



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

## Inside this issue

**Women Build progress . 1**

**House sponsors needed 2**

**Volunteer spotlight .... 2**

**Supporters ..... 3**

**Site updates ..... 3**

**Picture gallery ..... 4**

**Member:**



The Housing Network

**GREATER  
PROVIDENCE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**



Why is this woman so happy? See page 3.



Winter 2007

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

## Women Build joins First Families

**H**abitat Providence is participating in an important national initiative: First Families Building Homes Across America. First ladies from each of the United States have joined with local Habitat affiliates to increase the involvement of women in the construction of Habitat homes. We are proud to participate together with Rhode Island's First Lady, Suzanne Carcieri, who is a strong supporter of this project. Mrs. Carcieri has been active in getting the project off the ground here in Rhode Island and joined us to help raise the "First Wall" of a house on Potters Avenue in Providence. Through the efforts of Kathy O'Malley, who is spearheading the project for the affiliate, we have a devoted group of volunteers working at the site. We hope to have Sheila White and her family in their new house by late March of 2008.

States' first ladies, including Anne Holton and Jinks Holton, first lady and former first lady of Virginia, Karen Baldacci, first lady of Maine, and Sally Ganem, first lady of Nebraska, joined women volunteers on November 28 to celebrate the culmination of the two-year First Families Building Homes

Across America program. The initiative aimed to increase the involvement of women in the construction of Habitat homes and to raise the awareness of the need for affordable housing in every state. With more than 50 First Families homes built or under current construction, the program exceeded its original goal to bring the total number of homes built as part of Habitat's Women Build program, which is underwritten by Lowe's, to more than 1,000 nationwide.

The First Families Building Homes Across America program enlisted governors' spouses and other local and statewide leaders to raise their hammers alongside Habitat and women volunteers to construct Women Build homes in partnership with families in every state and the District of Columbia.

Habitat's Women Build program gives women the opportunity to learn construction skills and to use these skills to help move families out of substandard housing. In addition to underwriting the Women Build program, Lowe's provides construction expertise through in-store "How-To" clinics and with their employee volunteers working on Habitat Women Build sites.



Gov. and Mrs. Carcieri help raise the first wall at the Women Build/Lowe's house on Potter's Avenue.

## Volunteer Spotlight



**Doug MacPherson**

**D**oug was asked by his brother-in-law to volunteer for the Habitat South County affiliate 16 years ago and—lucky for us—he has spent the last eight years with the Habitat Providence affiliate. (No, Lou, you cannot have him back!) Working with Habitat suits Doug well because he has skills as a general handyman and is familiar with tools used to build our homes. He also enjoys seeing immediate result from his work.

Habitat especially appeals to Doug because the families cannot take “advantage” of what is being offered to them. Habitat families must work together and side by side with the volunteers. Doug admits it is also his fellow volunteers that bring him back week after week. “They are a great bunch of people, especially the Wednesday crew members.”

In turn, he enjoys teaching and training new and unskilled volunteers. He especially enjoys working with the team from the DOC, at the Women Build house on Potters Ave. “The finished product is what makes it all worthwhile.”

Doug says “the underlying reason for volunteering is the example set by Jesus who came on this earth as a servant and therefore we all should serve.” Millard Filler’s *Theology of the Hammer* suits Doug to a T (square).



## The well is drying up!

*Non-profits in Rhode Island scramble for public funds*

**“**In the first year since voters approved a \$50 million affordable housing bond, \$10 million has been awarded to create 172 rental units and 73 ownership units in 17 communities,” reports a recent article in *The Providence Journal*. One gets the impression that the good times are rolling for affordable housing non-profits like Habitat Providence – that development is now booming, and all those in need of affordable, decent housing are able to be served.

In reality, there are fewer sources of public funds available to Rhode Island’s non-profit organizations, particularly for those who provide affordable ownership housing. Only 20 percent of the bond approved last year may be used for ownership projects. At the same time, the Neighborhood Opportunities Program (NOP), also administered by the Housing Resources Commission, has no funds for the development of ownership housing this year. This is a remarkable change as in the past the NOP always had some funds available for homeownership projects and Habitat Providence has received its share.

Another example is the Department of Planning and Development which administers the HOME funds program for the City

of Providence. HOME funds have been a reliable source of income for Habitat Providence. This year, budget constraints and tightened controls at the Federal level are restricting HOME and as a consequence they are not as available.

Small, usually understaffed, non-profits should not have to decrease their capacity in order to receive the funding they need to complete their mission. As government-sponsored grants are becoming less available, Habitat Providence is relying further on our corporate sponsors. Bank of America was the latest of a number of major corporations that has sponsored an entire house for Habitat. The parent company of the Providence Place Mall has recently partnered with Habitat Providence to fund one of our newest projects: a single family house on Miner Street, while Lowe’s is supporting the Women Build House on Potters Ave.

Given the mosaic of real estate auction and “For Sale” signs, advertisements from predatory lenders, and foreclosed, boarded-up houses especially in the neighborhoods where we work, our mission is as important as it ever was, and the support from as many sources as possible is vital to our ability to provide decent, affordable housing to families in need.

## Update from the Sites:

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

### 47 Capron Street (Youth Build Providence 2006-07)

The finishing touches are being applied: a retaining wall and landscaping, doorknobs, fixtures, mini blinds and other details. Completion date is scheduled for December 31.

### 31 Elma Street

(This project is a rehabilitation of an old Habitat House, done exclusively by the Wednesday Crew.) Completed.

### 17 Handy Street

(Bike & Build 2007-2008) Exterior is completed and all interior framing is done. Next stage will be insulation, drywall and painting.

### 11 Miner Street

(Providence Place Mall) Second floor deck is installed and the walls are raised. Next stage will be roof trusses and roofing.

### 815 Potters Avenue

(Women Build Initiative/Lowe's) Exterior about completed, interior framing done. Next stage will be insulation and drywall.

Photos by Colleen Fox Choiniere



Above: Maria Frias gets her keys to her new home on 13 Steere Ave.



Left: Ana Vargas and family gets the keys to her new home on Ida Street.

Below left: Carolyn Palmer receives her keys to the house on Crowninshield Street.

Below right: Ana Alvarez's family and guests open Daboll St.



## Many thanks to our supporters...

- Adler's Hardware
  - Allied Group
  - All State Foundation
  - AMICA Insurance
  - Amtrol
  - David Angell Memorial Fund
  - Bank of America
  - Bike & Build
  - The Champlain Foundation
  - Citadel Comm. Corp.
  - City of Providence
  - Dimeo Construction
  - Fannie Mae
  - Federal Home Loan Bank, Boston
  - FirstFed Charitable Foundation
  - Frost Family Charitable Fund
  - Fund for Community Progress
  - General Growth Properties: Providence Place Mall
  - GTECH Corporation
  - Hoffman Charitable Gift Fund
  - Housing Network
  - Interstate Electrical Services
  - KPMG LLP
  - Larsen Doors
  - Lynch's Cleaning Service
  - Margaret Walker Puritan Foundation
  - Microfibres
- 
- "Supporter Spotlight" Narragansett Improvement**
- Nationwide Insurance
  - Ocean State Blueprint
  - Olneyville Collaborative
  - Pawtucket Credit Union
  - 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
  - Well's Fargo Housing Foundation
  - Whirlpool
  - Wildwood Foundation
  - 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.

**Discount Coupon Books for \$5.00 each (a \$300 value) at the Providence Place Mall**

All proceeds go to Habitat Providence. Great for giving, available through May. Available at the Mall's Customer Service Desk and at the Habitat Office.



**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/>

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PROVIDENCE, RI  
PERMIT NO. 1908

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Habitat ceilings**

