



Habitat For Humanity of New York State

What's New!



Spring 2007

Join us for the Fall 2007 Conference in Newburgh!

If you have not yet attended a statewide Habitat conference, maybe now is the time!

Are you fretting over fundraising? Are you baffled over building? Are you vexed by your volunteers? Hung up over your homeowners?

Our organization is supportive and encouraging, where more "evolved" affiliate representatives are eager to share their knowledge, experience and advice with affiliates that are still developing, growing and learning.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us for our Statewide Fall Confer-

ence being held in Newburgh, NY on Saturday, October 20th, 2007.

For those from northern, western and central parts of the state, Newburgh is "downstate" and just north of West Point.

Program and registration materials will be available in September.

If your affiliate has a program, a successful event or fundraising idea, volunteer management tool or construction technique from which other Habitat affiliates could benefit--or a topic you would really like

to see covered, please let the conference planning committee know about it by contacting Arthur Woodward at Flower City HFH (Rochester) at: awooward@rochesterhabitat.org.

We are looking forward to



Attendees enjoying lunch and conversation at the Spring HFH of NYS Conference. Read more about it inside!

Housing Trust Funds & Your Affiliate



On May 30th, Senator Liz Kruger held a public hearing in Albany specifically on the need for a housing trust fund (HTF). She encouraged Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the state to attend the hearing and testify on the importance of creating such a fund.

So what does a HTF mean to your affiliate? Tradition-

ally, HTFs are more flexible than programs funded in part with federal dollars. A HTF can address the unique needs of a region or group. Habitat is unique in the clients we serve and the program we offer and a HTF has the potential to provide a significant contribution to the funding of all our construction efforts. HFH affiliates in states with effective State housing programs are receiving from \$5k-\$20k for each house they build.

If you would like to learn more about Housing Trust Funds, please contact Paige Bellenbaum at Habitat - NYC at 212-991-4000 x312, or Email pbelenbaum@habitatnys.org.



One-story home now the standard design in Rochester.



Make Home Builders Blitz Part of Your Plan for 2008!

Home Builders Blitz 2008 is a partnership with Habitat for Humanity and the building industry to build homes across the nation. In the first national Home Builders Blitz in 2006, more than 1,000 professional home builders came together to build 459 homes at 130 Habitat affiliates across the country, providing housing for nearly 2,000 people. In

2008 the Home Builders Blitz will take place during the first week of June (May 31 through June 7, 2008). Home Builders Blitz 2008 registration process is currently open. Visit the Home Builders Blitz 2008 pages on PartnerNet (<http://partnernet.habitat.org/>) to register your affiliate's interest. The registration form is located in the "Get In-

Involved" section. Each affiliate will receive monthly updates from the Home Builders Blitz 2008 team, announcements about new partnerships with national builders, information about in-kind donations, as well as marketing resources and additional program support as needed. For more information please email homebuildersblitz@habitat.org

Albany Blitz Build Supports Flooded Delaware County



sored by Citizens Bank who joined our build for a day with their president in tow.

The build was held on the Empire State Plaza, next to the Legislative Office Building (where all the state Senators and Representa-

tives have their offices.) With a big tent and signs, we were hard to miss!



In addition to our build, we held daily Advocacy Training seminars where we discussed:

- Need for affordable housing in NY
- The definition of advocacy
- Why NY needs a housing trust fund
- Meeting with elected officials
- Characteristics of effective advocacy campaigns
- Grassroots organizing

Our new housing advocates met with 6 members of the NYS legislature (most from the housing committees) to explain how important a housing trust fund is for the 587,000 NYS families in need of safe, affordable housing. They were awesome and received considerable support for their issue.

Many thanks to the large number of people who made this event possible including the construction manager and crew from Syracuse HFH; the Advocacy Department from HFH NYC; our legislative adviser from Syracuse HFH; the volunteers from Delaware County HFH; the support team from HFH Suffolk; the training team from HFHI Youth Programs; our many workshop speakers; and last, but not least, our team from Ithaca College who spent their spring break building and advocating for NYS families in need.

Our second annual Advocacy in Albany event is planned for Spring 2008.

Robert Curley, President of Citizens Bank - NY, with Ainsley Smith, team leader for Advocacy in Albany's Ithaca College volunteers

This past March, HFH-NYS hosted *Advocacy in Albany*. This event was organized to raise awareness of the mission and activities of Habit in NYS as well as to advocate for affordable housing to the NYS legislature.

AIA volunteers framed a house for a Delaware County family who lost their home in the flood of 2006. Our event was spon-

Testimony Given on Behalf of Habitat in NYS

Anyone who has tried to apply for funding through NYS housing agencies is familiar with the daunting application process. In New York State, there are only 2 Habitat affiliates who have the resources to apply, leaving 52 NY affiliates unable to access dollars to build desperately needed affordable homes.

On April 27th, Paige Belenbaum, Director of Advocacy at Habitat for Humanity – NYC, testified to the

State Senate Standing Committee on Housing. She pointed out that State funding is far too complex to be accessed by most nonprofits and especially small Habitat affiliates. She recommended that the State housing agencies simplify their application process and create an advisory board of nonprofit housing providers to assist in identifying solutions and programs which will benefit the families of NYS in need of affordable housing.

The testimony was well re-

ceived by the Committee. Senator Kruger stated that both agencies are aware of the lengthy excessive application process, and encouraged Habitat’s across the state to voice their concerns and to work with HFA and AHC to improve the application process.

To read the full text of this testimony visit: www.habitatnyc.org/advocate.html

A Charities Symposium

**Thursday
June 28th**

8:00 - 12:30

**Genesee
Community
College
Batavia, NY**

**Sponsored by
NYS Attorney General
Andrew Cuomo**

This morning-long program is part of an educational effort designed to assist not-for-profit organizations in NY so they may fulfill their mission effectively while complying with the legal mandates of this State.

**For details call the
NYS Charities Bureau
212-416-8402 or
Email
CharBur@oag.state.ny.us**

March '07 Conference Highlights

Close to a hundred representatives from habitat affiliates statewide joined us for a daylong spring conference in Albany this past March.

In between workshops and during lunch, participants met, mingled and shared ideas with each other.

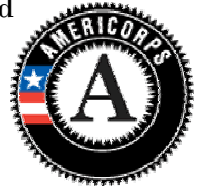
Why re-invent the wheel when great ideas are just out there waiting to be borrowed--so if something is stumping your affiliate, perhaps it is time to send a member of your paid staff, most active volunteers or a board member to the statewide conference!



Affiliates Benefit From VISTA Volunteers

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

HFH of NYS is preparing to apply to the AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program. This program, sometimes referred to as the “domestic Peace Corps”, provides young workers to non-profit organizations to develop and implement programs that increase capacity to build—with the ultimate goal of bringing low-income people out of poverty.



AmeriCorps*VISTA workers enable your affiliate to implement those “dream projects” that you never have time to turn into reality. Workers offer people power to help you address a new program area related to your mission.

In NY, nearly 3,000 members are currently providing service in over fifty programs to community based organizations, state and local governments, and institutions of higher education.

For more information regarding the AmeriCorps*VISTA program see:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/youth/nyscnscs/americorps.asp>

If your affiliate is interested in participating in this program, please contact our office for more details

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