforhomes.org](http://www.carsforhomes.org)

#### Attention Ralphs Shoppers

Committed to supporting the community, Ralphs Grocery Stores implemented the Ralphs Rewards program, enabling customers to save money while donating to the non profit organization of their choice. Habitat for Humanity Greater L.A. is a partner in Ralphs Rewards, and earns dollars when our supporters swipe their Rewards Card when checking out.

In order to earn we must be identified by you first. The Ralphs Rewards program is easy to use: just sign up for a Rewards Card at your local Ralphs Store, and register at [Ralphs.com](http://Ralphs.com) as a participant between to support HFH GLA.

Participation requires renewal even if you enrolled last year, and those with the older Ralphs Club Cards must update to the Ralphs Rewards Card too. And please, don't forget to tell your friends!

If you have any questions, contact Lydia Lujan at ext. 110 or [llujan@habitatla.org](mailto:llujan@habitatla.org).



#### Our Wish List

Help us open a second Home Improvement Store. HFH GLA is in need of the following materials & equipment. Our hope is that someone out there in our pool of outstanding supporters, might be a resource or know of a resource for some of the more expensive items that we need. Please have a look at the following items and see if you, or someone you know might have the resources or connections to donate these materials:

- Pallet Racking
- 7k capacity warehouse forklift (propane powered)
- 20' Stake Bed Trucks (Diesel) with lift gate

Please contact Dave McKechnie at ext 104 or [davem@habitatla.org](mailto:davem@habitatla.org).

## Lending a Hand

### **With or Without Your Tool Belt There Many Ways to Help**

#### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers needed for positions listed below. For job descriptions and additional opportunities check our website:

[http://www.habitatla.org/volunteer\\_admin.asp](http://www.habitatla.org/volunteer_admin.asp)

#### Home Improvement Store Liaison

Help us open our second Home Improvement Store! We need an individual to collect information, complete and file permit applications. Should be highly motivated, have excellent communication skills and be detail oriented. Must commit 12-16 hours per week for three months. Please send your contact information and why you'd be right for this position to Dave McKechnie at [davem@habitatla.org](mailto:davem@habitatla.org)

#### Office Worker

Assist in the daily operations of the Program Department by tracking critical volunteer information. Commit to regularly volunteer in this capacity. If interested please contact [volunteers@habitatla.org](mailto:volunteers@habitatla.org).

#### Site Hosts

Welcome volunteers to the construction site, create a welcoming environment for all volunteers, make sure that all volunteers sign-in, their paperwork is turned in and filed properly. Site hosts are needed for the first couple hours of each build day, particularly on Saturdays. Must be at least 16 years old. Contact [volunteers@habitatla.org](mailto:volunteers@habitatla.org) for more information.

#### Construction Department Volunteer

Improve the function of the construction office and the Housing Center for Excellence operations. Provide general administrative support, including filing, answering phones and general organization. Commit to 4 hours a day at least 2 days a week (Monday through Friday). Please send a brief description of your skills and why you would like to volunteer to [volunteers@habitatla.org](mailto:volunteers@habitatla.org).

## **MUSIC BUILDS TOUR TO BENEFIT HFH GLA**



The poster for the Music Builds Tour features a central graphic of a house with a red door, flanked by two electric guitars. The text "the MUSIC BUILDS TOUR" is at the top in a stylized font. Below the house, it says "to benefit HABITAT FOR HUMANITY". The tour dates and location are listed as "THIRD DAY \* SWITCHFOOT WITH \* ROBERT RANDOLPH \* & THE FAMILY BAND \* JARS OF CLAY \* FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH VERIZON WIRELESS AMPHITHEATER IRVINE, CA". Logos for Myspace, the tour website (www.musicbuildstour.com), and Live Nation are at the bottom.

In addition to the contest and the auction, a portion of the proceeds from each ticket sold to the concert in Irvine, CA on September 26, 2008 will benefit HFH GLA. The group sales form can be utilized to receive a DISCOUNTED ticket. Anyone and everyone who sends in this form in a group of 15 or more will receive the group discounted ticket price. For the Group Sales Order Form visit <http://www.habitatla.org> and click on link for [2008 Music Builds Tour Group Ticket Order Form](#).

## **Welcome Janice Martin Director of Programs and Volunteer Services**



Please join us in welcoming Janice Martin to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles as the new Director of Programs and Volunteer Services.

Janice has more than 27 years of experience in organization leadership and operations management. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director for World Vision Los Angeles, a position she held for eight years. At

World Vision LA, she managed eight programs and initiatives geared to stimulate community transformation in disenfranchised Los Angeles neighborhoods. Janice has a strong program development and volunteer management background and many other talents. We are excited to have her on board and look forward to her leadership.