



**Habitat  
for Humanity®**  
of Rhode Island -  
Greater Providence, Inc.

## Inside this issue

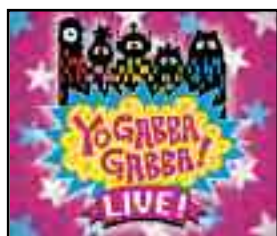
**Bike & Build** ..... 1  
**Volunteer spotlight** .... 2  
**Corporate Sponsorship** .2  
**Supporters** ..... 3  
**Site updates** ..... 3  
**Yo Gabba Gabba!** ..... 3  
**In Memoriam** ..... 4

**Member:**



The Housing Network

**G R E A T E R  
P R O V I D E N C E  
C H A M B E R O F  
C O M M E R C E**



Looking for a great way to spend time with the whole family, and help Habitat Providence at the same time?

**See page 3 for details**



FALL 2010

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

# Bike & Build continues its support for Habitat

**F**or many of us, flying across the country is in itself a major undertaking, not to be done too often. Then there are those few of us who believe that flying is way too easy, and instead they take the roads less traveled, or in this case, the bike paths.

“Bike & Build” is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to placing low income families into affordable housing. The organization arranges trips for college age cyclists from all over the country to make the journey from the East Coast to the West Coast of America during the summer months. They take designated bike path routes and secondary roads across the country from a city on the east coast (the Atlantic ocean) to a city on the west coast (the Pacific ocean). Each team usually consists of about 30 to 33 riders, mostly students, and it takes about nine weeks to complete the trip. At certain intervals the team stops for a day to work on a Habitat for Humanity building site.

Bike & Build was founded in 2002 as a way to expand on the Habitat Bicycle

Challenge, a bike trip from Connecticut to California to raise funds for Habitat.

The aspects of these trips that benefit Habitat are manifold. In the first place, because the starting point of the trips to Seattle and San Francisco are in Providence, a large financial donation is given to Habitat Providence to help in the construction of our many housing units. The donation is raised by the cyclists from their own fundraising efforts. Another aspect of Bike & Build is that before the cyclists kick off and head west from Providence, they volunteer on one of our sites for a day. A lot of work can be done by 30 or more young, eager and enthusiastic volunteers. The third aspect, and in our opinion the most important, is in awareness raising: these young, future leaders of our country become (painfully?) aware of the issues connected with affordable housing and the lack there-of. In turn, they spread the word during their trip in the towns and communities they pass through or stop at for the night.

We hope and trust that the

relationship between Habitat Providence and Bike & Build will continue for many years to come and that many more families will benefit from this partnership.

**See related story on page 4.**



### Two Bike & Build workers

construct a header to go over a window or door opening on 17 Handy St. The workers and riders all wear these nifty shirts, not only on the work site, but also on their rides to the west coast.

## Volunteer Spotlight



### Glenn Hardy

Glenn came to a Habitat site for the first time in 2001 with a church group. The group never came back and is long forgotten... but Glenn liked what he saw and kept on coming, first to the rehab project of the triple-decker on Potters Ave, and then as one of "The Regulars" on many different sites.

He likes the change of pace from his daily job (computers at Lifespan) and he likes construction, building, and making things, but most of all he likes making a mess (his words, not ours). He likes talking sports, politics and current events: and he has plenty of company on site.

Glenn started to realize how worth while it is to provide families with decent and affordable housing. He saw as well that taking dirty and abandoned lots and changing them to tax paying properties, is not only good for our families, it is good for the community.

Two years ago Glenn joined the Habitat board: it was, as he put it, "another way" to help. He finds it an interesting time to be on the board as we increase the volume of construction. The board, more than ever, has to control the growth and acquire the needed resources and staff to ensure the work gets done.

# Corporate sponsorship and Habitat Providence

**A** "community" is a group of people, a neighborhood, the public, society, kinship, unity... just to mention a few definitions. Without the support of the "community," Habitat Providence could not exist. We thrive on the support of all those elements which make up our community: schools, clubs, and volunteers from all walks of life, churches, and associations. However, we often miss a major part of the community: the businesses. Corporate sponsorship is an integral part of Habitat Providence. Companies have helped Habitat in many different ways. Even in a down economy, private industries still come forward to make in-kind (materials or land) and monetary donations, and often send their employees to volunteer on our sites.

These companies understand that volunteering and donating to Habitat comes with its own benefits. First of all, donations are tax deductible. Secondly, a business that volunteers on a regular basis or makes a considerable donation will be listed on the Habitat Providence website and will be mentioned—or featured—in our newsletter and may use the site for advertising. There are no better public relations than having a company's logo displayed proudly from a

Habitat for Humanity construction site. When the place of business of the company is in the area of the construction site as well, it can show the rest of community that they care.

Companies understand that connecting to the people's hearts and not just their wallets is the best way to continue steady business. Habitat Providence is one tool in the development and expansion of the city neighborhoods. With more decent and affordable housing and less vacant lots, more people will be attracted to come to Providence, creating not only new customers, but a supply of employees as well.

Having employees volunteering on site is a great team and morale builder. Employees feel proud of their company participating in a project that benefits the city; they see each other in a different light and getting out of the office and being outside on a nice day isn't too bad either.

Corporate Sponsors therefore are vital to the success of this organization. Sponsors help with the funding and volunteering for Habitat Providence, while Habitat Providence provides team building, employee morale and a positive image for the company and the neighborhood.



**Bank of America Volunteers** work on building and raising exterior walls along side our "regulars" who show up weekly. The house on Swan St. was started in April of this year and is progressing well as this June picture shows. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, worth half as much as spending a Saturday in the Summer when the sun is shining on a Habitat site.

## Update from the Sites:

(Home sponsor or primary volunteer group is noted in parentheses.)

- **124 Potters Ave:** This older Habitat house was re-purchased and then rehabilitated. Completed in April.
- **38-40 Veazie Street:** (*Bike & Build*) Preparation work is being done before installing flooring, fencing, porches and kitchen cabinets are to follow soon in the duplex.
- **41-43 Jefferson Ave – Pawtucket:** Our first project “Outside Providence.” The Pawtucket Project (a duplex) is at the same stage as the Veazie Street duplex.
- **301 Swan Street:** This single family home is currently working on roofing and inside partitions.
- **11 Trask Street:** This single family home is also working on roofing and inside partitions.

Update photos in this issue by Colleen Fox Choiniere



**11 Trask St.:** Interior walls are being constructed.



**(ABOVE) 301 Swan St.** Roof shingles are being applied to this single family house.

**(RIGHT) 38-40 Veazie St.** Posts are set in concrete for the chain link fence that was erected between the Habitat house and the house next door.



**Visit us on our new  
Web Site**  
<http://www.habitatprov.org>  
**Look for us on Facebook**

- Site updates
- Contact information
- Volunteer opportunities

## Many thanks to our supporters...

Adler's Hardware  
All State Foundation  
AMICA Insurance  
Amtrol  
Anchor Insulation and Insul-Mart.  
Bank of America

### "SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT" Benjamin Moore Paints

Bike & Build  
The Champlain Foundation  
Citadel Comm. Corp.  
City of Providence  
David Angell Memorial Fund  
Dimeo Construction  
Fannie Mae  
Federal Home Loan Bank, Boston  
FirstFed Charitable Foundation  
Frost Family Charitable Fund  
Fund for Community Progress  
Hoffman Charitable Gift Fund  
Housing Network  
Interstate Electrical Services  
Jones Warehouse and Moving Company  
KPMG LLP  
Larsen Doors  
Lynch's Cleaning Service  
Margaret Walker Puritan Foundation  
Microfibres  
Narragansett Improvement  
Nationwide Insurance  
Ocean State Blueprint  
Pawtucket Credit Union  
Places and Spaces Realty  
Residential Properties  
R.I. Commission on Women  
Rhode Island Foundation  
Rhode Island Housing  
Rotary Club of Providence  
Sacajawea Charitable Foundation  
Savage & Luther Family Foundation  
Smith Boilers  
Tyco Inc.  
UCC of R.I.  
United Way of R.I.  
U.S. Senator Jack Reed  
Ward, Fisher & Co. LLP  
Washington Trust Company  
Wells Fargo Housing Foundation  
Whirlpool  
Wildwood Foundation  
Ed Wojcik Architects  
YouthBuild, Providence

## It takes all kinds of people to build a house...

**Y**o Gabba Gabba! has announced a 60 city North American Tour and will be partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Rhode Island—Greater Providence, Inc. One dollar from every ticket sold will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Today's hottest live show for families will be making a stop at the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) on September 28th. Yo Gabba Gabba! Live! There's Party in my City! will be a great way to spend time with the family and to raise money to help build affordable housing in Providence.



**Brobee of Yo Gabba Gabba** works on site with a miter saw with volunteers from Dermatology Professional Inc. on Trask St.

Please call the PPAC Box Office at (401) 421-ARTS (2787) or visit the PPAC Web site ([www.ppacri.org](http://www.ppacri.org)) for more information and to buy tickets.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **In memory of *Paige Hicks***

Brown University student Paige Hicks, Class of 2011, was bicycling across the United States, from Providence to Seattle, to raise money for Habitat for Humanity, when she was fatally hit by a trailer truck's wide load on the afternoon of July 20.

Paige was on her second coast-to-coast cross country cycling trip, serving as the trip leader, and died on Highway 18 on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in south-central South Dakota. She was a natural leader and well liked by all who came in contact with her.

As the route leader in the group of riders organized by Bike & Build, she began her 3,860-mile ride to Seattle on June 15 in Providence, R.I., and had stopped along side the road and was standing on the shoulder with another cyclist when she was hit. Paige had covered more than 2,200 miles before the accident, according to the Bike & Build's Web site, and had raised more than \$4,000 for affordable housing.

