



Habitat for Humanity
of San Antonio

VISION

“Transforming lives through a hand up, and not a hand out”

Partnership with student group is a ‘win-win’

A partnership with Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio (HFHSA) and North East Independent School District’s Electrical Systems Technology Magnet Apprenticeship Program has proven to be a winning relationship for all involved.

“We’ve worked with this group for several years,” said Bill Krupa, Vice President of Construction and Site Activities for HFHSA. “These students come in and get hands-on training and ‘real-life’ experience, but they are also helping us on the construction of houses that will eventually be the homes of some very hardworking fami-

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LEARNING WHILE GIVING - Approximately 40 students from North East Independent School District’s Electrical Systems Technology Magnet Apprenticeship Program spent a recent afternoon working with electricians on the Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio construction site. The students helped with the construction of the homes, while getting hands-on training.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



GIVING THEIR TIME – Two members of Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio’s regular Wednesday-Thursday crew of volunteers work on a home on Coconino Drive. Recently, HFHSA surveyed a group of its volunteers to see why they give of their time. See inside this edition for their answers.

Volunteers share motivationPage 2

President’s Corner

Spring brings new excitement to HFHSA

I read a quote once that I think really fits the way we at Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio feel right now.

“The day the Lord created hope, was probably the same day he created Spring.”

I’m not sure who said it, but it really fits our situation right now. We’ve recently ended a long search for land for our next Habitat community. As we are enjoying some early spring weather in San Antonio, I think our excitement that we have found some land that is a

good fit for our homes and our families continues to grow even more.

Defined as the season between winter and summer, characterized by the budding of trees and growth of plants, it’s also a season of rebirth, renewal and regrowth for us as we plan to break ground for our new community on March 24.

This groundbreaking couldn’t have come at a better time. We have been

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Dennis L. Bechhold



Volunteers Share Their Motivation

Working with approximately 12,000 volunteers each year, Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio proudly says that its volunteers are the heart of the organization, and they definitely have “heart,” said Sarah Arredondo, HFHSA volunteer coordinator.

“Their kindness and generosity never seem to amaze me,” said Arredondo, who is charged with the task of scheduling the hundreds of volunteers needed each week to man the construction crews and finish the Habitat homes on time.

Recently, HFHSA surveyed some of its volunteers to find out why they volunteer.

Mariana Martinez put it simply, “I am very excited to be a part of such a wonderful organization that is HabitatSA. I just want to offer my services to those who are in need.”

Habitat volunteers are not required to have any construction experience, but often – as in the case of Russ Donaldson – they do, explained Arredondo.

“I have spent over 23 years in the homebuilding business, so when it came time for me to volunteer my time Habitat was a natural fit for me,” Donaldson

said. “Habitat’s mission is providing quality and affordable housing to those people whom otherwise would be excluded from homeownership ... In addition, Habitat’s Christian-based orientation and the requirement that all future homeowners must have a significant personal stake – mainly their time – in their home, the homes of their fellow neighbors, and ultimately in their community are all values that I hold in high regard.”

Many volunteers who responded to the survey, such as Gentry Lloyd, said they felt it “their duty” to volunteer in the community.

“My name is Gentry Lloyd and I’m a Chief in the United States Navy. The reason I volunteer is because God has blessed me to be privileged enough to

‘God has blessed me so that I can be a blessing to someone else.’

-- Gentry Lloyd

serve in the Military for 11 years,” Lloyd said. “During my time of serving in the Military, I feel like it’s my obligation and duty to volunteer and give back. I grew up in the projects and experienced people giving of themselves and their time so that I could have more.”

HFHSA not only uses volunteers to build homes but in other capacities, such as providing lunches on the build site.

“Our group enjoys making lunches for the folks who build the houses,” said Mary Doran, Jeanne Hackett, Lynn Lambert and Julie Leake, via email. “It’s our way of paying tribute to the volunteers who are building homes and communities for San Antonio families. Our group has so much fun!”

Currently, HFHSA is in urgent need for weekday volunteers, especially on Fridays.

“We have not been getting a very large response to our call for volunteers on Fridays,” Arredondo said. “We are struggling to keep our houses on schedule.”

Those interested in volunteering can contact Arredondo at 210-223-5203 or via email at sarah@habitatasa.org.

ENERGETIC VOLUNTEER



A Constellation Energy employee works recently on a Habitat home during the company’s special “1.11.11 Build.” The focus of the event was not only helping to build 11 homes, but helping to keep them as energy efficient as possible. The company sponsored the energy efficiency materials utilized in the homes. Approximately 200 people participated.

Designer Curtains Arrive at Home Centers

Curtains! Curtains! Curtains! We have 20,000+ packages of curtains in the Habitat Home Centers!

Miller Curtain Company recently closed their factory doors after many decades of manufacturing draperies for JC Penney and other national retailers. We have been able to acquire many of their leftovers and are selling these in our stores at a fraction of their regular retail.

These are all first quality curtains in a large variety of colors/styles/fabrics. We have single panels, pairs, toppers, sheers and lace. They are selling rapidly so come visit one of our three stores while the selection is still good.

Our Wrecking Crew deconstruction program is in full swing now.


Chris Martin is always looking for more leads, and volunteers to help with tear outs. If you’re not familiar with our Wrecking Crew, it is a team of staff and volunteers who extract reusable fixtures such as doors, windows, cabinets and light fixtures free of charge before a remodeling job begins.

Items removed generally are tax deductible and often labor costs are lessened for the donor as well. Another plus is that these items are not taken to the landfill but rather are resold in our stores and thereby get a second life.

Please call Chris Martin at 210-599-7109 or email him at ChrisM@habitatasa.org if you know of a project for him or if you would like to volunteer.

Did you Know?

...Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio is the 4th largest producer of new Habitat homes in the country and the largest in Texas. (as of 6/30/10)


Please  Join Us!


Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio

GROUND BREAKING
please join us as we break ground for our next Habitat community:

COLEMAN RIDGE
located at the northwest corner of Old Pearsall Rd. and Loop 410

10 a.m.
Thursday, March 24

 **Hand Up Homes**
 SAN ANTONIO



New Development to House 185 Families

NEW LANDFrom page 1

building in our current community near Palo Alto College since 2005. By June of this year, we will have built 282 simple, decent and affordable homes with families in need in this location. With that community nearing completion, we will begin building on our new site in August.

This land has all the great qualities of our current community and therefore is a great fit for our next Habitat neighborhood. Named Coleman Ridge, this new community is located near the corner of Old Pearsall Road and Loop 410, near San Antonio's new Trader's Village.

Coleman Ridge is in a great location

for our families to thrive. The land is immediately adjacent to an elementary school that will open this August. It is within a few miles of one of the largest community colleges in San Antonio, Palo Alto College. The land is very accessible to retail, bus lines and major highways and thoroughfares.

This new Habitat development will eventually benefit 185 very low-income families in San Antonio who without the Habitat for Humanity program would have no ability to purchase an affordable home in San Antonio.

We hope that you can plan to join us and celebrate with us as we break ground at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 24, at the northwest corner of Old Pearsall Road and Loop 410.

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lies in need. This really is a winning situation for all of us."

Based at San Antonio's MacArthur High School, the mission of the program is to provide students with the academic, theory, and interpersonal skills needed to achieve excellence in their electrical careers and to serve as the foundation for their continuing education, said Stephen Albert, who directs the program.

Approximately 40 students spent a recent Wednesday on HFHSA's construction site working on training hours that will eventually help them gain professional certifications. Hours spent in the classroom and on site count towards their apprenticeship to become a licensed

journeyman and eventually an electrician, he said.

"The apprenticeship part is very important because we are apprenticed through the Department of Labor," he explained.

Students from throughout NEISD participate in the program. While working on HFHSA's construction site, they work with a master electrician who guides them through real life application of what they have learned.

"This gives the students the opportunity to go in and wire some real houses," Albert said. "This is hands-on, not just learning the principles in the classroom...now we have made what they are learning applicable."

THANK YOU

Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio thanks the following sponsors for their support of our mission:

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Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Selma/

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

St. Luke Catholic Church

St. Matthew Catholic Church

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

San Antonio Presbyterian Cluster

Valero



AT WORK - Volunteers with the San Antonio Presbyterian Cluster are all smiles as they work on a home being sponsored by the group.

Details coming soon:

2011 Faith BUILDERS Luncheon

Thursday, May 12



Habitat for Humanity
of San Antonio

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Antonio
Texas
Permit No. 795

HFSA is 35 years old!
To date, more than 682
families have become
Habitat Homeowners.

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VISION

MARCH 2011

TAKING A BREAK -
Volunteers take a break recently among the trusses of a home being built in the Palo Alto Community. The final 31 homes in this subdivision will be built in 2011. The first six of those were dedicated February 25. The public is invited to the second dedication ceremony of 2011 at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 26. Twelve families will celebrate the completion of their homes at this event.



Calendar

MARCH

16 **Volunteer Orientation**
Wednesday, 12 noon.

Habitat Office, No RSVP required

18 **Hab-i-tour**
Friday, 1-2:00 p.m.

Habitat Office
RSVP to Shelly LaFleur, 223-5203

24 **Ground Breaking**
Thursday, 10 a.m.

Old Pearsall Rd. & Loop 410
RSVP to Shelly LaFleur, 223-5203

26 **House Dedication**
Saturday, 10 a.m.

Palo Alto Community, No RSVP

APRIL

5 **Volunteer Orientation**
Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

Habitat Office, No RSVP required

8 **Hab-i-tour**
Friday, 1-2:00 p.m.

Habitat Office
RSVP to Shelly LaFleur, 223-5203

VISION

newsletter of

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Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio

is an ecumenical, Christian organization working in partnership with God's people in need to build simple, decent and affordable homes without interest or profit, thereby witnessing God's love in action.