



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

of Rhode Island - Greater
Providence, Inc.

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Member:



Taking flowers home to plant in his own garden. (See "Building a block," on Page 2.)



Winter 2006

www.habitatprov.org

R.I. Habitat makes a "House-in-a-Box"

In late August 2005, just after the tragic Hurricanes Katrina and Rita collided with the Gulf Coast, Habitat for Humanity International responded by creating Operation Home Delivery, a large-scale plan for helping to rebuild in the Gulf Region of the U.S. Part of the initial plan for Operation Home Delivery is the "House-in-a-Box" phase, a simple idea that makes it possible for house walls to be built in other parts of the country and shipped to the Gulf region for assembly.

The first "House-in-a-Box" to reach the Gulf region was built in September, 2005, at the Rockefeller Center in New York City, in an event held for Habitat International and publicized on NBC's The Today Show. In November, 2005, a Habitat group from every state gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to build an astonishing 51 "Houses-in-a-Box."

The Habitat Providence affiliate decided to continue this work by building a "House-in-a-Box" on its own. In October, 2005, an event at the India Restaurant in Warren raised \$25,006 to benefit Operation Home Delivery, and

the Rhode Island "House-in-a-Box" project was underway.

In September of this year, students from the University of R.I. (the URI community also raised about \$35,000 for this project) built components which included door and window frames for a one-story house, under the supervision of the South County Habitat affiliate.

The project was then completed on October 7, 2006, in Providence, at the Bank America skating rink in Kennedy Plaza. The components were fitted into the wall framing, which were then

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Walls were raised to test the "fit" prior to shipping to Mississippi. More pictures, Pg 4.



Volunteer Spotlight



Remembering Alan Axelrod

The Habitat Providence affiliate approached the Jewish Federation of R.I. a few years ago with an invitation to become involved with Habitat for Humanity. Notwithstanding the fact that Habitat is a Christian-based organization, Alan Axelrod was a strong supporter of our efforts. He invoked the central Jewish values of Tikkum Olam and Tzadakah to stress that the Jewish Federation supports programs which share these core values. His infectious enthusiasm was unstoppable and within a short time we had a large number of volunteers — and site supervisors — signed up for the Habitat Build Days on Sundays.

Alan was on site nearly every time the team from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island was building — until he became ill. He came back last summer a few times and we all hoped we would be seeing more of Alan. We learned with deep sadness that Alan died recently. Although he is no longer here in body, his enthusiasm and support remains with us in spirit.

He will be missed.

Building a block in Tennessee

Whirlpool Corporation has supported Habitat for Humanity for many years by donating a refrigerator and a stove for each house built in the U.S. The Habitat Providence affiliate has made use of this generous offer for all the homes built here in Providence. This year, Whirlpool stepped up their involvement with Habitat by organizing the first of an annual event called “Building Blocks.” The purpose of “Building Blocks” is to bring together Whirlpool employees, Habitat families from a selected affiliate and Habitat volunteers from each of the states to build an entire block of homes.



Herman “at work” in Nashville, Tennessee.

This year, Nashville, Tennessee, was selected as the location for the build, and Bob Arena and Herman deKoe traveled to Nashville to represent Rhode Island in the construction of 10 houses in five days. It was an excellent opportunity for Bob and Herman to see the organization of such a large project. Herman noted, “It was great to work with so many dedicated volunteers and professionals and to see the results in such a short time.” But it was not all work and no play as the volunteers had the opportunity to enjoy the music at “The Grand Ole Opry” and in the neighboring honky tonks.

Bike & Build rides again... twice!



Bike & Build did it again! This year, five teams rode their bikes across the United States for the purpose of raising funds and awareness for the needs of affordable housing in this country. Two teams left Providence on their bicycles in June. The first team traveled a northern route and ended in Seattle, Wash., while the other team followed a more southern route and ended the extraordinary trip in San Francisco, Calif. Both teams reported an excellent trip, keeping us informed of their progress by daily bulletins on their website.

In an effort to support this incredible undertaking the Providence affiliate sent parcels of goodies to keep the riders pedaling. Please visit their Website www.bikeandbuild.org for more information and pictures of these trips. The amount raised for the affiliate is an incredible \$110,000, which will be used to sponsor a house in Providence.

Update from the Sites:

(Home Sponsor or Primary Volunteer Group noted in parentheses.)

■ **11 Crowninshield St.** (*Bike & Build*) The exterior is complete and the rough electrical and plumbing and heating are in place. The next step is insulation, drywall and painting.

■ **13 Steere Ave** (*Regular Volunteers*) The porch, fencing and drywall are being installed and interior painting is next.

■ **17 Ida Street** (*YouthBuild House 2005/2006*) The house is nearly complete. Flooring and final trim work are in progress

■ **9 Daboll Street** (*Bank of America*) The exterior is complete. Drywall installation is in progress, interior painting is the next step.

■ **47 Capron Street** (*Youth-Build House 2006/2007*) The exterior walls are up and the roof trusses and shingles are in progress.

■ **31 Elma Street** (*Rehabilitation of Habitat House*) The exterior is complete, interior is in progress.



Ripping planks for the porch on 13 Steere Ave.



New homeowner Margarita Pineda (right) takes possession of her house on Putnam St., Sept. 9, 2006, from Herman deKoe (left) and Bill Dibiasio (center), Chairman of Habitat Providence.

“House-in-a-Box” *Continued from Page 1* loaded onto a large truck to be shipped to Jackson County, Mississippi. There, the frames will be placed on its foundation, the house will be completed, and one more family who lost their home to the hurricanes will have a new home to call their own. It was a great event (sponsored by Ed Wojcik Architect) with dozens of volunteers from all four R. I. Habitat affiliates. Lunch was provided by India Restaurant. The event was attended by many volunteers including Nic Retsinas, Chairman of the Board of Habitat International, Gov. Donald Carcieri, U.S. Congressman Jim Langevin, U.S. Senator-elect Sheldon Whitehouse and by many passers-by and well wishers.

Many thanks to our many supporters...

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- United Way of R.I.
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- Ed Wojcik Architects
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- YouthBuild, Providence

How to contribute and get more involved...

Habitat for Humanity: Building houses, communities and hope.



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/>

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.



House-in-a-box, October 9, 2006 See story on page one
Bank of America skating rink in downtown Providence and URI
These photos, and the "House-in-a-box" photos on page, one are by Colleen Fox Choiniere



URI, Sept. 2006

