

# Under Construction

Vol 28, Issue 1

Summer 2010

## Sold! You Helped Build them



HFH-MC is proud to announce the completion of 12 homes through our Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). HFH-MC in partnership with Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA), has purchased and renovated 12 vacant and distressed foreclosed properties in Silver Spring. Thanks to the help of thousands of volunteers and many sponsors; including Bank of America, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Freddie Mac, 12 families now have a simple, decent, affordable place to call home. HFH-MC's NRP is about more than making homes possible for low-income families, it is about giving a new life to homes and communities experiencing the negative effects of the foreclosure crisis.

HFH-MC's partnership model has proven successful in Montgomery County and around the country. Our unique blend of affordable mortgages, sweat equity and community supported home construction gives us a great record of success. After 27 years and 55 homes HFH-MC has experienced only one default and all of our other homeowners still own their home. HFH-MC's model combines long term, affordable and stable homeownership with expertise in revitalizing distressed properties resulting in a powerful impact on individuals, families and entire communities.

## Interfaith house

*"The 'theology of the hammer' is about bringing a wide diversity of people, churches, and other organizations together to build houses and establish viable and dynamic communities." - Millard Fuller, Founder HFHI*



Now is your chance to carry out the 'theology of the hammer.' Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County is developing its first-ever Interfaith House. Congregations of many different denominations from all over the county will join together to fund and build a home for a family in need. Beginning in the summer of 2010, HFH-MC will provide the opportunity for faith communities to rehabilitate a vacant, foreclosed home in Silver Spring. As individuals come together, they will experience faith in action as they work side by side with members of other faiths to create a simple, decent, energy efficient and affordable home for a low-income family.

Summer builds begin soon, so please contact Cara Montufar at [cara.montufar@habitat-mc.org](mailto:cara.montufar@habitat-mc.org) or 301-990-0014 x25 to learn more!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Habitat Golf Classic...Another Success!

Held at Whiskey Creek Golf Club in Ijamsville, MD, our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic was a great success. The proceeds from this year's tournament will benefit the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and our other new project in Clarksburg, MD. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, we are thrilled with the results from this year's tournament raising over \$100,000.

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Additionally, we would like to thank all of our committee members, employees, volunteers, vendors, golfers and board members for their continuous support of this event – it was successful because of your involvement!

The next big fundraising event is the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Benefit Breakfast on October 29, 2010 at the Bethesda Marriott**. For more information, please contact [debbie.hayden@habitat-mc.org](mailto:debbie.hayden@habitat-mc.org).

### Upcoming events

- **Eco Friendly Design Seminar**  
June 19, July 17, August 21 from 12-1:30pm (held at Habitat ReStore 9100 Gaither Rd)
- **Community Night Out**  
Potomac Pizza - Kentlands:  
June 28, 4-9pm  
California Pizza Kitchen– June 14
- **Homeowner Information Session**  
June 2 and June 16, at 6pm
- **Bethesda Big Train Baseball Game:**  
July 24
- **Blueprints** New Volunteer Information Session (occurs second and fourth Wednesday of every month)

### Our Next Project

HFH-MC is in the preliminary stages of a new building project in Clarksburg, Maryland. Thanks to the generous contribution of Ken and Nancy Malm, Craftmark Homes is donating finished lots in Clarksburg Village. Habitat is slated to begin construction of six, three bedroom townhouses in September of this year. These units will be part of a large mixed income community off Stringtown Rd. in Clarksburg.

Over the past few months, HFH-MC's Family Selection Committee has been busy qualifying buyers for this community. Homeowner partner families will be selected in time to begin their "sweat equity" on their homes. Volunteer and sponsorship opportunities will be available to those who want to be a part of the exciting endeavor. For more information contact Amanda Fein at [amanda.fein@habitat-mc.org](mailto:amanda.fein@habitat-mc.org) or 301-990-0014 ext. 20.

HFH-MC would like to thank the Craftmark Homes team, Elm Street Development, the law firms of Shulman Rogers and Holland & Knight, and Clarke Title for the dedication of time and resources to this project. We look forward to starting construction and providing decent, affordable and energy efficient homeownership opportunities to six more low-income families in Montgomery County over the next few months.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Recently HFH-MC's AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator Stacey spent some time on the site with new construction crew leader Adam.



**Stacey:** Why do you volunteer with HFH-MC?

**Adam:** It's a great way to learn new skills and it's a win-win because you feel good helping people at the same time.

**S:** What keeps you coming back every day?

**A:** The people here are very nice and a lot of fun to work with. Ed (HFH-MC's Site Supervisor) keeps things exciting on the site and is always teaching me something new. You learn a lot of different things on the site like a trade or something practical.

**S:** Tell me something about the homeowners you have worked with?

**A:** Pittson was the first house that I worked on and one day in the beginning I was working alongside Seifu (Pittson Homeowner) painting a wall in his home and I honestly wasn't doing a great job, I hadn't painted many walls before but he was so appreciative and grateful for the work I was doing. I really felt that my hard work was making a difference.

**If you would like to become an HFH-MC volunteer like Adam please come to one of our Blueprints New Volunteer Information Sessions! Register at <http://habitat-mc.volunteerhub.com>**

## Sponsor Spotlight

**Bank of America** 

This year as part of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, Bank of America partnered with HFH-MC to sponsor the revitalization of two of our homes. Not only did Bank of America generously sponsor the rehabs but they also contributed through several Team Builds, where members of their staff came out on site for a day of volunteerism.

Elaine Feldman, a Bank of America employee, shares her experience.

*"It was amazing and very satisfying to see how much progress could be made in just one day! The difference it made was very obvious, not only in looks, but the cold, drafty house of the morning, through teamwork and expert guidance from the HFH-MC crew, gave way to a much more comfortable shelter by afternoon on a cold and rainy March day. Our team was so very pleased and proud of the small part we played in turning this house into a home."*

Mr. Bill Couper, Mid-Atlantic President, explains why Bank of America chooses to partner with Habitat.

*"Habitat goes way back in our DNA. We have a CEO that retired about 10 years ago who was very passionate about it and when he retired we pledged to do 250 houses with Habitat in his honor."*

Mr. Cooper also addressed the Habitat partner family as we celebrated the dedication of their home on Harrell Street (one of two Bank of America sponsored homes) on May 8th.

*"One of the great things about Habitat is the process of getting you ready for homeownership, and we couldn't be more pleased for you as you start your journey. We wish you the best of luck in your new home."*

On behalf of the staff, homeowners and supporters, thank you Bank of America for making the dream of homeownership possible for two families!

## Women Build

Evelyn is a single mother who currently lives in a two bedroom apartment with her young daughter, her parents and siblings. The apartment is very crowded, but she cannot afford to move out due to high rent costs. Evelyn and her daughter have been selected to become Habitat homeowners. Homeownership is something that Evelyn never thought was possible. Her dream is becoming a reality thanks to 15 like minded women who earlier this year formed a Women Build Committee as part of HFH-MC's Women Build Initiative. Many of these women are single mothers, or were raised by single mothers and understand the struggle that Evelyn is facing. These women have committed to help raise \$30,000 towards the rehabilitation of Evelyn's townhome as part of our Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

Women Build is about offering the opportunity for women to make a difference in the community while networking with other women. The committee has created individual online fundraising pages, held various networking events, and will be helping with the rehabilitation of Evelyn's new home. Men are welcome to join the effort too.

If you, or someone you know, would like to become involved with helping fundraise for Evelyn's new home, please contact Amanda Fein at [amanda.fein@habitat-mc.org](mailto:amanda.fein@habitat-mc.org) or (301) 990-0014 ext 20.



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