

HABITAT APPENINGS

of Berkeley County



Spring 2012

www.berkeleyhabitat.org

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A New Chapter A Message from the Executive Director

Greetings to all. My name is Bryant Knepp and I am excited to be the new Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Berkeley County (HFH of BC). I arrived in Berkeley County via Coloma, MI where I had most recently been serving, for 5 1/2 years, with a great team at Harbor HFH in Benton Harbor, MI as their Director of Construction.

My wife, Lyndsay, my three daughters, Isabelle (8), Sybil (6), and Sloane (4), and I have been settling into Berkeley County over the last few months. We have all been

impressed with the many unique communities and warm hospitality here in the Lowcountry. A friendly welcome, from many of you whom we have been fortunate to have already met, has been appreciated and we look forward to meeting more of you over the coming days and months of 2012.

The original vision of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), to witness the love of God by providing opportunities for families to have a simple, decent place to live continues on today, some 36 years and more than 500,000 families served through new, rehabilitated, repaired and improved homes later. I embrace this vision and I know many of you have too as evidenced by your generous support of this ministry over the last 21 years.

My predecessors, Tom and Bonnie Chamberlin, retired on July 29 after providing 10 plus years of solid leadership to this affiliate. In light of their legacy, the HFH of BC Board of Directors and staff have a clear calling to continue serving families here in Berkeley with simple, decent, and affordable housing. This is difficult and trying work, and even more lies ahead, but as many of us already understand, noble and excellent results can only be tasted by those willing to pay the steep price of sacrifice.

Along with God's grace, the success of HFH of BC depends on the willingness of compassionate individuals to share their time, talents, and treasures with this ministry. I leave each of you with this question.

Will you consider what sacrifice you would be willing to undertake, in partnering with us in 2012, to build simple, decent, and affordable homes with our neighbors in Berkeley County, one house at a time?

God bless you all,

Bryant Knepp
Executive Director



Office:
408 S. Live Oak Dr.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843-761-8989

www.berkeleyhabitat.org
office@berkeleyhabitat.org

ReStore:
1 Belknap Rd.
Goose Creek, SC 29445
843-572-9191

Open to the Public:
Tues 12 noon-5 p.m.
Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ReStore donations are
accepted during store hours.
Pick up is available for large
items.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bakari Jackson - **President**
Ivor Edwards - **VP**
Martin Kirby - **Secretary**
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Executive Directors

Bryant Knepp

ReStore Manager

Kathi Cotterill

Administrative Assistant/ Office Volunteer

Coordinator

Linda Wingard

Habitat for Humanity International is

a worldwide organization that operates in nearly 80 countries, including all 50 states in the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico. Thanks to Habitat's help, a family somewhere in the world improves its housing situation every 7 minutes of every hour of every day of the year. In 2010, Habitat served a record 74,960 families in need.

ReStore News

The Habitat for Humanity of Berkeley County ReStore remained very busy this year thanks to our wonderful volunteers, customers and donors. I will admit that it was an extremely hot summer and we had to close the store many days as the heat index reached over 110. While our customers and donors got used to the process, we know it is an inconvenience. Please know we are working diligently to explore options of innovative cooling while being good stewards of our resources. I am looking for green alternatives and grants to help fund this project for us. We thank all of you for your continued support and understanding!

Despite the heat, we do have a great time together! Most recently, we had the privilege of picking up items from an antique store. Well, we all know that the colors and styles are not always what people are looking for. And so goes the story of the ugly yellow couch. I kept telling one of the volunteers that the couch would just take "the right person." The couch sat, and sat, and sat! A volunteer finally challenged me – I had to sell the couch within 2 weeks AND not reduce the price by more than 40%. This challenge was issued on a Friday afternoon. The next day, I diligently worked on "featuring" this couch to increase its visibility and attractiveness. While in the process of shifting furniture, a gentleman purchased the couch! I walked outside to shake his hand and he assured me that this ugly couch would not be going to his home – it was going to Hollywood! Watch this season's Army Wives and look for the ugly yellow couch. You can imagine how excited I was to gloat to the doubting Thomas of our bunch – we have a little of everything. Our inventory changes daily! "Miss a day, miss a deal." If you haven't made it to the ReStore recently, please stop by.

ReStore Volunteer "wish list"

- Afternoon Receiving and Customer Service volunteers
- Appliance/Plumbing department volunteer
- We need Volunteers to help schedule donation pick-ups and appraising donations
- General volunteers to assist with general electrical, plumbing and safety issues.

We have truly been blessed by all of you. If you are cleaning out your clutter, remember to contact us for a free pick-up or drop off your donations during our business hours. If you are in need of something particular, please do not hesitate to contact the ReStore at 572-9191 or by e-mail restore@berkeleyhabitat.org.

Volunteer Spotlight:

The ReStore is blessed daily by volunteer Guy Sheets. Guy has been volunteering with HFH of BC for about 5 years on build sites and the ReStore. He has been serving 5 days a week (full-time) in the ReStore receiving room for almost two years. Usually, he spends about 2-3 months on his property in Arizona. This year, he decided not to do so. We were certainly excited to hear that he would not be leaving us for such a long time! In cold or in the extreme heat...no complaints from Guy. He has worked very diligently in increasing the amount of money collected through our scrap metal program and has increased the amount we receive to average over \$1000 per month. Don't misunderstand, we love it that he works hard and increases income to the store, but most importantly, he's been named our "Gentle Giant." He loves hugs (and we love them from him), he assists with any "issues" that may arise, and shows genuine concern for everyone around him. We love Guy and continue to be blessed by all he is and who we are when we are around him!



By Kathi Cotterill, ReStore Manager



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

When life hands you a bag of opportunities it is your choice about how you will use them. HFH of BC has had a great year of opportunities! We are continuing to work towards our mission

I appreciate our great volunteers. They are truly a blessing to our affiliate. It brings me great joy to know that we have volunteers who are truly dedicated to doing God's will. In addition to our volunteers, I would like to thank our other supporters: churches, donors, small local businesses, and corporations. HFH of BC would not be successful without God and the support of these dedicated people. Also, I appreciate our board members for their dedication and commitment to the mission. God bless you all!

I appreciate the wonderful employees of our affiliate. Executive Director, Bryant Knepp for the passion, effort, and time he has invested with all of the changes and challenges this affiliate faces today. He truly has a passion for this ministry and is committed to serving the people. Kathi Cotterill is doing a fantastic job managing the ReStore and volunteers. Linda Wingard and volunteers, Marianne Fortin, and Martha Jo McGlothlin are doing a remarkable job in handling administrative responsibilities and are supportive of our Executive Director. You are truly a phenomenal group!

My job as your current Board President will be to guide the affiliate during this transition period and to lead us full speed ahead to be successful with helping more families and touching the lives of more volunteers. My dream is to spread the ministry of HFH of BC throughout the community and to keep this worthwhile cause fresh in the minds of others so that it becomes contagious.

Please continue to pray for this affiliate, our wonderful partner families and all the outstanding people who serve as volunteers and employees. Together all of us can bless and touch more families than we can individually.

God bless you and may he continue to always be with you!

Bakari Jackson
President, Board of Directors

Habitat for Humanity International

HFHI marked a major milestone October 3rd when it dedicated its 500,000th house in Maai Mahiu, Kenya, and began construction on its 500,001st house in Paterson, N.J.

HFH of BC is among the more than 2,300 Habitat affiliates worldwide that have made this milestone possible, having built 25 houses since its founding in 1990.

The milestone houses represent the steady increase in HFHI's scale and scope to help more families in need of decent, affordable housing. In 2005, HFHI celebrated its 200,000th house. Six years later, HFHI has more than doubled that number through new, rehabilitated, repaired and improved homes.

"It is a testament to the power of what God can do when people come together to build homes, communities and hope," said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of HFHI. "I am so grateful to all of the volunteers, donors and advocates who share our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live."

In Kenya, HFHI completed its 500,000th house on October 3rd, in partnership with families who were displaced after post-election violence erupted in the country in late 2007. That same day, volunteers raised the walls on HFHI's 500,001st house in Paterson, N.J. The house was built in one of the inner-city neighborhoods where Paterson Habitat for Humanity has been continuously building since 1984.

Woman Build

We are in the process of building our first Women Build home with Willia Mae Gadson. She and her six grandchildren will live at 227 Buckeye Lane (just off of Hwy 176 in the Lebanon area). Her grandchildren, 3 boys and 3 girls, range in age from 9 years to 17 years old and each one helps out with the build in age appropriate ways. Willia Mae has been raising her grandchildren for about 9 years and it has been a struggle at times financially and emotionally. "I was determined to keep them together as a family. An incident occurred several years ago that unfortunately placed them in foster care, but I knew that I couldn't leave them there. I fought and struggled until I brought them all together. Now, we are a happy family... I applied for a Habitat home and prayed on it hard. When I received the letter that



we were accepted, I read the letter over and over in disbelief. I was overjoyed with gratitude. God answered my prayers and I will be forever grateful."

Construction of the 5 bedroom home for the Gadson family began in October and is expected to be completed in March of 2012. We are in need of volunteers (men can volunteer too) and we primarily build on Saturdays. As we get to the more technical aspects of the build, we need some semi-skilled volunteers on weekdays. Volunteers can sign up by emailing us at womenbuild@berkeleyhabitat.org.

Not interested in construction but still want to help out? Financial donations can be sent to our office at 408 South Live Oak Drive in Moncks Corner. Call our office or email us and we will send you a \$100 House brochure. All donations are tax deductible.



Please help HFHBC go green and minimize costs, email office@berkeleyhabitat.org and asked to get your news letter by email.

Unless the Lord builds a house, those who build it labor in vain. Psalm 127:1



Non-Profit
Organization
Bulk Rate
Moncks Corner, SC
Permit No. 201

Habitat for Humanity
of Berkeley County
408 S. Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461