

## Habitat “Family Partners” Group Now Formalized

After several months of organizing local Habitat Families into a cohesive unit, the HfH Mendocino Coast Partners Association was formally established last month. All Habitat home-owners or prospective home-owners belong.

The purpose of “The Partners” is to provide a mutual support system for all Habitat families; to foster good will and neighborliness; to sponsor activities that promote learning, socializing and a sense of partnership; and to furnish a forum for discussion of Habitat homes and policies when needed. The new group is headed by Rick Chilton, who, with Carol Linville, built a Habitat home for their family a few years ago. “The Partners Association meets monthly — and we each put in \$5 a month to fund our activities,” Rick explains.



RICK CHILTON

Rick’s first Community Service project, the Adopt-a-Highway Program in early August, was a big success. “We’ll do that three times a year. Then we’re planning a Family Picnic for the Habitat Families some time after Labor Day.”

During the Labor Day weekend, Rick Chilton will travel to Estes Park in Colorado to attend a national Habitat organizational seminar.

## From Family to Community: a Two Year



Ygnacia and Rosendo Padilla, Junior (6), Elizabeth (7) in their living room

## Meet the Padilla Family of Fort Bragg —proof of the Habitat concept in action!

It was about two years ago that their Habitat home was dedicated by the Priest from Our Lady of Good Counsel Church across the street. Rosendo Padilla and his wife, Ygnacia, had worked for months — alongside their Habitat partners — to build the house. Now they owned it.

“For several years we lived in a tiny place,” Ygnacia remembers. “We all slept in the one bedroom. There were hardly any storage cabinets. Worst of all, there were holes in the floor where cold air and bugs came into the room!”

Ygnacia stretches her arms to indicate space. “But look how much room we have now! We have plenty of cabinets. Each child has a room. We’re comfortable — no holes! Mostly we are proud... to have built all this—with the help of Habitat—and to own it!”

Six-year-old Rosendo, Jr, says he is very happy. (He goes

to Redwood School.) Elizabeth, 7, will attend Dana Gray this year. Rosendo, who works for Shuster Logging, put in 500 hours of Sweat Equity — as did Ygnacia. But two years after building their house, the Padilla’s keep donating their time to Habitat. “We like helping others, just as we were helped,” Rosendo says. “It feels good to be part of the community this way.”

Ygnacia is a great cook who specializes in tamales. She works at a motel making up rooms — but still finds time to cook for fund-raisers and other events. And she worked with Rosendo and other volunteers picking up trash along Highway One as part of the CalTrans Adopt-a-Highway Program.

“We feel so proud to help our community stay beautiful. It is ours now!” smiles Ygnacia. She and Rosendo took the

**WANT ADS**

**ALUMINUM CANS** are being collected for Coast Habitat at the Recycling Center and at First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Ch., Evergreen United Methodist Ch., Trinity Lutheran Ch., Our Lady of Good Counsel Ch., Mendocino Pres-byterian Ch., St. Anthony's Ch. and Mendocino Baptist Ch. Donate aluminum cans by marking your bag "For Habitat for Humanity."

**"Water Credits"**—Habitat has to have one for each new home. (When you replace a std. toilet with a lo-flo model, you get a "Water Credit.") If you have such a credit in Fort Bragg, consider giving it

**HIWAY BEAUTIFIER!** If you'd like to help improve the scenery, pls join the Habitat/CalTrans Adopt-a-Hiway Volunteers! Call Horace Mann at 964-7453

**COAST HABITAT NEWS**

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Assisted by: Paul Kemp, Chuck Greenberg, Gloria Renteria

**'Millenium House' Auction to be Held Sept. 30 At Moose Cafe in Mendocino**

An unusual 'auction' will be the main part of a benefit dinner party for Habitat on Thursday evening September 30 at Mendocino's lively Moose Cafe on Kasten Street.

Habitat's "Millenium House," the first house to be built next year, will feature materials provided by the 'auction.' For exam-ple, kitchen and bath-room fix-tures will be on the block — or you can bid on doors, roofing, siding, flooring, cement, wiring — any of the elements that go into building a Habitat home. The donor's name will be noted on a commemorative certificate given to the homeowner.

Moose Cafe owner Linda Friedman promises an appetiz-

**'Artists for Habitat' To Open Benefit Art Show At Company Store In October**

Calling themselves 'Artists for Habitat,' eight eminent artists of the Mendocino Coast will display their works in a week-long benefit showing at Fort Bragg's Company Store starting October 8. Normal gallery commissions for all sales at the show will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

Works by J.D. Mayhew; oils by Olaf Palm; paintings and etchings by Doug Desmond; limited-edition bronze scul- ptures by Wheatly Allen; paint- ings by Hope Stevenson, Naida Schorg and Sunshine Taylor can all be seen, along with sculpture and ceramics by Maralee Greene.

~~"We've done these benefits~~

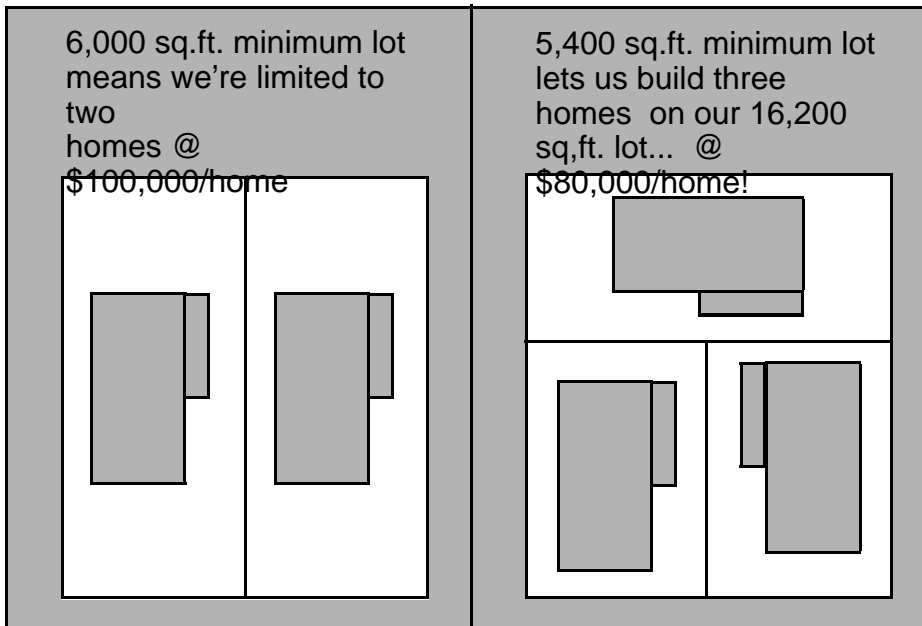


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## The Case for Revising FB Zoning



## Coast Habitat Gets Top Marks In Annual HfH Chapter Ratings

This year, Habitat for Humanity International sent out an evaluation of each of its member Chapters. From headquarters in Americus, GA, and through its Western Regional Office, Habitat grades the various Chapters on their Business Practices and Chapter work.

The Business Practices grades are: Acceptable (3); Good (2); and Best (1). The Coast Habitat Board of Directors has been focussing on Business Practices in recent retreats led by Claire S. Ellis. One outcome of this effort has been receipt of Habitat for Humanity International Best Business Practices award.

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of the Mendocino Coast  
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## We must convince City Hall to act in favor of Affordable Housing!

*an Editorial by Chuck Greenberg*

Continuing to require 6000 sq.ft.-lot minimums — at current land costs — effectively renders the term “affordable housing” meaningless to most local families. The Housing Element of the General Plan of 1994 calls on the City to make a priority of new zoning to allow smaller lots and the splitting of existing lots with two homes to insure availability of affordable housing for working families. *That was five years ago!*

According to figures for 1994, a typical single lot cost \$59,000. Add fees and construction costs of \$124,500 and the house costs \$183,500! (In 1999, this would be more like \$200,000!) Not an affordable home for the average working family, let alone the average Habitat family earning \$17,000 to \$20,000 per year.

Other Sweat-Equity projects, like the smaller Glass Beach homes, begin typically at \$160,000 (and up) with thousands of hours of labor as the down payment and a government-sponsored low-interest mortgage— roughly \$800 per month. (Contrast this with the average Habitat zero-interest mortgage of \$350 a month!)

We hope to persuade the Fort Bragg City Council that they are out of compliance with the wisdom and compassion of the