



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

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Member:



The Housing Network

**GREATER
PROVIDENCE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**



Why is this woman sitting on a roof? See page 3.



Spring 2007

www.habitatprov.org

Realtors raise money and make another 'House-in-a-Box' for Katrina victims

The National Association of Realtors decided to step up to the plate to provide housing for families who lost their homes when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast. The most logical way for them to accomplish this goal was to team up with Habitat for Humanity and its program Operation Home Delivery (OHD).

Since OHD began immediately after Hurricane Katrina struck in late August 2005, over 700 houses have been constructed in the affected area. By mid-summer 2007, 1,000 houses will have been completed or under construction, and more than 50,000 volunteers will have worked through Habitat to carry out recovery efforts. In fact, Habitat for Humanity is the single largest home-builder in the region. The NAR raised enough funds to sponsor 54 houses, one per state plus a few to spare.

The Rhode Island Association of Realtors (RIAR) was part of the challenge and raised the \$75,000 it takes to complete a "House-in-a-Box." Planning

started in January and on April 12 and 13 (a Friday!) it all came together. Under the technical supervision of George Issa from Habitat South County, about 30 volunteers, mostly realtors and some Habitat people, framed a single-story, three-bedroom house, took it apart, and loaded the panels on a MAERSK truck to be shipped to Lake Charles, La.

On Thursday, April 12, (cold and wet!) the platform, window, and door frames were built; on Friday the 13th, the weather cleared, the walls of the house were framed, erected for testing, taken down, and by 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon the truck was loaded and departed for Louisiana.

Special thanks go to Susan Arnold, CEO of the RIAR, Becky Moniz (logistics), John Silvia (food), and Ronald Phipps (a local realtor) who spearheaded the project nationwide by challenging each state association to raise the \$75,000 needed, for a national total of \$3.75 million.



Volunteer Spotlight



Helen Lister

Helen has volunteered on the Habitat Providence building sites for nearly four years and has become a part of the "Regulars," the group of volunteers that is always there and that can be relied on to do jobs well. Helen volunteers her time in addition to juggling her responsibilities as a parent, teacher and part-time chef.

When asked what the benefits are from her experience with this Habitat affiliate, Helen listed many: "It is a great opportunity to learn new skills with a team of other people, both skilled and non-skilled, toward the goal of creating home ownership opportunities that would not otherwise be possible." She emphasized that working with the families at Habitat sites gives each volunteer a deeper appreciation for what they have.

Helen also credits the dedication of other volunteers as inspiration for her regular involvement. "There are some truly talented and inspiring people working on these sites. I know that without their patience and dedication, I would not have the skills I have today. The families and the other volunteers are my inspiration." We thank Helen, and all of the regular volunteers, (Mike, Michelle, Glen, Tim and Jamie) for their ongoing support and dedication.



May 12, 2007: The first wall goes up for the third Bike & Build house, located at 17 Handy St.

Three years of Bike & Build and another house

When Bike & Build alumnus Josh Champagne told me that he and a group of students would raise \$50,000 for Habitat Providence by riding their bicycles across the country, I thought, "Yeah, right." After that first trip in 2004 when Josh presented me with the check, I was happy to have been wrong.

Bike & Build's impact on Habitat Providence over the past three years has been significant. Habitat Providence's relationship with Bike & Build began with that first trip in 2004 that raised \$50,000 and again in 2005. On May 12, a new project raised its first wall that has also been completely funded by two Bike & Build groups from 2006. Present at the event were both Bike & Build alumni and newcomers.

Since many Bike & Builders study in R.I., we have them on our site on a regular basis – some from Brown, some from Providence College, many from elsewhere. Recently, we had a

Bike & Build painting day, in which about 25 B&B alumni put an entire coat of interior paint on one of our new houses at 13 Steere Ave.

In addition to the funds that Bike & Build has raised for Habitat, they also helped us to publicize our mission of providing affordable housing. Bike & Build's innovative, effective program attracts a great deal of positive attention in the community.

I could not exaggerate enough how much we appreciate what Bike & Build does for us, not only for our local Habitat affiliate but for Habitat for Humanity nationally. Without the help of programs like theirs, we could not do what we do. It is heartening to know that there are so many college students willing to devote their time to affordable housing rather than a vacation in, say, Cancun. I look forward to working and building with new classes of Bike & Build groups in the future.

– Herman deKoe



Fasten your tool belts... it's time for Women Build!

Be part of the planning board for this exceptional event of the Women Build house for Habitat for Humanity, Providence, Sept., 2007, 815 Potters Ave.

Invest your time and talent in any of the following areas:

- Construction • Carpentry • Communications • Project Management • Training •
- Special Events • Food Services • Sponsor Relations • Volunteers •
- Event Ambassador •

E-mail us at kratte@edwojickarchitect.com with your name, address, daytime/cell phone, e-mail address and any specific area of interest you may have... any and all talent welcome!

Update from the Sites:

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

■ **11 Crowninshield Street**
(Bike & Build 2005-06)

Entering the home stretch: flooring is done, kitchen cabinets are hung and the walls are painted.

■ **13 Steere Avenue**

(The regulars' house) The porch, drywall, floors, interior painting and kitchen cabinets are done. Interior doors being installed.

■ **17 Ida Street** (YouthBuild 2005-06) Completed.

■ **9 Daboll Street** (Bank of America) Same state as Crowninshield and Steere, floor nearly complete.

■ **47 Capron Street** (Youth-Build 2006-07) Drywall nearly complete and exterior ready to paint.

■ **31 Elma Street** (Rehab of older Habitat house, done by Wednesday crew) Exterior completed, interior is nearly finished.

■ **17 Handy Street** (Bike & Build 2007-08) Foundation is in, and we have begun wall framing.



Left: Jamie German is finishing the porch roof rafters at 13 Steere Ave.



Top right: future home owner at 13 Steere Ave. cleans up. 2/3/07

Middle: top layer of flooring nailed down prior to tiling. 3/3/07

Bottom: porch roof being built at Crowninshield. 3/10/07

Many thanks to our supporters...

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- Ed Wojcik Architects
- YouthBuild, Providence

How to contribute and get more involved:

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

- Site updates
- Contact information
- Volunteer opportunities

Wanted: LAND

If you see any in the Providence area during your travels, call the office at (401) 831-5424.

You can now support **Habitat for Humanity** by making a donation of **shares of stock** from your investment portfolio.

Contact the office at (401) 831-5424 for details.



Donate your old car to **Habitat For Humanity...** and use it as a **TAX DEDUCTION.** For more information, go to <http://www.habitat.org/carforhomes/>

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