



# COAST || HABITAT NEWS

Published by Habitat For Humanity of the Mendocino Coast, Inc. — 2016

## HABITAT SELECTS TWO NEW FAMILIES AND MAKES GOOD PROGRESS ON THIRD DUPLEX



*The Garcias from l-rt: Hilario, holding Natalia, Blanca, Maricella, Yamilet, Zulaimy*

Hilario and Blanca have lived in Fort Bragg for over 20 years. Hilario works in the timber industry; Blanca has worked in housekeeping and for Caito Fisheries. Her main job right now is Natalia, their newborn 4th girl. Her oldest sister is Yamilet (19) who just graduated from FBHS and is now working for the Mendo-Lake Credit Union and is part time hostess at the No.Coast Brewery restaurant; Zulaimy (16), a sophomore at FBHS, works parttime at Cowlicks, cheerleads and runs cross-country; and Marisella (9) a bright 3rd grader who loves reading & swimming. The girls are all excited about having a few more bedrooms than in their small apartment. Hilario has worked on Habitat projects since 2008.



*The Seaholms l-rt: J.R., Julie, Tre, Sophie, Shayla*

J.R. (William) and Julie are long-time Fort Bragg residents; J.R., who went to FBHS, works in construction and Julie works for the Mendocino Coast District Hospital in the Surgery department. They are a family of six with oldest daughter Jordyn (22) now living on her own. Shayla (18) graduated from FBHS this year, where she played varsity volleyball, a continuing passion. Tre is a typical 9 year old boy with baseball, drawing and dinosaurs on his mind. Sophia is an active 5 year old kindergartener with loads of energy. They are very excited about getting a Habitat home and J.R. is busy working on the current project.

### HOW HABITAT PICKS NEW HOMEOWNERS

Families are chosen before the homes are completed (or started) so that each can complete their required 500 hours of sweat equity. As part of the application, each must also submit tax records for the last 3 years, proof of employment, legal status of each family member, bank or credit union accounts, marriage certificate, if applicable, driver's licenses or ID cards and social security numbers. Also, they must share copies of their most recent utility bills, their current landlord and past landlords for 5 years.

The Committee then runs a credit/background check, evaluates the current need for housing, does several home visits, determines how well the family understands the Mission of Habitat, and ranks the families accordingly. The selected, unnamed families, are then submitted to the board for the final choice.

NOTE: If you know a hard-working family that may be qualified and interested in the Habitat housing program, please contact Sue (707-813-1087) or Chet (707-937-1707). We have one opening left.



*The third duplex of CG Court closed and roughed in*

## HABITAT RELOCATES OFFICE; SAVES MONEY

In February 2016 the Board realized that we were in a intensive period of building that did not require a monthly meeting space.

We had just lost our two sublets which kept our rent to \$1500 a year and our bookkeeper moved from Fort Bragg to Mendocino.

After deliberating, we decided it was not the best use of \$4800 of donated funds to retain the space simply to house our records and relocated our files to a Board Member's garage easily accessed by anyone who needs to get at our records, some in a fireproof safe.

When we need to meet face to face rather than consult by email or phone, we meet in his home. We gave away all our furniture and unneeded items to other Non-Profits who needed them and moved out leaving only a few bags of trash.

HFH Mendocino is more a state of mind and a commitment to housing our Partners than a physical office. We have rolled along just fine since we moved and have saved about \$3000 dollars already this year-the equivalent of a kitchen in the Lopez house this year. Calls to the office refer to a Trac-Phone and are promptly answered.

## HFH'S "NEW" OFFICE



## BISCHOFF GRANT 1ST INSTALLMENT IS PAID

While they were alive, Jack and Chatter Bischoff were very generous to Mendocino. They funded and raised money for the Fire Department, the Presbyterian Church, the Study Club and many other local organizations. Their children were well off in their own right so they turned to the Community Foundation to set up a perpetual fund for the town they loved.

When Chatter died she left her assets to the Community Foundation with instructions to fund a number of groups annually from the interest, allowing for applicants to seek large bequests every five years. Habitat, to our surprise, was on the list.

We received the first \$5000 this year and are eligible to apply for capital funding the next duplex in 2017 when will need it most to complete Chuck Greenberg Court.

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## HFH HOME BEQUEST

One of Habitat's most steadfast supporters, has willed his home to Habitat to either sell or use upon his passing. This is the first such gift Habitat Mendocino has ever gotten and certainly one of the most valuable long term.

He is in excellent health and we wish him long life, but salute his extraordinary generosity and hope other donors will follow his example and consider doing this.

At current valuations, the funds realized from the sale of this home will provide the construction funds for three or four Partner's homes in the future.

Habitat welcomes you to consider this way of giving in the future.

## GP MILL SITE PROVIDES HFH AND OTHERS A SPECIAL EVENT VENUE

While many details have yet to be worked out, Habitat, Paul Bunyan Days and other non-profits as well as for profit events will eventually be permitted at the Cypress Street end of the site.

Non-profits will not be charged for this use; for profit ventures will have to pay according to a fee schedule yet to be determined.

There is a large field perfect for flying kites and an area suitable for parking, so HFH will be able to resume the Kite Fest after a hiatus forced on us by prohibitive insurance costs at Todd's Point.

There is the potential for a permanent grandstand in that area that would serve Paul Bunyan Days and many other events.

This fluid situation is very exciting for HFH and Fort Bragg.

## WEATHER CHANGES HFH BUILD PROTOCOL

This has been an unusual year for weather. We had a footing dug and ready to pour last year with volunteers and funding in place: then it rained, not heavily but often, just enough from October until May to disrupt all our plans.

Once started in June, it was so late, we decided not to risk the weather again. We paid 2 part time Contractor/Volunteers less than 1/2 pay to run the job using Partners and retired Pros to close in. We made it by two days thanks to Steve Dunlap Roofing who did the roof for free

We hope to house the 2 families by January, which will give us \$2000 more a month to work with as we move on to the 4th duplex.

*It's that time of year again in which we ask you to contribute to our mission to house working families on the Coast. There are many worthwhile causes clamoring for your help, but Habitat, I think is unique. We bring all manner of folks to our work with a plethora of gifts to give: good wishes, the labor of their hands, the fruits of their labor, their prayers and goodwill and all to house a Partner Family they do not know and will probably never meet. Once the home is complete, a home which they have themselves built with our help, they buy the home. This income stream constitutes half of the cost of another home each year.*

*The other half must come from you who are reading this newsletter. We supplement your many gifts with a mortgage from the Savings Bank, itself a gift of a very low interest loan, and spend our income nearly as fast as we get it on a very tangible item: a home for a hard working family that have given up at least a year's worth of weekends and some workdays to make their dream come true.*

*Habitat honors our Partners, but above all are grateful to you, our steadfast donors whose gifts sustain us and make this a real community effort. We quite literally could not do this without you and wish you a joyous holiday season and new year.*

**The following people and entities have given since the last newsletter in fall 2015. if you are not listed please forgive the omission and let us know so we can correct the Webpage**

Chet and Sherri Anderson	Robert & Mary Gerbi	John & Susan Mitchell
Luna Armstrong	Richard Green	Carl & Elaine Moore
Janet Ashford	Chuck Greenberg & Claire	James and Arlene Moorehead
Betty Barber	Ellis	Janet Morris
Jeffrey Berenson, Mina	Doris Hammer	Susan Newstead
Cohen	Thomas & Jean Hawkins	Christina M. O'Brien
Marcus & Kathy Bibbens	Amy Hensell	Orselli & Rodriguez Fund
Jack and Chatter Bishoff	Ron and Ruth Hensell	John and Janis Porter
Charitable Remainder Trust	Susan Joyce Hofberg	Rantala Heating
James & Anne Blanton	Jim and Barbara Hurst	Dorine Real and Lee Tepper
Martha and Kevin Buck	William & Gwen Jacobson	Hipotito and Alicia Renteria
Diane Cerutti	Barbara Johnson	Frank and Sallie Richards
Community Foundation	Linda Jupiter	Sandra and Guenter Riegler
Thomas Costello	Wilma Keeney and Christo-	Norman Roby & Ginny Mills
Grail G. Dawson	pher Roe	Norman Rudman
Lorna Dennis	Joy Lancaster & Marty	Wm & Carla Schneiderman
Pat Dunbar	Freedman	Mary E. Schuette
Steve Dunlap Roofing	Sam & Babs Levine	Sue Shabazz
Jim Ehlers and Susan Larkin	Patty Lyons	Hal and Sidra Stone
Richard & Gabriele Fien-	Horace & Virginia Mann	Toni L. Taff
burgh	Shelley M. Martin	Jane Vartanian
Fort Bragg Electric	Marguerite D. McBride	Norma Watkins
Douglas and Claire Fortier	Mary Sue McNeill	Orah Young



**FROM THE BOARDROOM  
RON HENSELL,  
PRESIDENT**

This has been an exciting and productive year for Habitat Mendocino. We have at last gotten our 3rd duplex underway and closed to the weather so we can complete it by March and move on to the last unit as soon as the weather breaks.

We have received the first \$5000 grant from the Community Foundation which will help sustain our work every year going forward.

We will be able to reinstate the Kite Fest in 2017, our gift to the community that supports us, and a day of great fun for us as well.

As you can see below, we have a bunch of new volunteers and also

we signed up many Realtors as volunteers for future projects.

We have chosen new Partners in this round who are already at working on their new home.

**EXTRAORDINARY  
VOLUNTEERS**

*Habitat wishes to thank the following contractors and suppliers:*

**Jeff Lane and Andy Bottiker** for doing the electrical rough-in and **Dave Galey** for inspecting the work our Don Evans completed.

**Gallo Villapondo** for the flashing, and **Steve Dunlap** who bought and installed the roof.

**Mike Decker** for doing the plumbing layout and list and **Jeremiah Cypert and James Hall** for coming from Arcata to do the plumbing rough-in.

**Helio Cen**, Board Member, who paid his men to work many days and worked Saturdays himself.

**Don Evans and Kerin Sloane** who have worked diligently on this unit at less than 1/2 the going rate.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2016**

**RON HENSELL: BOARD PRESIDENT;**

**SUE SHABAZZ: VICE PRESIDENT: FAMILY SELECTION**

**HELIO CEN: BUILD CHAIR**

**RICHARD GREEN: TREASURER; FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**CHUCK GREENBERG: SECRETARY; RESOURCE COMMITTEE**

**NORM RUDMAN, LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**FRANK RICHARDS: BUILD COMMITTEE**

**CHET ANDERSON: PARTNERING**

**CHUCK GREENBERG: NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**TO DONATE FUNDS  
OR YOUR TIME  
YOU CAN FIND US  
AT 964-0942 OR  
HABITATMENDOCINO.ORG**

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