

spring 2010

# Habitat for Humanity® COMING HOME

HABITAT HAPPENINGS FOR OUR FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS

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## Habitat celebrates a groundbreaking 20th Anniversary in Bristol!

by Julia O'Donnell

Back to where it all began! Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County recently broke ground in Bristol for its newest green homebuilding site. After spending several years in upper Bucks County, Habitat for Humanity returns to its roots. Bristol, the location of Habitat's first homes, holds special significance as Habitat for Humanity celebrates its 20th year.

Since 1990, Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County has been focusing on eliminating substandard housing by providing safe, decent and affordable homes. The focus is to give a "hand-up" to homeownership. "It's not a hand out, but a lot of hard work and money management," says Tracy Higgins, who moved with her son, Jacob, into the last Habitat home built in Bristol in 2001. The partner families are required to work anywhere from 100 to 375 hours on their own homes. Tracy found the experience to be rewarding in many ways, but was especially impacted by knowing that "I wasn't just a statistic being a single mother. I can own a house, have a yard and something to call mine."

Habitat for Humanity accredits the impact it has on the community to the tremendous efforts of its staff, volunteers and affiliates. Sharon Baxter of Bristol, who has lived in her Habitat home for 12 years, described it as having realized the "goal that Habitat has worked so hard to achieve." Her home is now "the place where family gets together to celebrate the holidays, meet up with each other, and where family comes when someone is in need of help, support or advice." She would tell any new Habitat family "how important it is for them to keep in touch with Habitat staff as a support system; because we are more than homeowners purchasing their homes, and they really care."

Tracey Dupree knows well the blessings received from Habitat's homeownership program. "The most positive outcome of home



The Dupree family at their home dedication in 1995.

ownership is the pride that goes along with owning your home. Knowing that your family has a safe, comfortable place to come home to is priceless," she said. Tracey and her husband, Elijah, were the second family to purchase a home through Habitat Bucks. Since purchasing their home in 1994, they added a son, Tra'shon, to their family, which already included Elijah Jr., Elisha and Tra'asha. Tracey and Elijah understand the process can be stressful, as well as exciting. She shared, "I would tell any family that is moving into a Habitat house to be patient and don't take your eyes off of the prize. There will be bumps in the road, but anything worth having is worth fighting for; just realize how much of a blessing it is to be in this position. Habitat has been such a blessing in our lives. There have been many challenges along the way, but that's when you realize this is not just a business relationship, but a family."

To date, Habitat for Humanity has worked with 196 members of our community in owning 75 homes and is excited to watch those numbers grow as construction begins at Colonial Avenue in Bristol and Liberator Street in close-by Levittown. The Colonial Avenue groundbreaking took place in February with several local politicians and Habitat for Humanity staff attending; see full article on page 7. Liberator Street's groundbreaking was in March; see full article on page 4.


There are numerous volunteer and partnership opportunities for these exciting new homebuilding programs! Contact Billy at 215.822.2812 x316 or b.dunn@habitatbucks.org for more information.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BUCKS COUNTY

Our mission: To build affordable homes, better lives, stronger families and safer communities through partnerships with people and organizations throughout Bucks County.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Volunteer Spotlight.....2	Advertisements.....3	Colonial Avenue Event...7
Family Spotlight.....2	Advertisements con't.....4	Youth United.....7
Upcoming Events.....2	Thank You Notes.....5	Find Habitat Online.....7
Director's Corner.....3	Women Build.....6	Tribute Listings.....8

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 15: ReStore Pajama Day Sale from 9am to 1pm; see page 3.

MAY 15: Home Dedication and Open House at the Stitchery; see page 4.

JUNE 12: ReStore Pajama Day Sale from 9am to 1pm; see page 3.

JULY 14 - 17: Youth Faith Build. For more information, see page 4.

AUGUST 11: "Summer picnic fun" Central Bucks Chamber event at the ReStore; see page 3.

SEPTEMBER 16: Women Build's Wine Tasting at the Habitat Bucks office; see page 3.

NOVEMBER 6: Hard Hats and High Heels, Habitat for Humanity's second annual signature event, in Doylestown; see page 5.

NOVEMBER 27: Habitat for Humanity 5K & Fun Run at the Quakertown United Methodist Church. For more information, see page 3.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Dana Balter

Business owner Dana Balter joined the Habitat volunteer crew in 2009 after searching for an organization to which she could contribute her event planning talents. She became a member of Habitat's newly formed Resource Development Committee and immediately became a primary planner of Habitat's first annual Signature Event in November 2009. She lent her talents helping with everything from finding a caterer, designing the décor, organizing an auction and creating publicity materials. The event was a huge success, raising approximately \$18,000 for Habitat! According to Billy Dunn, Habitat's resource development director, "Dana is everything you could want in a volunteer. She is consistent, capable and believes in the vision of Habitat." Dana is already hard at work planning the second Signature Event, to be held at Keenan Mercedes Benz in Doylestown, and helping Habitat reach our goal of raising \$50,000 this year. Dana says, "Habitat is an amazing organization and does great work. I'm glad I can contribute something that I'm good at and love to do. That makes it more special to me." When she is not helping Habitat, Dana runs her own company, Artful Celebrations, in Doylestown and also donates her event planning services to the Twilight Wish Foundation.

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Edgar Burgos and Julia Heredia

We had been struggling for years to give our family a nice place to live in America, but all we could afford was a small apartment in a complex with crime and very little security. It was not a good environment to raise our daughter in.

We have always dreamed of owning a home, but we have been unable to buy one. We learned about Habitat and applied for a home; after one and a half years, we were able to move into our new house. My family and I now have a warm, secure and affordable home.

Our Habitat home is something we are all proud of since we helped build it ourselves; it was an unforgettable experience. Every time we wake up, we still think of this as a beautiful dream. We will never be able to thank you enough for how much love and time you put into this great project that gives millions of families the opportunity to live better.

Our first Christmas in this lovely house was in 2009. Our son, Paulo was here from Colombia, and we were thankful of how blessed we were for having this house and that our family was all together.

Colonial Avenue "green home" groundbreaking!

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County broke ground on February 18 at the newest green homebuilding site on Colonial Avenue in Bristol. Several local politicians and Habitat for Humanity staff posed for a ceremonial snapshot wearing hard hats with shovels in hand.

"In its 20th year, Habitat for Humanity continues to help our neighbors rebuild their lives every day, and I'm proud to have been a part of the groundbreaking," said Congressman Patrick Murphy.

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County President Jennifer Stark expressed the organization's excitement to be building in Bristol again, after spending the past nine years in the northern end of the county. "It's fantastic to be returning to our roots in Bristol, where we broke ground on the very first Habitat for Humanity home in Bucks County in 1994."

The affiliate plans to begin construction on the four Colonial Avenue townhomes in the spring and is committed to following local and national green building guidelines. In addition to meeting ENERGY STAR® standards, the homes will be built to receive the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) National Green Building Program™ Silver rating, with ambition to achieve a Gold rating. These certifications mean that homeowners will not only be purchasing safe, decent and affordable homes, but also energy-efficient and environmentally friendly ones. Families' utility bills will be greatly reduced by the green building, with projections of a 25-to 40-percent savings.

The total estimated cost for construction of the project is \$700,000. Habitat for Humanity is currently fundraising for these homes, which will be sold at-cost to families in the community.



Pictured, left from right: Representative John Galloway staff member Jacqueline Fitzmaurice, Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Linda Andrews, Senator Robert Tomlinson staff member Al Sutter, Habitat for Humanity President Jennifer Stark, Bristol Township Mayor John Monahan, Bristol Township Community Development Administrator Thomas McDermott, Congressman Patrick Murphy, Habitat for Humanity Board Member Heath Dumack, Bucks County Commissioner Diane Ellis-Marseglia.

"It provides an opportunity for low-income families who work hard to increase their independence and economic well-being," says Bristol Township Community Development Director Thomas McDermott of Habitat for Humanity's homeownership program.

Bristol Township Mayor John Monahan also expressed his approval of the homebuilding program. "I am in support of these efforts by Habitat for Humanity to build affordable homes, better lives, stronger families and safer communities here in Bucks County."

Youth United

Only in its second year, Youth United participants have shown Habitat Bucks tremendous efforts and leadership.



Youth United

- Dan Pelberg of Bentley University came to the affiliate as a part of Foundations Community Partnership Summer Youth Corps and was instrumental in developing and outlining the Bucks County Youth United programming and toolkits.
• Other student leaders, Lauren Kelly of Archbishop Wood High School and Karen Barker of Villa Joseph Marie High School, stepped up as co-chairs and have been providing valuable guidance for the program. Lauren was also awarded a scholarship to attend the Habitat's Learn and Build Experience, in Murfreesboro, TN.
• Our 2010 efforts for Youth United include a Jazz in Bloom benefit concert, Earth Day events at the ReStore and construction site, Nickels

for Nails drives and a Girls Build Day, and we continue to expand efforts through LEGO® Builds, Youth Faith Builds and service-learning curricula.

- Partnerships with the Future Business Leaders of America and The Links, Inc. have allowed us to diversify and expand youth involvement.
• Through Youth United, Bucks County youth have already raised \$12,000 toward a handicap-accessible home in the Stitchery on West Chestnut Avenue in Perkasio.
• Foundations Community Partnership awarded a \$10,000 grant Youth United.

We welcome students as well as youth and adult mentors to join us in Youth United. We promise, it'll bring rewards for you and your community! To learn more about Youth United, contact Billy Dunn at b.dunn@habitatbucks.org or 215.822.2812 x316.

Find Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County on the World Wide Web



Become a fan of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/pages/Habitat-for-Humanity-of-Bucks-County/50173090825 or by doing a search for "Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County" at www.facebook.com.



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women from all walks of life came together to do demolition work, frame walls and hang drywall. Participant Donna Jo Landes described the experience as "Fantastic, fun, educational and inspiring!" Prior to the Build-a-thon, Lowe's, the national underwriter of the Women Build program, offered free training clinics in basic construction skills to Habitat's volunteers. Women Builders have now contributed a total of 11,592 volunteer hours to Habitat Bucks!

In addition to all that was accomplished at the construction site, Women Build raised over \$85,000 towards Habitat's mission. Thank you to our Women Build sponsors:

**Legacy Builders (\$25,000)**  
Ally Bank



**Leadership Builders (\$10,000)**  
Patricia Kind Foundation

**Independence Builders (\$5,000)**  
Bucks County Women's Fund  
First Savings Bank of Perkasio  
Fourjay Foundation

**Inspiration Builders (\$2,500)**  
Bucks County Commissioners (\$3,500)  
Jones Apparel Group

Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program is about creating opportunities for women. Women and their children are disproportionately affected by poverty and substandard housing, and through receiving training in construction skills, women are able to feel confident working in what is traditionally a male-dominated field while creating affordable housing opportunities for those in need in their community. 2009 marked Habitat Bucks' fifth Women Build and featured two Women Build-a-thon events at the Stitchery construction project in Perkasio, in May and October, where

"Given our focus on mortgage lending, Ally Bank was looking to partner with some nonprofits near its administrative offices in Fort Washington," said Don James of Legacy Builder Ally Bank. "Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County was a logical choice since so many Ally Bank employees live in Bucks County. Some of those same employees have participated in recent builds. It has been a great partnership."



Women Build 2010 is now kicking off with opportunities for area women to get involved in building, fundraising, event planning and more!

For more information please contact Laura McClellan at [l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org](mailto:l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x302.

## Director's Corner

by Linda S. Andrews, Executive Director

Tough economic times provide a double challenge for many nonprofit organizations — the need for services spikes, but donations shrink. Not a good combination. Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County is working diligently to make sure that your donation is being used to maximize our services to low-income families, from our homebuilding programs to housing advocacy to working one on one with partner families to achieve sustainable homeownership. Thank you for remaining faithful in your commitment to Habitat Bucks.

The economic downturn has affected each of us. We are all tightening our belts, waiting to see how the economic situation will develop in these next few months and years. In the midst of these difficult economic challenges, giving is an important issue regardless of the economic climate of our country. It seems that too often our decisions about giving have more to do with the state of our economy than about things like "responsibility"

or "faithfulness." We depend on the faithfulness of individuals in our community that believe every person in Bucks County deserves a safe, decent and affordable home. We would not be able to serve low income families in Bucks County without you!

Did you know? You don't have to let a slow economy stop you from supporting non-profit organizations that are close to your heart and tool belt. We have an updated planned giving program that you can get involved in; you can join us on our Resource Development Committee or be a sponsor for one of our signature events. Our ReStore accepts donations of material goods that we sell and use the profits from to build homes. The opportunities exist in many ways for you to be involved with Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County in today's difficult economy as we serve low-income families in Bucks County!

Visit [www.habitatbucks.org](http://www.habitatbucks.org) to learn the many different ways you can support Habitat for Humanity.

*Linda S. Andrews*

### ReStore 50%-off sales scheduled!

Stop by for Pajama Day at the ReStore on May 15 and June 12. Please note, on May 15, due to the Stitchery home dedication, the ReStore will close at 3pm. From 9am until 1pm, customers wearing their pajamas will receive an incredible 50% off their purchase! Pajama discount is not to be combined with any other offer.

Habitat for Humanity  
of Bucks County

**ReStore**

USE THIS COUPON FOR  
**20% OFF**  
YOUR NEXT RESTORE PURCHASE

**Restore Location**  
31 Oak Avenue, Chalfont, PA • 215.822.2708

**Restore Hours**  
Wed: 9am - 5pm; Thurs and Fri: 9am - 6pm; Sat: 9am - 5pm;  
and by appointment.

*Not valid with any other offers. Coupon expires on 9/30/2010.*

### Got Kids?

We have fun and interactive programming for your youth group, afterschool program, vacation Bible school, summer camp and even mother/daughter and father/son event. You provide the kids, and we provide the fun and learning with our Girls Build, LEGO® Build and service learning curricula! Contact Billy for more information: [b.dunn@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.dunn@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x316.

### Picnicking with the Chamber

Habitat for Humanity will be hosting a "Summer Picnic Fun" Central Bucks Chamber Business Card Exchange on Wednesday, August 11, 5pm-7pm, at our ReStore, 31 Oak Avenue in Chalfont. Join us for fresh foods and tasty beverages, and bring your wallet for some amazing savings! Thanks to ReStore supporter, Paul Davis Restoration One for help on this event.

### Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Don't miss our fabulous Wine Tasting Fundraiser benefitting Women Build on September 16, 6 - 8pm! Stop by to enjoy live music and fabulous raffle items, and to taste wine by Chaddsford Winery and enjoy yummy food by Dove Chocolate Discoveries, Cabot Creamery and more! Keep an eye on our website for ticket availability. Contact Laura at [l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org](mailto:l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x302 for more information and to get involved!



### Youth Faith Build

Imagine coming together to serve those in need, be challenged in your faith and enjoy evening activities with new friends. Join us for our Youth Faith Build, a week set aside for a group of students ages 16-12 to come together to build a home, a future and their faith! Each day during the Faith Youth Build, participants will meet at the Habitat for Humanity office, and then break up into the different work projects. Projects include construction on homes, working in the ReStore, and serving in the community. We have 25 spots open for Youth Faith Build and expect these spaces to go quickly! Total cost is \$250; a \$75 deposit is due by June 16. Contact Billy for more information and to register: [b.dunn@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.dunn@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x316.

### Ninth Annual Habitat for Humanity 5K

**The Ninth Annual Habitat for Humanity 5K and Kids Fun Run** is scheduled for Saturday, November 27, at the Quakertown United Methodist Church, 1875 Frier Road. The Quakertown Rotary Club and Quakertown United Methodist Church are once again hosting the event, which will award top male and female runners in various age groups. Raffles for gift certificates and prizes will also be held. All race proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County. For more information, contact race organizer, Bill Tuszyński at [wtuszyński@comcast.net](mailto:wtuszyński@comcast.net) or stay tuned to [www.habitatbucks.org](http://www.habitatbucks.org).

## Signature event success: Don't miss 2010's Hard Hats and High Heels!

The 2009 Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County signature event, What Makes a Home, was a wonderful success! Close to 140 people joined us for the evening, enjoying the transformation of the ReStore, delectable food by Max Hansen Caterers, wonderful music performed by Nate and Abby Orlowski and lively auctions. The highlight of the evening though, was listening to testimonies from families and supporters. From partner families that shared about how owning a home has transformed their lives, to corporate partners that talked about the value of partnering with Habitat Bucks in business, the evening was an inspiring way to celebrate the incredible impact Habitat Bucks is having in the lives of low-income families of Bucks County. Best of all, the proceeds from the signature event went directly to homebuilding programs. Thanks to everyone involved in making the evening so spectacular; special thanks to event volunteers from CB West Key Club, CB East Boys Lacrosse Team and the members of Habitat's Resource Development Committee.



Plans for our 2010 annual signature event are already in the works! Festivities will be held on Friday, November 5 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm at Keenan Mercedes Benz. The theme for this year's event is Hard Hats and High Heels and will focus on our 20th anniversary of serving families in Bucks County. For more information or to get involved with Hard Hats and High Heels please contact Billy at [b.dunn@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.dunn@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x316.

## Your trash can become our treasure!

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County has partnered with RecycleBank, which means you can easily convert your recyclable trash into treasure for us.

- Visit [www.recyclebank.com](http://www.recyclebank.com).
- Click on "Sign In or Register" in the upper lefthand corner then select Option 1 or Option 2.
- If you have your activation code (given to you with your container) enter it and proceed through the set up.
- If you do not have your activation code, click on the "lost activation code," and RecycleBank will walk you through the easy set up.
- To make a donation of your points, click "redeem rewards," "donations" (left side bar), "social services box," then choose HABITAT BUCKS.



Turning trash into cash for the important work of Habitat for Humanity couldn't be easier! Let your neighbors know that LECK (serving Upper and Lower Makefield, Newtown, Wrightstown) and CHES-MONT (serving Doylestown and

Chalfont) are RecycleBank participants. For questions or more information, contact Billy at [b.dunn@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.dunn@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x316.

## Planned Giving: A Legacy of Transformation

For more than 20 years, Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County has been building houses in partnership with families in need, helping others help themselves to a brighter future. Providing a way for families to achieve the security of safe, affordable housing is our continuing goal. In Bucks County, we work with low-income families to provide sustainable homeownership opportunities.

Working together with donors, volunteers and partners, Habitat has built more than 350,000 houses around the world. These homes have provided more than 1.75 million people in 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Planned gifts are an important part of this success story.

You can help to provide a way for families to achieve the security of safe, affordable housing. As you plan for your future and the security of loved ones, Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County has numerous planned giving options that allow you to make a meaningful charitable gift to support homebuilding after your lifetime. It's a Legacy of Transformation!

If you would like more information about a particular planned giving program, we'll be happy to mail a brochure or talk with you. If you have questions, please contact Billy Dunn at 215.822.2812 x316, or [b.dunn@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.dunn@habitatbucks.org).

## Habitat for Humanity Faith Community Task Force Launched: Members Needed!

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County is a ministry—a ministry of one body made up of many parts, each with its own unique and different purpose, but all critical to the functioning of the whole. We have two realities in Bucks County:

- We have a definite "here." We live in a community with thousands of people living in substandard housing. In 2009, the county of Bucks estimates that 26,750 people currently live in substandard housing. This is today.
- We have a definite "there." A community where all people live in decent affordable housing, and to this end is where our vision goes. This is our tomorrow.

In the midst of these two places, is where we, the Faith Community Task Force of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County, will focus. Regardless of your personal faith, it is understood that people have basic needs: needs that transcend culture, geography, economic sustainability, and the list goes on and on. Those needs include love, food and shelter. This faith community committee of Habitat Bucks exists to bring together people of different faiths that allow them to create a voice of action broader than anything they could do individually, to share the love of God to those in need, and to be a visible witness of service to others. For more information about joining the Faith Community Task Force, please contact Billy at [b.dunn@habitatbucks.org](mailto:b.dunn@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x316.

## You could own a home!

If your annual household income is between \$35,000 and \$72,000, you may qualify to purchase a home through Habitat. We are accepting applications for homes in Quakertown, Perkasie and Bristol. Call us today at 215.822.2812 x2. Find more information at [habitatbucks.org](http://habitatbucks.org).



## THANK YOU NOTES



**Thrivent Builds 2010:** Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County recently broke ground on a new homebuilding site on Liberator Street in Levittown. Habitat is building this home in partnership with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, who awarded the affiliate with a home sponsorship for the 2010 calendar year as part of the Thrivent Builds program. The group has committed the financing, as well as 50% of the volunteer labor that will be needed to build the home. On hand for the groundbreaking included representatives from Lower Bucks Lutheran Churches, members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, leaders from local Lutheran Churches, and board and staff members from Habitat for Humanity.

"We're honored to be selected by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the local Lutheran Churches in Bucks County for a full house sponsorship of a Habitat home in Bucks County. Thrivent has partnered with Habitat for Humanity International over the past five years with a combined financial commitment of over \$125 million dollars. The homebuilding program at Liberator Street would not be happening right now without the full sponsorship of Thrivent and the local Lutheran churches," says Habitat Resource Development Director, Billy Dunn.

Thank you Thrivent for your continued support! To learn more about this program, visit [http://habitatbucks.org/thrivent\\_builds.htm](http://habitatbucks.org/thrivent_builds.htm).

**St. Andrew's Church of Yardley** sponsored a table for Habitat at the Yardley Harvest Festival, and provided a \$10,000 contribution that will be a part of the Episcopal Build. Thanks for your support!

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County was invited to join several other large affiliates from the mid-Atlantic region in a combined application for the **New Market Tax Credit Funding** provided by **City First Bank of DC** and **US Bank**. Habitat Bucks received \$481,000, which will build five new homes for low-income families in Bucks County. We are grateful to **Smith and Associates of St. Louis, Missouri**, who played a central role in this funding.

The ReStore 1st Anniversary Celebration was a huge success — thanks to all involved! Customers enjoyed extra savings on all merchandise, refreshments from **Cub Scout Pack 133 of Chalfont** and entertainment by **Dave the Clown** and **Alex the Magician**, who delighted children and adults with their magic tricks and animal balloons. **Hall Family Chiropractic** provided free screenings and **Mia Bella's Candles** gave the store a fantastic scent. We look forward to another great year!

Students in **Bucks County Community College's introductory ceramics class** participated in a service learning project with Habitat. Students toured and learned about The Stitchery in Perkasie, and then were challenged with creating an original piece inspired by the project that could be used by a Habitat partner family in their new home. The resulting artwork is beautiful and will be presented to the families when they move in.

We had such an impressive response to our volunteer projects for Martin Luther King Day of Service! Thank you to the **Solebury School** and **Shir Ami** for their efforts at the ReStore; to the **25 individuals** who helped in the office with some much needed housekeeping, organizing and first-of-the-year mailings; and to all who participated in the LEGO Drive.

Thank you to **Neshaminy Mall** for allowing Habitat for Humanity of Bucks and Montgomery Counties to team up to run the gift-wrapping stand at the mall during the holiday season! Funds raised supported Habitat's mission in both counties. Thank you to all the tremendous volunteers who wrapped gifts, including **Pearl S. Buck Elementary School students, Girl Scout Troop 2226, St. Bede's Church, Girl Scout Troop 22013, Motorola**, and the **numerous individuals** who contributed their time this holiday season!



**Habitat for Humanity hosts empowering and fun Girls Build event!** The **Girl Scouts of Eastern PA (GSEP)** and Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County recently held an educational, interactive and empowering event for 26 girls between the ages of 10 and 12, as part of Habitat's newly launched Girls Build program. Participants of the workshop moved between sessions, building cedar bird feeders, creating a piece of a Girls Build banner, learning hands-on about Habitat for Humanity by putting on hard hats to construct a paper house and hearing about each step of building a home. Participants also heard from guest speakers, members of the **National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC): Maura Hesdon**, a project manager for Shoemaker Construction; **Jaime Leitch**, a director for American Infrastructure; and **Christine Workman**, a manager for Otis Elevator. Thanks to everyone involved for an inspiring and fun event! For more information about the Girls Build program, please contact Laura at [l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org](mailto:l.mcclellan@habitatbucks.org) or 215.822.2812 x302.

## Home Dedication and Open House

Join us in welcoming home three families to the Stitchery! On May 15 at 4pm, we will welcome the first members of the Stitchery during a brief dedication ceremony; immediately following, the homes will be open to tour and light refreshments will be available. The event is open to the public — friends and neighbors are encouraged to attend! The Stitchery is located at 815 West Chestnut Street in Perkasie. Parking is available at the lot on 8th and Chestnut Streets, and at the First Savings Bank parking lot on 9th Street. Attendees of the event may "pound" our families by bringing a pound of non-perishable goods, such as food or a cleaning product, to give to the new families. Come celebrate with us! Questions? Contact Sam at [s.martin@habitatbucks.org](mailto:s.martin@habitatbucks.org); 215.822.2812 x310.

