



COAST || HABITAT NEWS

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HABITAT WELCOMES TWO BRAND NEW FAMILIES, HANDS THE KEYS TO THE ROCHAS AND CAZARES FAMILIES AND “GRADUATES” FIVE OLD PARTNERS WITH PAID UP MORTGAGES AT DEDICATION OF “CHUCK GREENBERG COURT”

HABITAT CELEBRATES MANY MILESTONES

by Chet Anderson

On Saturday June 28th, supporters of Habitat for Humanity gathered along with Habitat families, board members and volunteers to take note of significant milestones in the organization’s work. The capstone of the day was the dedication of the commons area of the 8-family MacPherson St. project to Chuck Greenberg who has been a stalwart and dedicated volunteer and leader of the local Habitat affiliate. Board President Ron Hensell followed a litany of Mr. Greenberg’s accomplishments over the past 18 years with the announcement that the project area would henceforth be known as Chuck Greenberg Court.

Chuck has been a Board member for most of the past 18 years, President for nearly 10 of those years and has actively chaired two of Habitat’s most important committees: Resources and Build. He has been actively involved in the many fund-raising and community service events, edits this newsletter and has worked on almost all of the homes that Habitat has built.

His most significant contributions have come in two key areas: Resource development (aka fundraising) and Project Planning and Government Relations). The current MacPherson project is a testament to his dogged pursuit of adequate property for affordable housing and to getting the best project design possible.

Chuck’s personal efforts have resulted in significant program grants from both governmental and private donors. He has worked tirelessly with both elected City officials and staff to include affordable housing in the City’s General Plan. His efforts resulted in un-snarling some historical problems that affected the ability of Habitat to transfer title to some early-built homes.

The festive event also celebrated major events in the life of Habitat. The five Habitat families (Mora, Canul, Renteria, Chilton and Padilla) who have paid off their mortgages and now own their homes outright were recognized. (Story on Page 3.) The Rocha and Cazares families, who will be moving into the first two units at MacPherson shortly, were

introduced. It was noted that these families have been working on Habitat homes for other families and their own for the past 5 years, more than twice the minimum required 500 hours of sweat equity. The guests were treated to a delicious lunch prepared by the two families, topped off with a brightly-decorated “Chuck Greenberg Court” cake!



Chet Anderson works the crowd for Chuck Greenberg, seated and Macario Rocha, the new homeowner



President Ron Hensell hands off his new home to Ambrosio Cazares, his wife and daughter

PHOTO CREDITS: SUE SHABAZZ

BOARD SELECTS NEWEST PARTNERS FOR CHUCK GREENBERG COURT

Nestor and Jennifer Sanchez-Ilanez have three children: Elias (9), Alyson (6) and Analia (4). Nestor works as a gardener on his own and for several other outfits as needed and works at J J's Family Dining on Saturday. Jennifer works at Redwood Children's Services. Their children are lively and attractive; the two older ones do well in school. They understand the Habitat Partnership model and are eager to be part of it.

Joel and Beljica Vidal also have 3 lovely children: Joel (8), Bryan (5) and Bianca (1+). Joel works as a roofer and painter and has worked for Matt O'Halloran for 5 years between 6 and 9 months a year. He worked on Dick Williams Way and CG Court before applying.

FOUNDER, SCOTT ANDERSON RETIRES FROM HFH AFTER TWENTY YEARS

Scott Anderson has retired from serving on the Board and being our Build Chair for many years.

He has been involved in every phase of Habitat's efforts to house local families since 1992.

He helped Max Mitchell and Hank Mahon found the Affiliate and was Lead Builder on eleven of our nineteen homes to date.

He organized the first Habitat Blitz Build on Oak Street, completing the duplex in one frenzied, tightly scheduled weekend.

He has served two terms on our board, one as Vice President, and his thoughtful, measured advice will be very much missed, especially by those of us who have served for many years with him.

LOCAL HEROES WORK HARD TO HOUSE MORE FAMILIES-THEY HELPED HABITAT, CONSIDER THEM FOR YOUR HOME

Matt O'Halloran has been involved with Habitat for almost 20 years in various ways. He has supplied his painting expertise and labor on most of our houses and proposed that his employee, Pepe Sanchez, apply in 2008. More recently another part-time employee, Joel Vidal, was chosen as well. Matt has always seen Habitat as a path out of poverty and supported the work with his friend Scott Anderson. It is a pleasure to formally recognize him for his partnership after so many years.

Eli Rolph of Mendocino Waterworks became our newest and largest contributor recently when he responded to our call for help in installing a fire suppression system in both our current duplexes. He worked for free with materials and his helper billed at cost saving us \$5000 and better still, offered to do the other units when they are ready!

When **Richard McDonald** died last year, we found ourselves without a pro-bono roofer. When we recalled that **Stephen Dunlop** had worked on several homes in past years, we gave him a call. His answer was short and sweet: he said "sure." He further agreed to do the other units and to be enrolled in an HFHI program that will supply the roofing material free from GAF Roofing Supply if a local roofer will apply the roof.

KITES AND SPIRITS SOAR AT HABITAT'S 15TH KITE FEST

As promised, the sun broke through the coastal haze in glory on Saturday and the perfect amount of wind came whistling in (although for the first time in 15 years, it came from the South!) A few hundred bright colorful kites could be seen floating above Todd Point with some soaring many hundreds of feet and others being pulled by kids as they raced around the field.

Habitat for Humanity staged its 15th Annual Kite Festival and the consensus was "Wow! What a day!" Comments overheard included: "This is such a great event." "We love this day!" "My kids can't wait for the Kite Festival."

This annual free, fun-filled, family event is Habitat's gift to give back to the entire coastal community for their support the rest of the year by contributing time and money to help Habitat fulfill its sole mission: Building Affordable Housing. By building a house, we are also building a better community and our Partner's lives.

The KiteFest sponsors include some of the community businesses that have been there for all of the years including the Mendocino Cookie Company, the Mendocino Village Toy Store, Harvest Market, FB Feed and Pet, Silver's at the Wharf. This year the Ledford House, Silvers and Gordon's QuikLube joined in providing prizes for the first time Kite Raffle and the new owners of

The Rental Place provided discounts on equipment. Of course the festival could not be held at Todd Point without the generous support of landowners Todd Farmhouse Antiques and Group Two.

Of the many Habitat Board members and families who work from dawn to dusk to make the KiteFest happen, no one deserves special attention more than Pat Dunbar who recruits a cadre of wonderful women workers who helped 100 kids make, decorate and fly their own kites.

Habitat is in the middle of a major home-building project to build eight family homes (4 duplexes) at 450 MacPherson Street with the first two family units getting close to occupancy. Habitat NEEDS VOLUNTEERS to help with the builds. All skill levels are welcome and are valuable. Call 964-0942 for more information or to volunteer! DO IT NOW!



CHILTON, RENTERIA, AND PADILLA RETIRE MORTGAGES ON MAPLE STREET; MORA AND CANUL ON OAK, AS HFH FULFILLS ITS MISSION TO HOUSE WORKING FAMILIES

In 1992 Habitat planned the Oak Street Duplex and completed it in 1993. It was sold to the **Canul and Mora** families. Silver Canul was working the line at the Cliff House and worked his way up to be a co-owner of Silver's At The Wharf. Tony was a Choker Setter and went on to open the Zapateria in the Depot building. They both are Habitat success stories in that they worked their way up to run successful businesses while raising their families and paying off their mortgages.

The **Chiltons and Padillas** were the first families on Maple Street at a point where Habitat barely had the funds to complete their homes. We did so with Boardmember loans but we could not sell them the homes because of a zoning dispute with The City. Like the Oak Street project, Maple was a subdivision that depended on a Zoning change that did not pass until 2006, 10 years after the homes were "sold" to these families. Rick Chilton works at the Hospital in Medical Records and Carol is a dental assistant at Mendocino Coast Clinic; Rosendo worked for a lumber company and now works at Rossi's; his wife, Nacha, was the driving force behind many successful Mexican Dinners which raised about \$15,000 for Habitat. Carol also ran at one time a sewing machine repair business called Happy Machines.

The Renteria home on Maple had an interesting story. In 1997 Habitat received an offer to salvage an oceanfront home in its entirety to sell for salvage or use to house a family: Habitat did both! Scott Anderson led a salvage crew who dismantled the house and reconstucted a smaller version (which is why their home looks different from the others on Maple) and sold off the excess. Joe Moura was the Lead Builder in 1998. The family was able to pay the mortgage earlier because their eldest son was working in the woods like his father and contributing to the mortgage.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK-VOLUNTEERS COME TO THE RESCUE WITH SPECIAL SKILLS

Helio Cen, recently appointed to the Board, Has a landscape and general carpentry business and has become the right hand man on site, executing Robert Van Peer's directions to insure steady progress on the job.

Frank Richards, another Board member featured in this Newsletter a few years ago, has continued wiring Habitat houses on CG Court, a considerable labor as it is a duplex and is a member of the Build Committee.

Richard Greene, retired CPA, who keeps the Board's books with Judy Cutino, also straps on a weekend tool belt and assists Frank and Helio with whatever needs doing.

Marie Jones, Fort Bragg City Planner, assisted Habitat with good ideas in the planning stages, has flexibly allowed minor changes as they evolved and strapped on a tool belt many weekends to assist in the actual production on the houses with her Contractor partner Cynthia Sharon.

Lee Welty, who engineered the whole project, also wore a belt and hammered nails to see how his plans turned out. They worked just fine!

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**FROM THE BOARDROOM
RON HENSELL,
PRESIDENT**

This June our Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of our friend Scott Anderson, a founding member of HFHMC, our Build Chair and Vice President, frequent on-site volunteer and a long time Board member. Scott's enthusiasm, sage advice, and construction expertise will be sorely missed.

On a happier note, on June 29, 2013, we dedicated the first of our four duplex homes at McPherson Street to The Rocha and the Cazares families who have been partner families, working with us on Dick Williams Way and McPherson Street, since 2008.

The four duplexes will be named Chuck Greenberg Court in honor of Chuck, the main driving force for HFHMC since 1995. He has been a member of our Board for 18 years, has edited this newsletter for 13, worked tirelessly with the City of Fort Bragg on securing permits, helped us with loans, grants, donations, and fundraising and devoted an entire wet, muddy winter to directing the construction of three homes at Dick Williams Way.

During the ceremony, we also celebrated the burning of five Partner Family mortgages. Nothing gives us more pride than to see our partner families immensely benefit from owning their own homes, outright, after paying their mortgages.

Finally, we would like to thank Wanda Traber of the Village Kite Store for providing a wonderful array of colorful kites at our annual Kite Festival and Pat Dunbar who helped kids build free home-made kites, twenty of which colored the sky at the same time all day.

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**CHET ANDERSON: CHAIR
PARTNERING COMMITTEE**



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