



Hilton Head Regional  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

**January, 2008**

21 Brendan Lane  
Bluffton, SC 29910  
(843) 757-6864  
(843) 757-6865 FAX  
Resale Stores  
Bluffton  
(843) 757-9995  
Ridgeland  
(843) 645-6510

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### **Regional Approach to Affordable Housing is Made Possible by You!**

In our August 2007 Newsletter, we announced that we were starting our first community in Jasper County known as New Ridge. The first house is under construction and is slated for completion in early winter. The second house at New Ridge will start soon with the third and fourth houses getting underway during the first quarter of 2008. New Ridge, located in the Town of Ridgeland, is a small community having four houses upon completion; however, it is a giant step for Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity. We are excited by the opportunity to serve the broader community and we thank you for your generous support which has allowed us to do so.

In the first half of 2008, we anticipate starting another community. The community will be developed in the Town of Ridgeland as we plan to build as many as 10 simple, decent and affordable houses within blocks of the center of Town. The design and development approvals for the Miller Street Community are progressing and we are searching far and wide for the funds initially needed to build the roads, utilities and storm water management systems so that we are able to pour the first foundation and start the first house in this new community. We are not finished! We anticipate starting the development of a third community nearby, a little later in 2008 or in early 2009!

You may be asking while reading this article, "Why is a Regional Approach important to affordable housing?" The first and most important answer is found in the article below entitled, "A Montage of Homeowners". The families who buy the simple, decent and affordable homes located in all of our communities may very well live in southern Beaufort County or Jasper County and work in Bluffton or on Hilton Head Island, or perhaps they already live in Jasper County and work there.

Our efforts to acquire land for new communities in Hilton Head, Bluffton, Okatie and Hardeeville continue. As of this writing, we are working on sites for potential projects in those locations as well. We hope to report success to you in the near future. The need for decent, simple and affordable housing is truly a Regional condition and we are approaching the condition with a Regional solution.

### **A Very Special Thanks to...**

The McNair Law Firm which continues to contribute its legal advice to us and the transactional know-how to get our projects underway and to close them out upon completion. We appreciate all of their efforts on our behalf!

Charter I Realty for the very generous donation of the Resale Store trucks which you see on the roads in the area, running from one address to another picking up the items which you so generously donate and which are sold at the two Resale Stores, on Route 46 in Bluffton and off of West Main Street in Ridgeland. Please visit either location soon to see whether the stores have just the right item for your home or office, at Bargain Prices!! While the trucks are not a recent contribution, they provide continuity to our efforts which we can never take for granted and for which we must never forget to say, "Thank you!"

The many volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors and others who work tirelessly on the Committees which "make things happen" on an everyday basis at Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity. Without these people volunteering their time and energy (and money too), we could not organize the efforts and build affordable homes in the southern Beaufort and Jasper Counties. The next time you see one of the Board members whose names are listed on the masthead of this newsletter, please introduce yourself and say thank you to them for all of their efforts on behalf of the cause for affordable housing.

## **A Montage of some of our typical Homebuyers**

Here are interesting facts about some of our typical home buyers:

- One family lives on Hilton Head Island and works throughout southern Beaufort County.
- One family lives and works in Bluffton.
- One family lives and works in Jasper County.
- One family lives in Bluffton and works on Hilton Head Island.

The heads of households are employed by both large and small employers in the Region such as The Boys & Girls Club, the Court system, a vending machine company and Wal-Mart. All of them are hardworking people who are doing the best they can to raise their families in a wholesome environment.

The families have an average of 2 children ranging in age from two years to 17 years old. One of the children has undergone two heart surgeries. The doctors recently discovered a condition which will require more heart surgeries. The family is delightful and is seemingly very happy while carrying into the future the prospect of repeated hospitalizations.

The adult members of many of our families grew up here in the Low Country and are raising their children in the Low Country. Some of the families have three generations living under one roof, the grandparents caring for the children while the parents are working at their jobs to pay the mortgage and other household expenses. One single parent, who has worked steadily since the twelfth grade, has raised her two daughters who are now five and twelve. She gets some help from her mother who lives nearby.

In performing their "sweat equity" (300 or 400 hours constructing homes or otherwise working on Habitat projects) and attending required workshops on topics such as budgeting and home repairs, they have already become a community. Their children know one another and enjoy playing together. They are very excited about their new homes and their lives in their new community. They are willing to perform sweat equity and otherwise qualify to purchase a Habitat home. There are many other families in the Low Country who are willing to do the same. Won't you help them live their dreams of owning a simple, decent and affordable home?

## **A Grateful, "Thank You!"**

Our Annual Appeal for 2007-2008 was launched shortly after Thanksgiving and you have once again responded in overwhelming fashion. Without your generous support each year, we would not be able to search for land, develop it and then build the houses which our homebuyers purchase with zero interest mortgages and their "sweat equity". It may be a trite phrase, but our appreciation is real and, "We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!" The Appeal is on-going so if you have not had the opportunity to make a donation because of the Holiday crunch, it is not too late (it never is)! If you have misplaced the Annual Appeal letter and brochure, please call us at the number on the masthead of this newsletter and we will send you the information, or you may send your donation to the address noted on the masthead.

We also thank each and everyone who generously donated personal property to the two Resale Stores in Bluffton and Ridgeland. We certainly thank all those people and companies who shopped and purchased items at the two stores during 2007. Without the support of both of these groups along with our volunteers and staff who operate the stores, the Resale stores could not be successful in providing the operating funds which support the development and construction of our simple, decent and affordable houses.

## **A Donation of 165 Acres of Land near Hardeeville!**

Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity has been the recipient of a donation of approximately 165 acres of land near Hardeeville. We are thankful to be able to continue our mission to eradicate substandard housing in the Hilton Head Region. At first estimate well before engineering of the site is undertaken, we estimate that upon development of the site, the donation will allow us to provide as many as 200 families the opportunity to acquire their own simple decent and affordable houses here in the Low Country. Of course, we must first fund the design and construction of the storm water system, roads, water and sewer lines to the serve the anticipated houses, but we have now have the basis for our largest community to date! Watch for upcoming communications as to how we all might help in undertaking the development of this large community.

## From the Volunteer Coordinator's Corner ... Lois Wilkinson

Volunteering with Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity has many benefits. Among them is the opportunity to meet some very interesting people like the ones below:



These students from the University of Wisconsin participated in Habitat for Humanity's International Collegiate Challenge, spending their winter break with us. This year we will welcome over 150 students from all over the country during winter and spring breaks



These Care-A-Vanners stopped for a few days on their way from Massachusetts to Florida. They are seasoned Habitat volunteers who we hope to see on their return trip.

This group of Russian health care workers, posing here with a Habitat homebuyer and their Rotary sponsors, came to build with us for one day.



Tuck Daniels (right) and Will (left) Linn are our construction managers. Between them they have over fifty years of building experience and they are dedicated to providing our volunteers with a rewarding and fun experience while they build homes for those who need and work for them.



"Smokey", the puppy adopted by volunteer Rich Czark after a fire, is a regular at the construction site. He especially loves coffee breaks. (and obviously Rich)!

You will also get to meet long-time volunteer Roger Carlson who is our photographer and the top recruiter of volunteers from Sun City and Jim Gant who cooks up a delicious lunch each Tuesday for the college groups who are visiting.



Come and join a wonderful and capable group of women who started construction on the fourth Habitat house built totally by women on February 9th. The house is funded by the Palmetto Bluff Women and will be completed and dedicated for a single father and his son on Father's Day.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to meet all of our interesting, enthusiastic and generous volunteers. Call me and we will get you started right away!