



May, 2006

21 Brendan Lane
Bluffton, SC 29910
(843) 757-5864

(843) 757-5865 FAX

Resale Store

(843) 757-9995

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Susan Sommer

Patricia Carey Wirth, Executive Director

Sixteen years ago a small group of interested local residents met at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Hilton Head Island to talk about establishing an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity on Hilton Head Island. Their ambition was to build a house for a family in need. Not only did they accomplish that task, but by the end of this year, Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity will have built seventy-six houses for hardworking, deserving local families in need of a simple place to call home.

Through a very generous donation by a local real estate developer, Brendan Woods, a Habitat community in Bluffton, has grown over six years to a thriving community that will soon be home to sixty-one families. The community is nearing completion and Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity is in need of more land.

Habitat houses are built at no profit and Habitat goes on to hold the mortgages on the houses with no interest loans. A four bedroom two bath house sells for \$70,000. Through these favorable terms, a family pays a monthly mortgage payment of about \$350, which includes principal, interest, taxes and pest control.

Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity is the only organization building new homes in southern Beaufort County for those residents who earn between 20% and 50% of the median income of the county. Without land, we simply cannot fulfill our mission of eliminating sub-standard housing everywhere it exists in southern Beaufort County. Without additional land on which to build, people will continue to live in sub-standards houses and trailers in overcrowded conditions with inadequate or absent water, sewer and heat. *We ask that those individuals in the community who may have knowledge of available land contact our office at 757-5864. Put your faith into action and offer a hand up, not a hand out to a neighbor in need.*

Without land,
there is no habitat.



Call 757.5864 to donate your land.

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

Each year Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity recognizes the many volunteers who live the Habitat mission which is "to eliminate substandard housing and homelessness and break the cycle of poverty that inadequate housing fosters". Each volunteer who gives 100 hours or more of their time building houses or working for our resale store is awarded a "golden hammer". This year seventy-nine volunteers were recognized. Our leading volunteer has worked 692 hours this year and we have four volunteers who have worked over 500 hours and five who have worked over 300 hours. On most working days at Brendan Woods, the Habitat community in Bluffton, you can see at least thirty area residents enjoying the camaraderie of building houses together.

Golden hammer recipients were:

Jim Fisher 692	David McCrumb 220	Gil Leska 160	Dick Fowler 116
Kathy Emery 560	Scott Whitcher 208	E.P. Langenhan 160	Carl Siebers 112
Dick Armfield 532	Dick Hart 204	Roger Carlson 156	Bob Swimmer 108
Norm Galli 520	Anne Marie Lauzon 204	Fred Prince 152	Don Bottone 108
Joe Keenan 360	Gen Wesselmann 196	Eileen Buth 152	Janine Nelson 108
Paul Kelly 332	David Nelson 196	Lee Ozley 148	Frank Kelly 108
Henry Diercxsens 324	Joan Crowley 184	Hugh O'Kane 146	Bob Winteler 104
Andy Herriott 260	Sheldon Solochek 184	Clint Rushing 132	Doug Soucie 104
Frank Bennett 260	Ed Henderson 184	Bob Herberger 132	Margie Smith 100
Ann Gillen 256	Mel Gates 174	Bob Herberger 132	Joe Messineo 100
Susie Knight 244	Paul Brunelle 173	Terri Ozley 120	Pat Messineo 100
Len Bibbo 222	Carl Lynn 168	Charlotte Kensky 120	

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of our neighbors to come and work together in partnership to help build homes with families in need. The top ten reasons to become a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity are:

10. You get to use that "thing-a-ma-jig" that hangs on the garage wall all year.
9. You are able to deduct all your earnings!
8. You will pass your yearly sweat gland check-up with flying colors
7. You will get to meet people even klutzier than you
6. You will save money by not having your boat break down that day
5. It will keep you busy 'til tee time
4. Free coffee and refreshments!
3. You get to wear a tool belt
2. If you work 100 hours in a year you receive a "golden hammer"

And #1. You will experience the joy of seeing a family have their dream come true!!!

For information on volunteering please call Lois Wilkinson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 757-5864.

Fine Art Auction

*Oldfield is pleased to host this Benefit for
Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity*

on

Saturday, July 15, 2006

6:30 p.m.

at the Golf Clubhouse

Call 757-5864 for Tickets or information

Americorps Update ... Susan Sommer Americorps Member

THANK YOU, to this amazing affiliate, to the incredible volunteers who help build homes and hope with Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity and to the Americorps program that allowed me to pursue two years of service to others.

On June 30, 2006, my commitment with Americorps ends. Americorps allows its members a maximum of two years in the program, and I was blessed to have been able to spend both of those years building with Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity.

When I made the decision to take a leave of absence and work with Habitat, I knew I was embarking on a most excellent adventure. I could not know, of course, the extent of the blessings: learning a new trade; managing my fear of heights (Brendan Woods looks lovely from the roof!); becoming stronger, physically, mentally and spiritually; putting my Faith and Love into action; marrying a beautiful man who has such a kind and generous heart; meeting, getting to know, and loving the wonderful folks who offer themselves to help others become homeowners.

My love to all you incredible women who have put your hands and hearts into the homes of Denise Drayton **WomenBUILD 2005** and Melania Ramos **WomenBUILD 2006**. I have grown and become the person I am today because of you. Come on out for **WomenBUILD 2007!** Fundraising plans already are underway and include a second event at the **JAZZ CORNER** scheduled for October 2006.

The mission of Habitat, eradicating poverty housing worldwide, has become the mission of my heart. I want to use these newly learned construction skills to keep building houses for good folks who otherwise cannot afford them. I want to see "affordable housing" mean something tangible. I want to continue Hurricane Relief Efforts along the Gulf Coast, where the need is tremendous and the work endless. I want to lead more Global Village Trips, such as the one Tuck and I took to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota last fall, and the one we will lead this November 2006 to build with Habitat in Northern Ireland. My leave of absence is permanent. By God's grace, I will continue on this path of Service.

Every day I give thanks for the opportunity I received two years ago. It has expanded my heart and taught me to listen. Always I have known the possibilities are endless – now I am living that Truth.

God's blessings and His great love to you all.

Susan

WomenBUILD 2006 Kick Off



WomenBUILD 2006 Dedication

