

**Inside This Issue**

Snow-Down for Habitat	1
President's Message	2
Advisors and Directors	2
Board Member Highlight	2
Volunteer Corner	2
Habitat Haiti Update	3
400,000th Home Built	3
IRA Tax-Saving Donations	4
Teaming with SwipeGood	4
House 11 Construction Starts	5
Donors Recognition	5
Jackson Rancheria Donates	5

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**FEBRUARY**

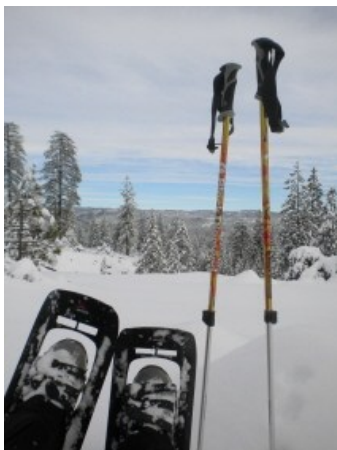
- 7 1 PM Executive Committee Meeting Senior Center, San Andreas
- 16 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas

**MARCH**

- 7 1 PM Executive Committee Meeting Senior Center, San Andreas
- 16 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas
- 22-25 HfHI National Conference, in Atlanta, GA
- 26 Trivia Bee @ San Andreas Town Hall

**APRIL**

- 2 Snow-Down for Habitat @ Bear Valley Cross-Country Center
- 11 1 PM Executive Committee Meeting Senior Center, San Andreas
- 16 9A-5PM Board Retreat @ Senior Center, San Andreas
- 16 5PM-10PM Calaveras Follies @ Frogtown
- 20 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas



***SNOW-DOWN FOR HABITAT*** Save the Date - *Saturday, April 2, 2011*

Whether you're an expert cross country skier or a complete novice who just wants to get outdoors for a few hours you are guaranteed to enjoy our up-coming "Snow-Down for Habitat". Sponsored by Bear Valley Cross Country, this event offers a fun day in the snow while supporting one of your favorite causes, Habitat for Humanity Calaveras.

Choose cross country skis or snowshoes and follow the beautiful trails at Bear Valley on a Scavenger Hunt for Habitat. Trails of varying difficulty and length will be offered, with stops along the way for treats, fact-finding and enjoying the scenery.

Ticket prices are \$50 for adults and \$40 for children 12 and under, with a discount of \$10 if you bring your own skis or snowshoes. Price includes equipment rental and

trail pass for the day, hot drinks on the trail, prizes, live entertainment and an après-ski lunch at Sky High Pizza & Pub in the Bear Valley Village Center.

Paul Petersen, owner of Bear Valley Cross Country - and an outstanding ski instructor - will offer a free mini- clinic on XC skiing and snowshoeing. Check-in is between 9 and 10 AM, and lunch from 12:30 to 2:00 PM. Hang the enclosed flyer on your refrigerator or any place else where it will remind you not to miss this adventure in the High Sierras snow.

For information and tickets call the Habitat office (209)-754-5331 or Alice Williams (209) 728-9420. See you at Bear Valley Cross Country on April 2nd!

Please **POST** the enclosed flyer on your refrigerator, reminder wall, or at your Post Office or Favorite Hangout!  
If you are reading this online, the flyer may be found at [www.habitatcalaveras.org/SnowDownFlyer.pdf](http://www.habitatcalaveras.org/SnowDownFlyer.pdf)

Advisory Board

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Attorney at Law

**Bob Bach**  
County Superintendent  
of Schools (Ret.)

**Bob Dean**  
Board Member,  
Calaveras County Water District

**Ira Glasser**  
Real Estate Consultant

**Tom Meuser**  
Chairman and CEO  
El Dorado Savings Bank

**Roger Pitto**  
President – Sierra Engineering

Board of Directors

**Noel Helmbrecht**  
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**Myron Kelso**  
Vice-President

**Beth Paich**  
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**Lee Vahle**  
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**Gary Carson-Hull**

**Beverly Fara**

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**Jocelyn Stickney**

**Alice Williams**

Staff

**Frank Meyer**  
Administrative Manager

**Kathy Heffernan**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**John Logg**  
ReStore Manager

**Your tax-deductible  
donation of a car, boat or  
RV will help to build sim-  
ple, decent, and affordable  
homes for – and with –  
local families in need.**

Call (209) 754-5331 to arrange your  
tax deductible donation

## ***President's Message***

Volunteers in our county accomplish so much for the good of us all. When I talk to the Habitat volunteers they universally comment on the fact that they get much more out of their efforts than the recipient of their work. I would like to express my appreciation to all of HfHC's volunteers: those who plan and help build Habitat houses; those who prepare and bring lunches for the workers; and those who manned the committees to fund the efforts, select and mentor our partner families, get the word out to churches and the public, man the ReStore Warehouse, participate in A Brush With Kindness, and attend Board and Executive Committee meetings. It takes all kinds of volunteers to make Habitat a success in Calaveras County.

I would also like to thank our part-time staff. Administrative Manager Frank Meyer employs stellar prodding and velvet gloves handling the day-to-day chores of dealing with us volunteers; it must be like herding cats!! Our Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Heffernan and ReStore Manager John Logg are also commended for their diligent and quality work to support the mission of our affiliate and ride drag at the back of the herd.

If you volunteer for other organizations or service clubs you are very busy with these responsibilities. We at HfHC need additional volunteers for our committees and Board and busy doers are just the people we need. Even if you don't volunteer elsewhere, take a look at our signup sheet at [www.habitatcalaveras.org/DevHabitat\\_files/Page923.htm](http://www.habitatcalaveras.org/DevHabitat_files/Page923.htm) or in this newsletter (back of Snow-Down flyer). Find some area that you can use your talents to the advantage of providing a home for a deserving family and contact us. **WE**

## ***Meet our newest Board Member: Gary Carson-Hull***

Unanimously voted to the Habitat Board of Directors at the January meeting, Gary Carson-Hull comes to Habitat Calaveras with a long history of working for Habitat, both nationally and internationally.

Gary has a great deal of organizational skills, having owned a software sales company with contract employees all over the world. He has volunteered for many Habitat affiliates in the U.S., as well as Mexico and in the eastern provinces of Canada. He feels especially proud of helping provide an opportunity for families to own their own homes and become involved with the community.

Besides his previous work for Habitat, he served on the Historical Commission of Los Altos for 8 years, and was on the board of Contact Cares of Santa Clara County (a confidential telephone counseling and referral organization). He now resides in the Murphys area and looks forward to getting Murphys UCC Church more involved in Habitat Calaveras. Welcome aboard, Gary!

## ***Volunteer Corner***

We are now in the early stages of building the Chavez house in West Point and - weather permitting – we plan on rapid progress. We will be working on Fridays and Saturdays. If I have not called you and you want to help please call me at the number below.

We are still looking for additional volunteers to staff the ReStore on Fridays and Saturdays. All we ask is that you are available for one shift a month and like to help our browsers and turn them into shoppers. If so inspired, please call me.

Also, the fundraising committee is looking for additional volunteers to either serve on the committee and/or help the day of our events. Again all it takes is a phone call to me at 795-7742 to help us out. Thank you.

*Kathy Heffernan*  
Volunteer Coordinator

## *Habitat's Tithe Supports Progress in Haiti*

In the lead-up to the one-year mark of the earthquake, you are invited you to visit [www.habitat.org/haiti](http://www.habitat.org/haiti) where you will find Habitat's One Year Report about progress in Haiti, photos and videos, and how you can help to support the recovery from the disaster. Habitat's goal is to reach 50,000 earthquake-affected families.

Claude Jeudy, National Director of Habitat for Humanity Haiti, reports the following achievements:

- More than 21,000 emergency shelter kits are in the hands of people who needed them most. The kits included tools—hammers, pliers, chisels, work gloves, rope and tarps—that have allowed Haitians to clean up debris, do basic repairs and create emergency shelter. In addition, more than 3,300 emergency shelter kits have been stockpiled, ready to distribute quickly whenever disaster strikes again.
- More than 1,000 families have received recyclable transitional or upgradable shelters, with a total of 2,000 scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2011. Transitional shelters are constructed so they can be dismantled easily and relocated. Upgradable shelters can be turned into permanent homes.
- More than 2,000 housing damage assessments have been conducted. Assessments help determine which structures can be made safe and which need to be torn down, making way for new, permanent shelters.
- More than 500 Haitians have been trained in seismic resistant construction techniques.
- More than 200 Haitians have been hired by the Habitat Resource Centers to help in Habitat construction activities. In a nation with an unemployment rate of 60 percent, job opportunities are a crucial part of rebuilding.

Our local Habitat affiliate sends half of its quarterly tithe to Haiti to support these efforts. The other half continues to be sent to Mexico. The need for decent shelter is an on-going challenge in both countries.

We are proud that Habitat Calaveras has tithed, in good as well as challenging times, to help house needy families in other countries. Since our founding in 1994, our affiliate has sent over \$75,000 to Habitat for Humanity International to provide housing for 24 families in Mexico, and now Haiti. We are very grateful to our local supporters to help make this happen.



## *Habitat Built Its 400,000th House in 2010*

Habitat for Humanity International is currently active in over 80 countries throughout the world. Since 2004, the majority of our home building has occurred internationally where the need for simple decent housing is the greatest.

We now build three homes overseas for every home built in the U.S. Benefitting families are overwhelmingly grateful for the support provided by the tithes from Habitat affiliates.

### **GO GREEN!!! NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE OR BY EMAIL**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN MANY OF OUR READERS WHO ENJOY READING THIS NEWSLETTER IN COLOR, AND HELP HABITAT SAVE POSTAGE AND REPRODUCTION COSTS? SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO: [admin@habitatcalaveras.org](mailto:admin@habitatcalaveras.org) OR GO ONLINE: [WWW.HABITATCALAVERAS.ORG](http://WWW.HABITATCALAVERAS.ORG)

## ***IRA Holders Can Still Make Charitable Distributions in 2011***

Note: The following discussion is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as legal or tax advice. For specific information about provisions of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 affecting charitable contributions, consult your tax adviser or attorney.

Persons aged 70½ or older can again enjoy tax savings by making charitable gifts directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), thanks to a provision of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, which was signed into law December 17, 2010.

The December 17, 2010, law extends legislation originally adopted in 2006 and extended in 2008 (that extension expired December 31, 2009). For a charitable gift made from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) not to be taxed as income, the following must be true:

- the gift was made in 2010 or 2011;
- the IRA holder is age 70½ or older;
- the gift totals \$100,000 or less each year;
- the charity that received the gift is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions;
- the charity is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization (Habitat is a section 501(c)(3) organization); and
- the withdrawal goes directly from the IRA to the charity.

The donor does not need to itemize his or her taxes to benefit from the distribution. If the donor does itemize, however, he or she cannot also take the distribution as a deduction.

*Suzanne E. Coffman  
GuideStar USA, Inc.*

### ***Habitat Teams with SwipeGood***

Habitat Calaveras has teamed up with SwipeGood, a company that helps American nonprofit organizations make fundraising more efficient. Here's how it works: Just go to <https://swipegood.com/charity/habitat-for-humanity-calaveras> and choose "Habitat for Humanity Calaveras" as your charity, and enter your credit or debit card information. At the end of each month, SwipeGood will round up each purchase to the nearest dollar, and donate the change to Habitat Calaveras. You can also cap your monthly donations, so you're in complete control of the amount of money you donate each month. So the next time you're at the checkout counter, think about the difference your pennies can make.

"To make giving easier we wanted to eliminate the main three decision points people have: deciding how much to give, deciding when to give, and deciding who to give to," said Steli Efti, Member of the SwipeGood Team. "People can donate to Habitat for Humanity Calaveras every time they go grocery shopping or eat out in a restaurant, basically helping Habitat Calaveras build homes, every time they spend money."

Please go to <https://swipegood.com/charity/habitat-for-humanity-calaveras> and sign up your card, round up your purchases, and donate the change to Habitat for Humanity Calaveras. By donating through SwipeGood, you can turn the spare change for every purchase into decent affordable housing for families in Calaveras County, California.

### ***Construction Begins on House 11***

After months and months of working with the various County and State agencies having a say over these matters, we have finally begun work on the first of three homes we are planning to build in West Point. The biggest concern was the encroachment on Highway 26, but, contrary to our worries, CalTrans was relatively prompt in working out a reasonable solution.



The Chavez family, shown here breaking ground for their house, has been waiting patiently, and is now seeing progress on their future home. They already have accumulated quite a few hours of sweat equity, earned by helping on other Habitat projects.

Durlynn Anema  
 Bob and Marlene Bach  
 Scott and Cheryl Brim  
 Sandra Churchill  
 Kim Conley  
 John S. Cook  
 Carol & Asa Curry  
 John & Shirley Denison  
 Larry & Donna Diamond  
 Peggy Dodge  
 Julie Eggert  
 El Dorado Savings Bank  
 Vickie and Roy Ellis  
 Anne and Michael Flock  
 Foothill Village  
 Earl Franklin  
 Evan Garamendi  
 Carol Garrett  
 Alan and Teri Grant  
 Noel and Joyce Helmbrecht

Elmo and Reyna Hernandez  
 Jackson Rancheria Casino and Hotel  
 Ed Kane  
 Sandra Krewski  
 Cynthia Landavazo  
 Genevieve Locke  
 Jane and Bert Lucas  
 Kathleen and Alan Luce  
 Shirley and Robert Mariani  
 Barbara and Kenneth McInturf  
 Rita & Daryl Millsaps  
 Bill and Sandy Reed  
 Save Mart Supermarkets  
 Linda Strangio  
 Bertha and Richard Underhill  
 Union Congregational Church  
 Christopher Williams  
 Womens Fellowship, 1st  
 Congregational Church, Murphys  
 Kathy and David Yarbrough

**In Memory of:**  
 John Anderson  
 June Anderson  
 Olane Anderson  
 John Berardi  
 Connie Conrad  
 Karen Lundy  
 Laura Arieta Savo  
 Eleanor Shanahan  
 Jane Symons  
 Michael Thein

**In Honor of:**  
 Rick and Nancy Ernster  
 Fred Hampel  
 Kathy Heffernan  
 Bill Slankard Family  
 Lucy Thein



*Photo courtesy of Carol Cook, Jackson Rancheria Casino and Hotel*

***The DreamCatchers Club*** sponsored by the Jackson Rancheria Casino raises funds each holiday season to support local community organizations. We are very pleased and grateful that Habitat was a beneficiary once again this year.

Habitat President Noel Helmbrecht and Habitat Board Member Alice Williams hold the donation. Behind them from left to right are Casino CEO Rick Hoffman, Habitat Manager Frank Meyer, Habitat Board Secretary Beth Paich, and Casino Marketing VP Ron Olivero.

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**Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital**  
**756 Mountain Ranch Road**  
**San Andreas**



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### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please fill out this form, and make check payable to **Habitat for Humanity Calaveras**, and mail to P.O. Box 1834, San Andreas, CA 95249. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my credit card:

This time only, for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Once a month in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VISA    Mastercard    Discover   **Exp. Date ↓**

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer. Please send me information.

I would like a speaker to make a presentation to my church/club/business/organization.

I am interested in donating or supplying property for building sites or a ReStore.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization dedicated to building modest affordable homes—volunteers hand in hand with families that need a better place to live. Please give generously so that your tax deductible donation to Habitat for Humanity Calaveras will help another local family achieve the dream of home ownership. Thank you so much!

I no longer wish to receive this newsletter. Please remove my name from your mailing list.