



# COAST HABITAT NEWS

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## DANA STREET UNDERWAY

### Volunteers Needed!

Story By Chet Anderson

There was no fancy ribbon-cutting ceremony and no dignitaries were present (unless you count the 3 hard-working members of the Wolverine football team,) when Habitat broke ground October 9th for the next three Habitat houses.

Build Chair Jerry Dorsey marshaled his team of enthusiastic volunteers -- Board members, students, neighbors and the families who will buy these houses -- to take pick and shovel in hand to dig foundations. Habitat is putting out the call for volunteers to help build the first three of seven "simple, affordable" homes. Interested volunteers not already signed up from earlier builds please contact Habitat's Volunteer Coordinator, Pat McKeever at 961-0775. (Contractors willing to provide some supervision are of special interest, but no one will be turned away.)

When these three houses are completed in Spring 2005, Habitat will begin work on the next four City-approved houses.



## TO BUILD IS TO SPEND----HABITAT NEEDS YOUR HELP MORE THAN EVER.

*Now that Dana Street is underway, the season of saving for the future is over; the future is now. For several years you have given us the means to prepare the way for Dana-surveys, hearings, engineering and plans-now we need your help for the part that counts, housing our Partner families.*

*The houses we began on October 9th will cost 50% more to build than the same homes in 2000-2001-heated housing markets and the war have doubled many prices like copper, steel and plywood. We are funded for the 2 homes under way and the 3rd we are starting this Winter, but we need to prepare for the next 2 starts in Spring and the purchase of new land for the future.*

*The cost of land in Fort Bragg has doubled since we purchased the 1.75 acres on Dana; another developed parcel of similar size will cost close to \$1,000,000. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have the first \$150,000 towards that acquisition; the rest as always will depend on your generosity.*

*Many of you have already contributed and some have increased the amount and frequency of your gifts-few non-profits can claim this in a weak economy and we treasure your loyalty. Keep us in mind for Holiday gift contributions honoring friends and family!*



### **FAMILY SELECTION UPDATE** BY KENT BROWN, CHAIR

We are now processing all applications for completeness, verifying credit information, and rental history. These qualified applications will go to the whole committee after the Holidays for preliminary deliberations. The Committee will select eight

finalists for submittal to the Board at their April meeting. This will be a fairly straight forward task for them, since the committee will present eight equally qualified finalists. The Board will be given eight sealed envelopes from which to choose four. These four will sign a Covenant with Habitat and begin their Sweat Equity hours on Dana Street.

We had 97 requests for applications prior to any public notifications. (This level of interest shows the scope of the housing need on the Coast, as our last round in 2000 had 71

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Foundations for the Fraser, Maden and Gaeta houses are underway and the floor supports and joists on one house are in place. Volunteer workers, both experienced and not, are needed as we go forward working on three houses concurrently. If you are willing and interested in this fun and rewarding work, please call Pat McKeever at 961-0775. If you can't come out to the job site and work, there are other ways you can help (such as preparing a lunch for the work crew one day.) We especially need volunteer plumbers to do the rough in plumbing so we can move on to raising the walls and the roof.

requests *after* publicity!)

We sent brochures to all interested families, providing basic information for them to self-qualify their basic eligibility before obtaining an actual application by phone.

Habitat accepts applications from all people regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or religious preference, and chooses finalists based on need and willingness to commit to Habitat's mission and methods. With so many in such great need, our task is a painful and sometimes tearful one, but joyous in the outcome.



### FROM THE BOARDROOM BY PAT DUNBAR, PRESIDENT

Of course, our most exciting news is the start of 3 new homes! Details appear in another article, but here I'd like to note that these homes will include fire sprinkler systems, compliments of the Fort Bragg Fire Department, which will provide an extra level of security for our partner families!

#### **Other items of interest:**

~Our Habitat office provides a great place for meetings, our computer, files, fax, etc. However, as an all-volunteer organization, we don't use this space every day. Now two other non-profits, The Community Foundation of Mendocino County and the Mendocino Arts Council, share our office. We each pay 1/3 of the very reasonable rent (with approval from our wonderful landlords, Dow & Carol Jacobzoon) so budgets of all three go a little farther.

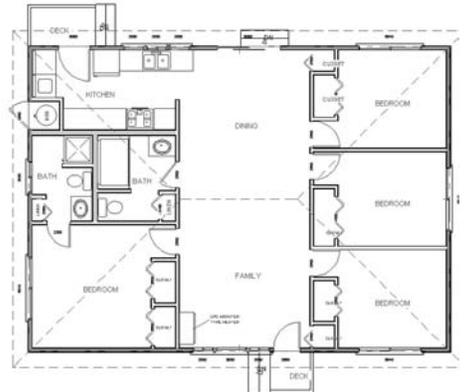
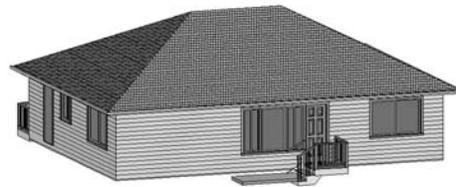
~For several years, Habitat has taken responsibility for highway cleanup for Hwy 1 through Fort Bragg. Now that our builds will have priority, we have decided to yield this project to another group, with thanks to Jerry Dorsey for spearheading it

~Title Update: the final lot line recordings and other paperwork are almost complete, and we expect to be able to transfer title to our 4 homes at Maple/Corry and 3 homes on Oak/Dana by year's end.

Best wishes to all for a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

## FRASER, GAETA CHOOSE THEIR PLANS

Part of the Habitat Mission is to involve each family in the design of their home. While the homes are simple, they are, even with our discounts, the most expensive possession a hard working family will ever own and should reflect the tastes of their owners to the degree possible without added cost to our donors.



## HARWOOD LUMBER FOUNDATION DONATES \$5000

BY PAUL BRATERIS, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

Founded by the Harwood family, the Foundation addresses the needs of our employees, their families, local charities and the surrounding communities. It provided the framing lumber for Habitat's Oak Street homes and continues to match the Harwood's goals.

My personal interest in Habitat for Humanity began with a friend who, as CEO for Wells Lamont, got his whole company involved on a voluntary basis. I was also impressed to see former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn take an active role.

Growing up in a small town, I was the first in my family to graduate from high school and college. After 6 years in the US Navy, I worked in the Engineered Product, Process, Print and Packaging Industries. I've been with Harwood Products since March of this year as COO. To my way of thinking, Habitat for Humanity would be an excellent fit for the way I grew up and the skills and experiences I've acquired along the way. I look forward to working on the Dana Street homes and being part of Harwood's commitment to Habitat and this Community.



**HABITAT ON PARADE**

Thanks to the Maden and Martinez families, our floats in the Mendocino 4th of July parade and the Fort Bragg Paul Bunyan Days parade on Labor Day won ribbons in both. Charlie Maden served as parade float chairman, Auscencio Martinez was the driver extraordinaire and kids from families and their friends rode the floats and distributed candy to appreciative onlookers

**TENNIS, THEATER ANYONE?**

Habitat supporters enjoyed delicious food & wine at MTC, then saw Shakespeare's "The Tempest" Hard-core tennis amateurs conducted themselves professionally in a two-day tournament featuring spirited competition, good food and lots of fun. Thanks to Redwood Health Club's Tennis Pro **Shannon Smith and owners, Don and Mike Pollard**. The 2 events netted \$3600 for Habitat's current builds on Dana!



**VIRTUAL AUCTION REALITY**

Auctioneer Chet Anderson's deftly paced patter and gavel worked the crowd at the Hamilton house for a total of nearly \$10,000 as they alternately fought and collaborated to outbid each other. He successfully "sold" bid lots from the foundations to the roof and all the trimmings while explaining how the homes were built and what they mean to Habitat families.

Several participants also volunteered for construction work and everyone left with a better grasp of Habitat's needs and stewardship of gifts, which are recovered as repaid mortgages.

Harvest market catered the delicious food enjoyed by us all.

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