



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
OF SAN ANTONIO

# VISION

*"Transforming lives through simple, decent and affordable housing"*

A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SAN ANTONIO PUBLICATION • ISSUE 24 • MAY 2005

## Our **NEW** Palo Alto Community



(Left to right): Daniel Weidner, Todd Putnam, engineers for the Palo Alto site and Dennis L. Bechhold, President and Chief Executive Officer for HFHSA reviewing infrastructure plans at Palo Alto.

Habitat is very excited about our new Palo Alto Community! The property, acquired in December 2003, is located near Palo Alto College on the west side of Maria Isabel in the southwest portion of San Antonio.

Access to Loop 410, Spur 16 (Poteet Highway) and IH 35 are only minutes away from the proposed development.

One of the many elements Habitat looks at when evaluating land is the suitability for our families. There are 25 existing Habitat homes that were built from 1994 – 2000 in the adjacent Palo Alto Terrace neighborhood. These families continue to be a key component of the neighborhood. If you drive by the community, you will see these homes are very well maintained.

There are several points of interest that are within close proximity to our Palo Alto Community. There are 3 VIA bus stops located within a half mile of the community. The community is located

within the Southwest Independent School District. The children in this community will be attending Bob Hope Elementary, Christa McAuliffe Middle School and Southwest High School. There are EMS, Fire and Police stations located within 4 miles of the community. Palo Alto College is located just across Spur 16 about 1.5 miles from the development and Celeste Park is located approximately 1 mile from our new Palo Alto Community.

Habitat has 51 acres of land that will be developed for housing. We will not build the entire community at once but rather we will build it in phases. Right now, we are still in the planning stages but our hope is to complete the subdivision by the year 2010 with approximately 300 homes.

It is important to keep in mind that as great as this large tract of land is, Habitat is still in need of land because this

subdivision will be completed in a relatively short amount of time—now that we're building 50+ houses per year. It can take as long as 3 years of lead time to get a piece of land ready for us to begin housing construction. In order to have property ready to go for our next community, Habitat will need to secure land in 2006 or 2007 at the latest.

Phase 1 of the Palo Alto Community is currently under construction. This phase consists of 71 residential lots and the related street, drainage, water, and sewer improvements. Macina, Bose, Copeland and Associates, the engineering firm who designed this project, has worked very hard pushing the project through the City of San Antonio to obtain the proper approvals. Habitat has hired a great contractor—Pronto Sandblasting—who is working hard to complete this project. Our volunteers will begin house building on 17 of these lots in the 2005 Fall Build, which is set to begin September 9th.

The cost to procure and develop suitable land will continue to be one of Habitat's biggest challenges. In the past, Habitat put in infrastructure every 2 or 3 years to accommodate the number of homes we were building. This usually gave us enough time to secure a large source of funding for our projects. Now that we are building more houses each year, we use the land quicker and need to develop it faster. This makes our funding more challenging.

The Palo Alto Community will be, by far, Habitat's largest community to date. And, as one might imagine, the cost to develop a community of this size is very significant.

That is why it is even more crucial for us to have strong backing from community supporters. With lots of community support, Habitat will be able to make our Palo Alto neighborhood a thriving community for our hardworking families.

We appreciate our partners who have worked very hard to build houses with Habitat families in need and we will need your continued support to make our Palo Alto Community a success.

# Habitat Home Centers



**NEW Mosaic Tile  
ON SALE**

The Habitat Home Centers are experiencing a terrific spring. Our many customers and donors are showing up in great numbers and we are extremely grateful to all of you who continue to support us. If you haven't been by lately then please come and see the new products that are in the stores now.

We have received shipments of very stylish and large planters that are priced well below the local hardware stores and nurseries. We have a huge inventory of oak boards that are great for woodworkers and cabinetmakers, and are priced at less than half of what the lumberyards charge. There is a selection of very unique mosaic tiles that were originally intended as fountain bases, but are being used for many craft

and decorating ideas. You won't find these anywhere else. Our selection of tools is increasing and there is a new arrival of paint for those spring fix-ups. The prices we offer on paint rollers, brushes, pans, etc. is way under that of paint and hardware stores. Another new arrival is a selection of high quality 8'x10' area rugs that are priced at 1/3 of the area flooring retailers. There is too much to list so please come out and see for yourself.

Remember that 100% of proceeds from sales in our stores support Habitat. As always please call and tell us if you or someone you know is able to donate building materials. Some of our most dedicated donors came to us from your leads. Have a great spring!

**Total Lives  
Changed in  
Van De Walle Acres**

**2 6 2**

## Habitat Home Center Hours

311 Probandt  
San Antonio, TX 78204  
(210) 223-3647

5482 Walzem  
San Antonio, TX 78218  
(210) 599-7109

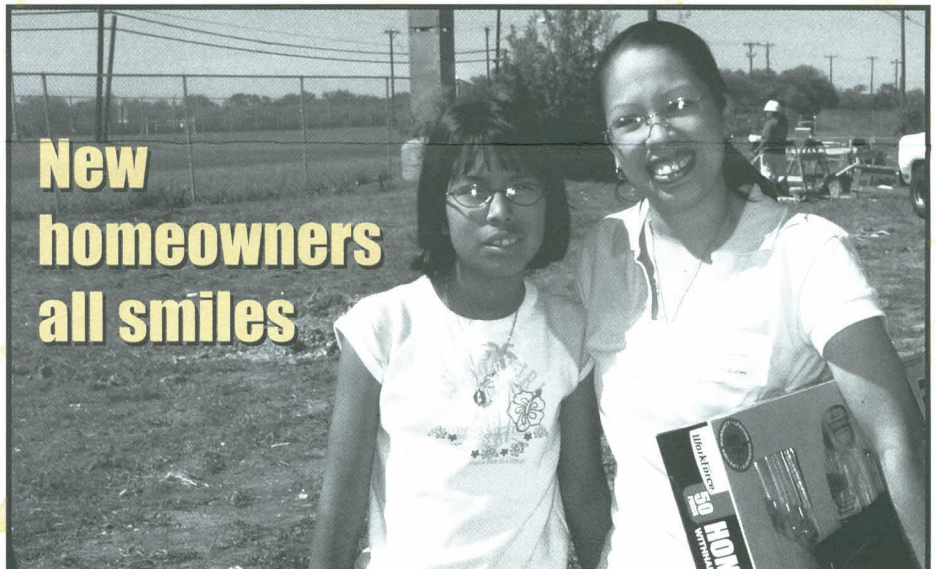
Monday - Friday: 8:00 am- 6:00 pm  
Saturday : 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Sunday: Closed

**Does YOUR  
company  
Match Gifts?**



Your employer may be one of thousands of companies who have matching gift programs which double or even triple monetary donations made by their individual employees. Check with your personnel office or go to [www.kintera.org](http://www.kintera.org) and click on the "Does Your Company Match Gifts?" button today to see if your employer has such a program.

**New  
homeowners  
all smiles**



Melinda Ramos (on right) and her daughter Elizabeth are all smiles at the House Dedication Ceremony that was held at Van De Walle Acres on Saturday, April 2nd. Habitat dedicated the first 12 houses of 2005.

