



Habitat for Humanity of Merced County NEWSLETTER

Issue 46

December 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michelle Paloutzian



Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.
- James 5:7

If patience is a virtue, then we should all be very virtuous by now, as we have been exercising our patience muscles while waiting to begin our next construction project. Over the last two years, we have been working to locate property we can build on with the City of Merced Redevelopment Agency.

Finally, we are in escrow and George Gallaher and I have signed the title documents at Fidelity National Title with the help of Charlene Mitchell. Now we are just waiting on the City to sign the documents so that we can receive title to the three properties.

They are all located in south Merced: on 8th St., 11th St. and South T St.

I am looking forward to Thanksgiving as I write this, so I will take the opportunity to say thank you to:

Mary Ann Reynolds, who is stepping down after serving admirably as our secretary.

Genny Mesa, for stepping up to be our new secretary, and for all the services she has provided to us from her UPS Store in Atwater.

Our newest board members, Kathy Upson and Pete Delacruz.

Everyone who helped organize our annual dinner this year, and all those who attended and made the evening a success.

Ken Cross, Betsy Murphy and Anita Hellam for sharing their time and expertise with us.

All of our donors, volunteers and supporters, we appreciate your time, talent and treasure.

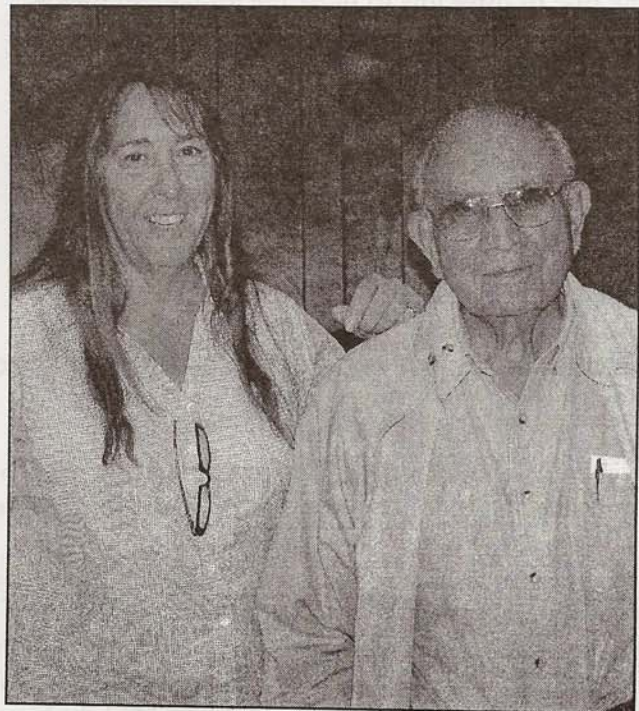
Thank you all so very much!

New board members selected

By George Gallaher

The board of directors of Habitat for Humanity of Merced County, Inc. is proud to announce the inclusion of two new members. Kathy Upson works as a bus driver for the Merced Union High School District and is very active in her church and various civic organizations, and Pete Delacruz who is a former vice-principal of Tenaya Middle School in Merced. He spends much of his retirement helping various civic causes.

Both are welcome additions to the board. They bring talents that will help our affiliate meet current and future goals. We look forward to serving together during an exciting period in our history.



*New Habitat Board Members
Kathy Upson and Pete Delacruz*



President Michelle Paloutzian, George Gallaher, and Charlene Mitchell of Fidelity National Title after signing the title documents for our 3 new lots.

Our site selection situation, wow!

Perhaps you've read or heard the good news already. The City of Merced has just transferred the title to three lots to us. One lot we can divide into two. So, we now know where our next four builds will be. Never before have we been in such great shape site-wise. The properties are located at 512 W. 11th St., 927 W. 8th St., and 196 S. T St.

Project 12 : New partner family selected

By Diane Bair

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County is happy to partner with our newest family: Athena Waddle, Nathan Gonzales and their three children, Nathan Jr. age seven, Jeremy age 18, and Halie age 1.

The family has lived in Merced County their entire lives and in Atwater for the last five years. The family attends New Life Community Church in Atwater. Athena enjoys singing with the Worship team and Nathan is active as an usher for services.

Athena is employed as a supervisor with A.T.&T. in Atwater. Nathan is on temporary disability due to a back injury. Jeremy graduated from Atwater High in June and now attends Merced College. Halie attends Mitchell Senior Elementary, loves to sing, and is involved in Drama Club at school, and also takes jazz dance lessons. Nathan is an energetic second grader who loves to play football and video games with his siblings.

Habitat welcomes our partnership with the Waddle/Gonzales family.

Construction Chair tells it like it is

By Lyle Allen

We're still waiting for the City of Merced to sign-off on the title transfers. In the mean time the plans for the home have been upgraded and prepared for submission to the Building Department. We've started a timeline to ensure that we take advantage of any materials available from Corporate Donors to Habitat Affiliates. All expenses will be captured using Quick Books Pro for Non-Profits, so that we will have accurate records of cost and good data to plan the next project with. Since we are close to the Holiday Season I don't think we'll see much in the way of volunteer work between now and the end of the year. We will work on things like, building permits/fees, temporary power from the PG&E, soil testing, building the site to level for the foundation/slab pour, and compaction testing, etc.

Have a happy Christmas and hopefully we'll hit the ground running in the new year.

300,000th Habitat house

HFH International is celebrating two milestones. On Nov. 13 construction began on house number 300,000 in Naples, Florida. The next day ground was broken for house number 300,001 in Zacapa, Guatemala. Worldwide, HFH houses have provided decent shelter for more than 1.5 million people.

Thanks To Our Contributors

The following have sent contributions to our affiliate since May 15, 2008. Cut-off date for this listing: November 15, 2008. If there are any errors or omissions, please call Bill Sanford at 357-0701.

Individuals/Families:

Julie Brannan
Albert & Katherine Cesario
Urla Garland
David & Jeane Hetland
Patricia G. Houbein
Stephen Kolda
Kenneth & Leola Leap
Dr. Lorraine K. Nelson
Cecilia Nichols
Lori Phillips
'Dutch' Schwerdtfeger
Beverly M. Sullivan
Virginia M. Taylor
Caroline Venable
Marguerite Whitney

In honor of . . .

Brenda Hughes
Given by Cecilia Nichols & Adrienne Lopes
Cecilia Nichols
Given by Marcie Correa, Patti Allan, Ann Pike
Jeanne & Bill Sanford (53rd wedding anniversary)
Given by Virginia McGraw
Bill Sanford (78th birthday)
Given by Susan & Cindy Sanford

In memory of . . .

Tom Berghoff
Given by Barbara & Lyle Allen
Eva Borges
Given by Florabelle Lathrop
Loo Burroughs
Given by Ernest C. Burroughs
Jim Crookham
Given by Jerry Schaffer
Neil Gardenheir
Given by Florabelle Lathrop
Norma & Charlie Parker
Given by William & Myra Stockard
Jane Costa Santos
Given by Florabelle Lathrop

Organizations:

Merced Italian American Women's Club
United Way of Stanislaus County

Churches:

Catholic Women & Friends
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
United Methodist Church of Atwater

A thought: write a check now;
read your name here next issue

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County Newsletter

is published 3 - 4 times a year.

Editor: Bill Sanford 357-0701

Our Affiliate's phone number: 209/726-0850

Our meeting schedule:

Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting place: Changes twice a year. January to June 2009 :

Gateway Community Church, 353 E. Donna Drive, Merced



Old news and newer news

The Stay-at-home Tea this past spring brought to Habitat about \$1,575. Many thanks to all who helped.

The raffle at the Annual Dinner/Program on Nov. 8 raised \$157. Speaking of the Annual Meeting, let it be noted that Ken Cross, Executive Director of HFH Sacramento, gave a fine address. Attendance was about 70.

Right: The Kiwins of Merced High again supported the Annual Dinner/Program potluck with excellent help.



A report on the tithing program of Habitat for Humanity International

The report was for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. It indicated that in the course of the year our affiliate gave a total of \$3,418.61. This sum was designated for Somoto, Nicaragua, one of Merced's Sister Cities.

All Habitat affiliates are expected to tithe, and a consequence is that some sizeable numbers are being posted by the U.S. affiliates. In the last fiscal year the affiliates together tithed \$15.7 million. Praiseworthy indeed!

MISSION STATEMENT

Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, so that everyone in Merced County has decent and affordable housing.

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Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Michelle Paloutzian
Vice President: George Gallaher
Secretary: Genny Mesa
Treasurer: Hilda Miranda

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Administration: Donna Hall
Church Relations: Jan Sorge
Construction: Lyle Allen
Family Selection/Partnership: Diane Bair
Finance: Patti Houbein
Fund Raising: Pat Shay
Public Information: Bill Sanford 357-0701
Site Selection: Jim Tolladay
Volunteers: Patti Houbein

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Fernando Bravo
Pete Delacruz
Fred Pillsbury
Kathy Upson

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