

**July 2005**

21 Brendan Lane  
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# Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity

## Patricia Carey Wirth, Executive Director

As we close out our Fifteenth Anniversary Year, Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity continues to offer a hand up, not a hand out, to hardworking, deserving local families.

In the remaining months of 2005, we will dedicate a house built and funded by a group of local Methodist Churches and another house funded by Caring Coins, the Hargray Foundation, and constructed by members of Low Country Community Church. Two houses will be funded by the Fund for Humanity, the program by which Habitat homeowners provide construction funding for new houses through their mortgage payments. We will see infrastructure construction begin shortly for Phase Three, the final phase, of Brendan Woods, which will contain nineteen lots. Several houses have already been sponsored in Phase Three. The South Carolina Association of Realtors will fund and blitz build a house in conjunction with their annual convention in September, which will be held on Hilton Head Island this year. Our local Association of Realtors will fund and blitz build another house during the same three days, their third in as many years. First Presbyterian Church on Hilton Head Island will begin its fourth house in four years in October. A family, who are members of the church, will donate \$5,000 to adopt the lot for the First Presbyterian house. Church members Will donate \$40,000 to build the house. Residents of Palmetto Dunes will begin construction of the house they funded in late October. A family in Palmetto Dunes has donated \$5,000 to adopt the lot on which the Palmetto Dunes house will be built, bringing the total contribution from Palmetto Dunes residents to \$45,000.

A wonderful first occurred recently when a local couple offered to fund the entire construction of a house in honor of their fortieth wedding anniversary. What marvelous generosity!

At our last New Family Orientation, seventy-six families attended to learn more about how they can make their dream of homeownership a reality. That number comes quickly into perspective when you consider that we will build twelve to fifteen houses in 2006. The need for simple, decent housing continues to grow in southern Beaufort County area. Please pick up a hammer, donate an item to the Resale Store or write a check. All are greatly needed. We simply can't do it without your help.

## Director of Family Services ... Jerry Grubb

As the "new kid on the block", I have gotten an education after becoming the Director of Family Services.

Like most other people I was unaware that Habitat For Humanity was a Christian based organization. I was also unaware that the applicants purchased their residences.

Since I became employed by Habitat, I have witnessed a lot of wonderful happenings. I have seen people work very hard to accomplish what most of us take for granted. I have seen homeowners cry to the point of not being able to speak in order to thank the persons involved in helping obtain their dream. I have also seen homebuyers work very hard to complete houses that will eventually be owned by their neighbors even though they have not yet been selected for a home site themselves.

The brotherhood, friendship, love and compassion that is shown to each other in these homes being built is something that everyone should experience.

I encourage you to visit our Habitat subdivision and see first-hand for yourself what can be accomplished but, better still, I encourage you to shed tears of joy with us at a new home dedication.

## Americorps Update ... Susan Sommer Americorps Member

What an amazing year this has been. My position as the affiliate's Americorps member has afforded me the chance to do important work, good work, work that satisfies the soul. The blessings have been many, and I am constantly grateful for the opportunity I have to build homes and to build Hope.

Two months in to my commitment, I wished to stay another term. The reasons then are the same I have now: every day I come to work is a positive experience; there is laughter here and heartfelt warmth as volunteers and homeowners build together in a common purpose; each person has a story, some spoken, others held silent, but the end result is that everyone of us puts our hands to use to help others. In no other work have I known such a sense of satisfaction and peace. It was with deep gratitude, then, that I said "yes" when asked to stay on another term as this affiliate's Americorps member.

As the Americorps member this year (9/04 – 7/05), I had the opportunity to learn new skills and accomplish tasks I never considered doing before. For example, I walked a scaffold, even though I stood frozen in place for fifteen minutes because of my fear of heights; I stood on the top of a roof, with help, and had a whole different, beautiful view of Brendan Woods; and I drove a BobCat and used it to move dirt. I had the chance to lead the WomenBuild, which started January 15, 2005, with ninety-five women on the foundation raising the walls. The WomenBuild concluded May 7, 2005, the day before Mother's Day, and its success in providing women a place to learn and work together was evident by the large number of us who attended the dedication of Denise Drayton's home. I am confident now of my abilities to do construction work, and although I still have much to learn, I am excited to keep on building.

One of the places I will build this coming term, in addition to here in Brendan Woods, is on the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. Tuck Daniels, the affiliate's construction supervisor, and I are leading a team from August 27 – September 3, 2005, to help build or rehab reservation homes. We are leading this trip through the Global Village program of Habitat for Humanity International. Ten good folks are joining us: eight are from the Hilton Head Regional affiliate's group of volunteers; one is from California; and one is from Wisconsin. The trip will be an excellent cultural experience for all of us; we go to learn rather than to teach. I am certain we also will come away with a much greater appreciation of the need for affordable housing within the United States.

Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity has been blessed with land on which to build a neighborhood and with numerous volunteers who want to do the work. All you need do is come here – you will see and feel, then, what it means to put Love into action.

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

Many volunteers work just until their special project is completed but others continue to work on a weekly or daily basis wherever they are assigned. This April, during Volunteer Recognition Week, golden hammer pins were awarded to forty-seven volunteers who worked at least 100 hours during the year. Of those, ten worked over 200 hours and one volunteer worked a total of 706 hours.

Many volunteers find special areas and projects to help further the work of this affiliate. We currently have an expert gardener who comes to plant and tend the gardens around the community center. He joined with six college students to plant forty trees along the streets of Brendan Woods this spring. Our office staff is enhanced by one loyal volunteer in the construction office and one who willingly does whatever general office work needs to be done. Others are available for short term special clerical projects.

I especially love to see young people get involved. We attract volunteers from Habitat for Humanity International's Collegiate Challenge. In 2005 we hosted 168 students and profited from their contributions of approximately \$20,000.00 and their 3780 hours of building. Recently a youth group from an Anderson, SC spent a week in the area and completed 304 hours of work for Habitat. Many local youth groups and individuals are also involved. This summer, a local boy who is home from prep school for the summer has taken time from the beach and summer fun to join our work crew. He is enjoying the work and the camaraderie with his retired neighbors who form the basis of our volunteers. We are awaiting a special visit from some Vacation Bible School students from Daufuskie Island to tour Brendan Woods and attend the dedication of a new house. These children were challenged by their leader to raise \$50 for Habitat for Humanity. They were so enthusiastic about the project that they raised \$205, which they will present to us when they visit.

If you would like to volunteer please call me at 757-5864 and we will schedule a time for a tour of Brendan Woods and orientation. We appreciate each gift from our volunteers. Whether great or small, we know they come from the heart.

**New Family Orientation**

**Our next Meetings will be on:**

**On 25 October 24, 2005 at the M. C. Riley School, Bluffton, SC at 6:30 PM**

**Here is my  
Tax-deductible donation**

\$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Website [www.habitathhi.org](http://www.habitathhi.org)  
**“ A hand up ... not a hand out.”**