

News Bulletin

December, 2011



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Making affordable housing a matter of conscience and action.

ReStore Donations

Manufacturers and retailers often contact Habitat for Humanity International about donating extra stock of building materials. If your ReStore has adequate space and unloading accommodations, you can take receipt of these goods to resell. You MUST complete a short application form by December 15, 2011 to be considered for this program during the 2012 calendar year. Click [HERE!](#)

Incentive Money for Energy Efficient Homes

Two programs—New York ENERGY STAR Homes (NYESH) and the New York Green Residential Building Program (GRBP) are offering incentives totaling about \$7,000 per home if you build a safe, durable, energy efficient home and have it inspected and tested to verify its performance. Habitat for Humanity of New York State will soon be releasing an Energy Efficient Building Toolkit to guide your affiliate through the process of obtaining this money. Contact [Karina Leung](#) for more information.

AmeriCorps VISTA: Positions Available

We will have four positions available for 2012. Two are available in February and two in July. If you are interested in having a VISTA serve at your affiliate, please contact [Mary Vivona](#) immediately.

Affordable Housing Corporation Grants

If your affiliate is interested in applying for Affordable Housing Corporation grant funds for the 2011-2012 construction year contact [Mary Vivona](#) by mid December to request a pre-application. If you haven't yet considered taking advantage of this grant opportunity, call HFH-NYS for details. AHC funds are used to make homes more affordable for families and

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provide approximately \$28,000 per home to affiliates. We will be accepting affiliate applications for both new and rehab construction.

Annual Escrow Analysis

RESPA (Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act) requires that escrow holders give the owners of the funds an annual statement. HFH-NYS has developed some tools to assist you. If you have any questions, please contact [John Ellis](#).

Outsourcing Your Human Resources Department

Is handling HR functions taking time away from your mission? Are you labor law compliant? If a Department of Labor agent came in today, would you still be sure? Would you like to share your Labor law liability with an HR expert?

If any of these questions have entered your mind, maybe you should consider outsourcing to a Professional Employer Organization (PEO). A PEO assumes both the responsibility and liability for the "Business of Employment"; human resource issues are their expertise! By outsourcing to a PEO, your affiliate can better focus on your mission while your HR issues are being handled by experts. For more information or questions about PEOs contact:

[John H. Bradley](#)

Alcott HR Group, LLC
(716) 626-9500

Brown Bag Conference Call Series

Starting in December, Habitat for Humanity of New York State will be hosting monthly conference calls to keep affiliates updated on programs, any changes, and other issues. Each "Brown Bag" call will have a different topic and will include a question and answer session at the end. We will do our best to answer any questions you may have about anything Habitat!

The calls will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:10 PM and will end at 12:50 PM. They are open to anyone within an affiliate organization.

News & Important Updates

- HFH-NYS is preparing an annual report! If you would like to include some of your affiliate's accomplishments or milestone events, please contact [Valerie Sherwood](#).
- We still need your information to determine how close we are to the 2000th house so we can begin planning the celebration! Please complete our survey to submit your data. Click [HERE!](#)
- The first Brown Bag Conference Call will be on Wednesday, December 14th at 12:10 PM, on the topic of the USDA 502 Direct Loan Program. To register for the call, please e-mail [Valerie Sherwood](#).

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