



New York State

# news bulletin

July 2009

## Save the Date

### Housing Trust Fund Rally

Aug. 19, 2 p.m.  
City Hall—NYC  
*See article on page 2.*

### Fall Conference:

October 24  
SUNY Cortland

### Capacity Building Conference:

October 23, Cortland  
*See article to right.*

**Advocacy in Albany**  
March 14-17, 2010

## \$ for Families

Two programs are available that provide additional funds for your partner families. *Time is of the essence* as these programs end Dec. 2009.

**Assets for Independence** matches \$4 for each \$1 a family saves toward their closing costs. This can assist in fully funding escrow accounts and larger down payments.

**Federal Tax Credit** is available to 1<sup>st</sup> time homebuyers purchasing a home this tax year.

Call HFH-NYS for more information.

## Announcing the Capacity Building Conference Series

HFH-NYS is presenting a conference series focused on the unique challenges of small and rural affiliates. These conferences will help your affiliate:

- Become more effective as a business
- Have a more efficient board
- Create a successful and practical strategic business plan
- Carry out that strategic plan
- Completely understand HFHI program policies
- Identify financial and in-kind resources
- Build community relations *and much more...*

If you believe your affiliate could benefit from this series, fill out an interest survey by going to:

[http://marquette.qualtrics.com//SE?SID=SV\\_6RtqHKAJRHhVNdi&SVID=Prod](http://marquette.qualtrics.com//SE?SID=SV_6RtqHKAJRHhVNdi&SVID=Prod)

The deadline for completing the interest survey is **August 17<sup>th</sup>**.

## Red Flag Policy Deadline August 1

The Federal Trade Commission has mandated that all “issuers of credit” must have an identity theft policy in place by August 1, 2009. As a mortgage lender, your affiliate is **REQUIRED** to comply. This is a reminder just in case you missed the announcements published in the US Office newsletter over the past year. ***“Failure to comply could result in civil or criminal penalties”*** (FTC).

To assist your affiliate in instituting a **Red Flag** policy, the following resources are available:

An example of a policy developed for a volunteer run affiliate is posted on our website in the Affiliate Resources section and attached to this email.

A full explanation of this policy, a template for creating your own policy, and a link to the FTC regulations are posted on My.Habitat at:

<http://my.habitat.org/BusinessOperations/USLegalSupport/Lists/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions/DispForm.aspx?ID=61>.

If your affiliate has an executive director or uses a third party mortgage processor, it is recommended that you review these materials carefully.

**Making affordable housing a matter of conscience and action...**



## Norandex Announces Special Pricing for NYS Affiliates

Norandex, a wholesaler of windows, doors, siding, and roofing has announced *special pricing* for all NYS Habitat affiliates. This pricing is generally lower than the largest residential contractor in your community pays.

For more information, call your local Norandex wholesaler. You can also call HFH-NYS to obtain product literature, pricing and the closest Norandex office to your affiliate.

## VISTA Program Expands

HFH-NYS has expanded their AmeriCorps\*VISTA program. By September, the program will have grown from 6 VISTA members at 5 sites to 12 VISTA members at 7 sites. Over 100 applicants applied for our positions.

The scope of the projects VISTA members will work on has also expanded. Members at HFH-NYS will be working on developing our Capacity Building Conference Series and developing a state-wide energy efficient building program. VISTA members at affiliates will be working on developing programs for human resources, volunteers, family services, and market expansion.

This exciting opportunity will benefit affiliates throughout the state well into the future.

## We Have a Voice!

Habitat for Humanity - NYC along with the Empire State Housing Alliance and Assemblyman Vito Lopez are planning a massive press conference and rally on the steps of NYC City Hall for Wednesday, August 19th at 2pm.

This event is incredibly important because Assemblyman Lopez will announce the introduction of our Housing Investment Fund bill in the Assembly, as well as a \$500 Million ask for state affordable housing programs in next year's budget.

Please make every effort to attend this critical press conference and distribute the attached flyer far and wide to ensure that we have AT LEAST 200 people on the steps of city hall. We are asking for a commitment of at least 5 people from every group that attends, but we will be happy with anyone who can make it! Busses will be available to pick folks up from across the state, and lunch will be provided.

### Contact Information:

**President/CEO:**  
**Judith Nelson**  
911 E Main Street  
Endicott, NY 13760  
607.748.4138  
[info@habitatnys.org](mailto:info@habitatnys.org)  
[www.habitatnys.org](http://www.habitatnys.org)

### Board Members:

**Les Scheinfeld, Chairman**  
Suffolk County HFH  
**Paige Bellenbaum, Vice-Chair**  
HFH New York City  
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