

Inside This Issue

Habitat Plans Busy Year	1
Seeking New Board Members	2
Advisors and Directors	2
New Volunteer Coordinator	2
Habitat is Kindness Hero	3
Volunteer Highlighted	3
Homeowner Gino Milo Shines!	3
Donors Recognition	4
Tax Check-off for Habitat	4
Board Celebrates Holidays	4
Families Become Homeowners	5

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March

- 9 1 PM Executive Committee Meeting Senior Center, San Andreas
- 18 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas
- 21 5:30 PM Trivia Bee @ San Andreas Town Hall
- 23-26 National Affiliates Conference, Atlanta, GA

April

- 6 1 PM Executive Committee Meeting Senior Center, San Andreas
- 15 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas

May

- 11 1 PM Executive Committee Meeting Senior Center, San Andreas
- 20 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas
- 20 10AM-3PM Nor-Cal Affiliates Meeting, Sacramento

Habitat Plans Busy Year

Our next build in Copperopolis is proceeding at a slower pace than anticipated. The design process has taken much more time than anticipated. We now expect to begin construction in the Summer. The families selected for the two homes we will be building are very excited about the project, and can't wait to get started.

At the same time we are now working on several Home Repair projects, which address health and safety issues. Many of the benefitting homeowners are seniors, with funding support from the Aging in Place Initiative sponsored by the Calaveras Community Foundation. Also, through ABWK (A Brush With Kindness) we help spruce up home exteriors in neighborhoods throughout the County, with support from Thrivent Financial.

Dave Magann of Mountain Ranch was appointed Construction Coordinator and has been managing the Home Repair Program. In addition, Dave will coordinate materials acquisition and subcontractors who will be helping us to construct the Copperopolis homes. Dave's experience includes a stint as Program Manager for Tuolumne County Habitat for Humanity.

Our Habitat ReStore continues to support our projects as well. We sell donated building materials, fixtures, and lightly used appliances and furniture. Come see us at 172 No. California Street, San Andreas. We are open to the public every Friday and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you would like to donate items, simply drop them off during our business hours, or leave a message at 754-3234 to make pickup arrangements.

Be sure to Save the Date for the 11th Annual Hoedown for Habitat, our summer celebration and primary fundraising event, scheduled for Saturday, August 22 in Murphys Park. We are planning an earlier starting time than prior years. Watch for more details in our Summer Newsletter.

*For the latest info on HfHC, please visit our website at www.habitatcalaveras.org where you can visit **Shop for Habitat**, at our on-line mall with over 300 major businesses.*



President's Message by Myron Kelso

Advisory Board

Steve Airola
Attorney at Law

Bob Bach
County Superintendent
of Schools (Ret.)

Bob Dean
Ret. Board Member, Calaveras
County Water District

Tom Meuser
Chairman of the Board,
El Dorado Savings Bank

Roger Pitto
Owner,
Roger Pitto PLS & Assoc.

Board of Directors

Myron Kelso
President

Gary Carson-Hull
Vice-President

Pat LaMont
Secretary

Jeanne Airola
Treasurer

Rob Barnaby

Alice Williams

Staff

Frank Meyer
Affiliate Manager

Garrett Browning
ReStore Manager

David Magann
Construction Coordinator

Gail Bunge
Volunteer Coordinator

Habitat Seeks New Board Members

At the beginning of each year, Habitat Calaveras elects members of the community to positions on the Board of Directors. Each two-year term brings with it a variety of business matters that are discussed at monthly Board meetings, as to how, when, and where Habitat will provide its many services. Typical items for discussion include financial issues such as fundraising, construction costs as well as ReStore operations.

Serving on Board committees, board members help select families for the homes we build, decide which rehabilitation projects will be pursued, making responsible and valued decisions affecting the lives of many needy families in Calaveras County. This year we are seeking several candidates to replace current board members whose terms have expired or are otherwise unable to continue serving on the Habitat Board.

Since you are already reading our newsletter, we know you have an interest in Habitat. Habitat is only as good as the people who administer it. We are seeking interested persons who will take one further step to help Habitat by volunteering to become a Habitat Board member. The time needed is minimal; meetings are once a month and usually last less than two hours. Of course, you can dedicate as much time as you want to help Habitat.

The time you devote to Habitat will be negligible compared to the satisfaction you will get by knowing your efforts help so many deserving families in Calaveras County. Please contact Affiliate Manager Frank Meyer at 209-754-5331, to be offered an application that will change your life in very positive ways.

New Volunteer Coordinator: Gail Bunge

As your new Volunteer Coordinator, I would like to introduce myself to the Habitat community. I have lived in the Avery area for 35 years with my husband Ted, a cabinetmaker. Our two children, Tessa and Brett, were raised here, attending the local public schools and going on to get degrees from Cal Poly State University and UC Davis, respectively.

My background has been varied but mainly involved in education, including teaching preschool, substitute teaching, aiding in special education, advocating for families with special needs children, and organizing parent education workshops. I am just beginning my third term as school board member for Bret Harte Union High School District. I also had a stint as a local business owner.

As I become more familiar with Habitat in Calaveras, my hope is to involve as many people as possible in the building of homes, helping with repairs and exterior clean-up for property owners, volunteering at the ReStore in San Andreas, planning and working at Hoedown for Habitat in August, preparing food for our construction workers, making phone calls on behalf of Habitat, and helping with administrative work.

There are myriad ways to become involved with Habitat, and you can choose from projects that may take days to one-time activities such as making phone calls or bringing snacks to an orientation. My goal is to engage Calaveras residents so that each of us contributes what we can to build a caring and healthy community.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas.

Gail Bunge
795.1329

GailB@habitatcalaveras.org

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

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

Habitat is a Kindness Hero to Local Boy

Five-year-old Andres Abel picked Habitat for Humanity Calaveras for his school's Kindness Hero Celebration, because he said HfHC is his Kindness Hero! Four delighted representatives from Habitat joined him and his family at Mark Twain Elementary School and listened with great pleasure as students shared their loving essays about their heroes.

Andres wrote this about Habitat: "My name is Andres and my Kindness Hero is Habitat for Humanity. They are helping my family build a safe home. Now I can have a pet duck! Habitat for Humanity is a team of Kindness Heroes who work hard to help families in need"

Andres' family is working in partnership with Habitat on construction of what will be their new home in Copperopolis. He and 14 other students at his school in Angels Camp wrote winning essays and they invited their Kindness Heroes to hear them read their essays at the 2015 Kindness Hero Celebration.



Volunteer Highlighted: Barranca Wren



From a childhood in Ohio to southern California to her move to Murphys in 1976, Barranca Wren has made the environment and service to people her missions in life. The love of wild rivers brought her to Calaveras County. With a credential in English as a Second Language, she taught at Columbia College, Sonora Adult Education, Calaveras County of Education and Mountain Oaks School. Between working, she followed her passions for river running, gardening, kayaking and knitting.

When she retired from teaching, she looked about for ways to give back to her community, to learn new skills and to become more social. Habitat for Humanity was a natural fit. She hoped to learn more about building to develop skills to use on her own home so she volunteered on two Women Builds and plans to work on builds and projects again. For the past three years, Barranca has volunteered at the ReStore twice a month. People who shop at the ReStore give her ideas of what to do with supplies and how to use them. "I usually learn something about building materials or how to use something every time I work there," she says.

Barranca makes an effort to buy used whenever possible. With her commitment to the environment, she feels good about the mission of the ReStore, where products are reused instead of dumped. "It allows the public to buy good products at reasonable prices. Habitat is a win/win for everyone."

Homeowner Gino Milo, along with board members Jeanne Airola and Gary Carson-Hull, attended Habitat for Humanity California Advocacy Day in Sacramento recently. The purpose was to visit legislators and their staffs to discuss affordable housing issues including potential funding sources, tax questions, and cap and trade funding for affordable housing. Gino made quite an impression because he told legislators first hand about the value of being a homeowner thanks to Habitat for Humanity.



Individuals

Brenda Bayers
Rahn and Patricia Becker
Mark Bolton
Scott and Cheryl Brim
Robert J. Burger
Sandra Churchill
Kim Conley
Bonnie Danielson
John and Shirley Denison
Peggy Dodge
Margarette Dzakowic
Julie Eggert
Vickie and Roy Ellis
Beverly Fara
Dave and Jo Ellen Gano
Dr. Floy Goulart
Charlotte Hunt
Rob and Diane Jarvi
Penelope Johnson
Mark and Melanie Jones
Pat and Sanders LaMont
Bonnie and John Landis
Eric Larson

Kathleen and Alan Luce
Judy and Dave McCarroll
Rita Millsaps
Faye Morrison
Kathy Palmer
Jim and Vicky Paul
Joceline Stickney
Jane and Michael Strauch
Carolyn and Ralph Tackett
Steve Umland
Pamela S. Wool
Bob and Carrie Zetterberg

Churches, Businesses and Organizations

Bike & Build Inc.
Black Oak Casino Resort
El Dorado Savings Bank
Episcopal Church Women (St. Mathews)
Jackson Rancheria Casino
Knights of Columbus ML Council #10661
Pacific Gas and Electric Co.
Save Mart Supermarkets
Umpqua Bank - Copperopolis

In Memory of:

Rev. John Anderson
June Anderson
Harold Denny
Helen Guerrero
Jim Hegg
Daniel Kryst
Grace Muirhead
Walter Vater

In Honor of:

Lucy Thein

Help Fund Habitat in California with a Tax Check-Off

There's a new way to support Habitat for Humanity in California. Supporters of Habitat can now easily donate on their tax return by designating a contribution in the box number 428 next to "Habitat for Humanity Fund".

Existing law allows taxpayers to contribute to one or more 20 voluntary contribution funds by checking a box on their CA State Income Tax Return. California law requires check-off contributions to be made from taxpayers' own resources and not from their tax liability, as is possible on federal tax returns.

Habitat's California affiliates strongly urge supporters to donate using this check-off method. All proceeds go directly to a general fund to support Habitat for Humanity of California's sole purpose of building affordable housing for limited-income families throughout California.



The Hilltop Clubhouse at Forest Meadows was the scene exhibiting that Habitat is more than just "all work and no play as Board members and their guests gathered for a festive holiday evening to share great food, refreshing beverages, and fascinating dinner conversation.

(See Page 2 on how you can become a member of our board and celebrate future holidays with us!)



Families Learn How to Become Homeowners

All Habitat’s partner families are first-time homeowners. As part of transitioning from renters to homeowners through Habitat, families are educated about the ins and outs of homeownership, including such topics as house financing, property taxes, and homeowners insurance; budgeting and planning for financial success; and home maintenance.

During a recent series of four successive Tuesday evenings five Habitat families attended workshops given by Habitat’s Family Services Committee. Many community specialists offering their expertise were recruited to make the classes interesting and informative.

The first workshop was budgeting for the home and securing one’s financial future was conducted by Molly McDonald, Manager of the Copperopolis branch of Umpqua Bank. In an enthusiastic and informative manner she helped our families develop financial plans. She covered subjects including housing costs, family budgeting plans, how to stay out of debt and knowing your credit report.

The second workshop was on how to take care of the home. Cody Johnson from Angels Sewer and Drain spoke about plumbing and sewer issues, Laura from All Terrain Landscaping talked about gardening, and Cody Richardson informed the group on general repairs that crop up in every home.

The third workshop was on Community services. Kathy Houle from the Calaveras County Works and Human Services Agency provided invaluable information and handouts on resources to deal with issues from health care to legal assistance. Chief Ron Getter from the Arnold Fire Department talked about fire safety in the home. His handouts covered how to have a fire safe house, and how to plan for the eventuality of having to leave one’s house during a forest fire.



The final workshop on financing a home was given jointly by realtor Jeff Rasmussen and Habitat for Humanity Calaveras Board President Myron Kelso. Jeff reviewed the process that homebuyers face when obtaining financing for the purchase of a home. The process is complicated but Jeff did a great job of breaking it down and making it easier to understand. Myron discussed financing of the Habitat homes, which is somewhat different from purchasing a home in the general market.

The families were each provided with binders containing an outline for each workshop and plenty of room for hand-outs. The group enjoyed simple dinners during the workshop and had time to socialize and discuss the topics with each other. After completion of the series the Habitat Board sponsored a celebration where each family was given a certificate of completion. The Board of Habitat for Humanity is very grateful to all the community members who participated in giving the classes. We are so lucky to live in a community where people are willing to help each other.

Jeanne Airola, Family Services Committee



GO GREEN!!! NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY EMAIL
IF YOU’D LIKE TO JOIN MANY OF OUR READERS WHO HELP HABITAT SAVE POSTAGE AND REPRODUCTION COSTS BY RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO:
admin@habitatcalaveras.org



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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.