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Students Build Home And Political Skills At Albany Capitol

"The opportunity to create lasting change inspires college students to volunteer their time with Habitat."

Ainsley Smith
Ithaca College HFH

Fifteen Ithaca College students spent their March spring break framing a Habitat for Humanity home next to the New York State Capitol building in Albany and learning how to advocate for effective government policy.

As part of Advocacy in Albany, a Habitat for Humanity of New York State (Habitat-NYS) initiative, the build called attention to the state's housing crisis. Students also visited legislators, participated in advocacy workshops and joined a rally calling for increased state funding for affordable housing.

Across New York, we see populations declining, entire neighborhoods deteriorating and working families forced out of the very communities in which they were born and raised—all due to the shortage of decent, safe and affordable homes, said Judith Nelson, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of New York State. Affordable housing must become a state priority, now, she added.

These dedicated college students were



Ithaca College students (pictured above and below) frame a Habitat home on the plaza in front of the New York State Capitol building in Albany over spring break.

willing to spend their spring break building a home and asking our elected leaders to allocate the resources to create or preserve thousands more homes throughout the state, said Paige

Bellenbaum, Habitat-NYS's Director of Advocacy, who was instrumental in organizing the weeklong event.

They came, not just for the week, but for the cause. They returned to their campus with the tools to educate others about the

state's housing crisis and to rally support for permanent solutions.

Students joined Habitat-NYS and leaders from two other statewide housing groups Housing First! and the Empire State Housing Alliance in calling on Governor Spitzer to create a 10-year, \$13 billion housing initiative to create and preserve 220,000 affordable homes statewide. They also urged that part of the investment be used to create a true housing trust fund modeled on similar highly successful programs across the nation with a dedicated revenue stream for funding affordable housing development and preservation.

Ithaca College's chapter of Habitat for Humanity is a group of highly motivated students dedicated to making affordable housing a reality for everyone through building, education, fundraising and advocacy, said Ainsley Smith, Co-Chair of Ithaca College HFH. The opportunity to create lasting change inspires students to volunteer their time with Habitat.

Students built the three-bedroom, single-story Habitat home in wood-frame panels that were delivered by truck to Delaware County to provide a new home for a family whose house was destroyed in the flood of June 2006.

The flood destroyed major portions of our community, said Jacqueline Rose, of the Delaware County Habitat affiliate.

We are very grateful that this event is drawing attention to the critical need for affordable housing not only here, but all across our state.



2007
June 12
Tuesday

Habitat-NYC
Habbys!!!

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, June 12 marks our annual Habbys Awards, saluting some of our outstanding volunteers. Please join us, 6-8 pm, for a cocktail reception and awards program at Retreat, 37 W. 17th St., between Fifth and Sixth Aves.

Please RSVP by June 1 to jduran@habitat-nyc.org, (212) 991-4000, ext. 305.

Saturday, June 23, 2 pm is the *Second Annual Raise the Roof* festival, sponsored by St. Bartholomew's Church and featuring some of the city's top church choirs in a joyous celebration of Juneteenth.

The concert benefits Habitat-NYC. For information, call 212-378-0222.

Sea Changes for NYC Affiliate

“When one door closes, another door opens.”

Alexander Graham Bell’s words resonate at Habitat-NYC: In April, we closed the door on Roland Lewis’ decade as Executive Director, visionary leader and tireless champion of our organization. At the same time, we opened the doors of our new headquarters in Lower Manhattan, which will help us become a more effective affordable-home developer.

Roland Lewis Takes Helm of Waterfront Agency

Roland Lewis has been named president and CEO of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance (MWA), formerly a project of the Municipal Arts Society, which was just launched as an independent non-profit organization advocating for a sustainable, working waterfront a waterfront that benefits all people who live, visit or work in the metropolitan region.

Over the past decade, Roland grew Habitat-NYC from a four-person staff to an influential 40-member organization with the ability to build more and better housing. He brought every sector of the city together housing advocates and developers, corporations, government, individuals and faith groups on common ground to address the city’s housing crisis.

Locally and nationally, he led Habitat



Roland Lewis

affiliates in advocating for better public policy on housing, on the city, state and federal levels. Likewise, he was at the forefront of building affordable green homes that are healthy and energy-efficient.

Cont. on p. 3

A New Home for Habitat-NYC

Also in April, Habitat-NYC packed up our files, architectural renderings and blueprints, and moved across the East River to new offices at 111 John Street in Lower Manhattan.

Centrally located next to one of the city’s best transit hubs, this new site will help make the organization accessible to all. New technology a better phone system and computers, thanks to Credit Suisse will increase our efficiency.

Thanks to *pro bono* architectural services by Platt Dana Architects, the office boasts a modern design. See a list of our generous office donors on page 3.

How to Find Us

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111 John Street, 23rd Floor
New York, NY 10038
Tel: (212) 991-4000
Fax: (212) 991-3990

Josh Lockwood Named Habitat-NYC’s Acting Executive Director



Josh Lockwood

Roland Lewis’ departure may leave a large pair of construction boots to fill, but Josh Lockwood has stepped into them and is leading the organization on an interim basis.

It’s difficult to say goodbye to Roland, both as our leader and as a friend, said Josh, but he leaves the organization in tremendous shape, with incredible projects on the horizon. Building on Roland’s decade of contributions, we re

all energized by Habitat-NYC’s potential and excited about the future.

With his extensive management and real-estate development expertise, Josh is well-equipped for the job, where he will be expanding his former role as Chief Operating Officer.

Before joining Habitat-NYC, Josh spent eight years as a Principal at the consulting firm of HR&A, focusing on

Cont. on p. 3



Habitat for Humanity - New York City
transforms lives and our city by uniting all New Yorkers around the cause of decent, affordable housing for everyone.

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From the Executive Director

Ten years is a long time. But for those of us who have been around the block a few times—and especially those of us who have seen kids grow—10 years goes by in a blink of an eye. My decade of service to Habitat for Humanity - New York City ends as I move on to lead another not-for-profit, the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance.

My Habitat tenure includes hard-fought accomplishments, lessons learned from mistakes, and progress toward creating a New York institution that is making a real contribution to the struggle to provide decent shelter for all in need.

I am often asked what I like best about working at Habitat. The answer comes easily. It is being surrounded by so many people who are doing one of the best things they will ever do. Our volunteers, our Family Partners, our funders, our partners in government, my colleagues on staff and our board are all beautifully and vitally engaged in our work. And from my perspective at the center of it all, it is a joy to behold.

Another question I've been asked more recently is to name my greatest accomplishment at Habitat-NYC. My reply? I believe my greatest accomplishment will be leaving. The nugget of truth within that quip of an answer is that I leave behind a staff, under the leadership of our acting Executive Director Josh Lockwood, that is as talented and committed as any I have encountered at any Habitat affiliate or other not-for-profit; a remarkable Board of Directors that is so dedicated to our mission and leads and supports our organization in so many ways; and a program of home-building and advocacy that fills a unique and critical niche for our city and has become a model for Habitat around the country and the world. And most important, by leaving, Habitat-NYC will further its mission to transform lives and our city by uniting all New Yorkers around the cause of affordable housing in ways I literally cannot imagine.

With fresh ideas from new leadership, I am convinced that Habitat-NYC's best days are before it. I look forward to applauding its progress as its most fervent supporter.

In my new role, I will be expanding on the work I've done for the past decade, building common ground and fostering collaborations that will give all people in the metropolitan area access to the precious resource of our waterfront. But whether working for equity upland or at the waters edge—Habitat-NYC will always have a home in my heart.

I leave Habitat with the most sincere and humble thanks to all who have helped us accomplish so much in a 10-year blink of an eye.

8th Annual Builder Awards Gala Set for Nov. 7

Mark your calendar for Wednesday evening, Nov. 7 and join Habitat-NYC as we celebrate the successes of 2007.

Our 8th Annual Builder Awards Gala will honor Louis Cherevert, President and Chief Operating Officer of United Technologies Corporation.

Festivities will be in the spectacular Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, with NBC weathercaster Al Roker as emcee. For details, watch our website, www.habitatnyc.org, for updates or call Sarah Savage, 212-991-4000, ext. 330.



Bon Jovi Rocks Brooklyn Habitat Homes

Rock star Jon Bon Jovi (left) is giving Brooklyn families something to sing about in new homes.

He joined Habitat-NYC, Delta Airlines volunteers, future homeowners and members of his Philadelphia Souls football team on April 3 in a build at our Halsey Street condos.

Bon Jovi is sponsoring two homes at our

Atlantic Avenue complex. His appearance also helped celebrate Delta's donation of \$120,000 to sponsor another Atlantic Avenue home.

That week, Delta flight attendants, ticket agents and ramp staff (pictured below) traded uniforms for construction gear and spent two days digging ditches, sheetrocking walls and insulating the ceilings at our Halsey homes.



Roland Lewis

Cont. from p. 1

Roland may be leaving Habitat-NYC, but he is not abandoning his passion for social justice and determination to create positive change through legislative policy and thoughtful development priorities he will bring to the MWA.

As a lifelong New Yorker, he is deeply committed to the vision of a vibrant, healthy city, whether on the shorefront or inland.

Just as Habitat-NYC works to create equity in housing, MWA will work to create equity for all residents of the region by giving open access to one of our greatest natural resources — our more than 700 miles of waterfront, Roland says.

I'm proud to take the helm at MWA and honored to have a leadership role in guiding the development of our waterfront and harbors as shared resources to be enjoyed and cared for.

Roland made Habitat-NYC a force to be reckoned with — a force dedicated to the good of all New Yorkers, said Les Bluestone, Board Chair of Habitat-NYC. He will bring the same energy and commitment to protecting and wisely developing our waterfront.

Josh Lockwood

Cont. from p. 1

the firm's urban development and non-profit strategic planning practices, while also managing the firm's New York City operations.

At HR&A, Josh's clients included private developers and real estate companies like The Related Companies, Industry City Associates, and Time Equities, Inc, as well

as public and non-profit entities with an interest in affordable housing and economic development such as Independence Community Foundation, SI Bank & Trust Foundation, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York City Department of City Planning and a host of local development corporations. Since joining Habitat-NYC, Josh has

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We thank the following generous donors for helping to provide a new home for Habitat for Humanity - New York City.

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become an integral member of the team. In addition to managing day-to-day operations, Josh has overseen the move to John Street, spearheaded Habitat-NYC's hosting of a national green-building symposium, joined senior management in introducing innovations in financing Habitat homes and rung the opening bell at the NASDAQ for Habitat-NYC.

Artist Alexander Raises Her Glass to Habitat Families

Joanne Alexander is the kind of person who always sees the glass half-full. And in all the colors of the rainbow.

A well-known stained-glass artist, born and bred in Brooklyn, Joanne worked hard to raise two children and a business by herself. That's why she was so moved when she heard about a single mother of five who received a Habitat-NYC home. Joanne immediately grabbed her phone and offered to create stained glass-windows for all future New York City Habitat homes.

"I didn't have a lot of money, and the only thing I could do was stained glass," Joanne recalls. "But I really

wanted to make a contribution to these families."

Three years later, Joanne's glorious stained-glass transoms welcome visitors at the front door of four of Habitat-NYC's buildings, and she is eager to begin work on the next one.

Joanne designs each piece individually, allowing the architecture of the building to inspire her. One might be Art Deco, the next may reflect a Victorian tone. Each brings a touch of beauty to our homes.

Creating the art pieces for our homes can be challenging for Joanne. Her company, Slightly Stained Creations, is based in South River New Jersey,



where she currently lives. Each design requires precise measurements, not always easy to get long-distance. On occasion, Joanne has had to return and fine-tune a finished work of art.

But to her, it's worth the extra effort. "I'm happy to be able to do something that makes the lives of other struggling mothers a little bit better," she says.

Habitat-NYC Helps Lead the Greening of Affiliates Nationally

Habitat-NYC is leading green, with affiliates from around the nation coming to us to learn about all things in state-of-the-art green building.

For years, Habitat-NYC has been at the forefront of building affordable, environmentally conscious homes in New York City. Now, we're spreading the gospel of green to other affordable housing developers in New York City and to Habitat affiliates in all areas of the country.

As part of our eco-friendly outreach, we hosted a two-day national green-building symposium in April, aimed at sharing knowledge, ideas and best practices for creating low-cost green homes. More than 150 people attended the event, including more than 40 representatives of Habitat affiliates around the country.

Many new building methods are very low-tech and doable by volunteers, one participant noted. For example, caulking and insulation are easy to do with volunteers and can be more effective than installing expensive windows.

In his keynote address, *New Yorker* author David Owen challenged conventional wisdom with his theory that urban areas, such as New York City, are inherently greener than suburban or rural living. The benefits of mass transit, small apartments in high-rise buildings and services located within walking distance all contribute to energy-savings, he said.

Speakers from Habitat affiliates in California, Texas, Minnesota and Colorado shared lessons learned from their affordable green housing initiatives. Some innovative work ranged from constructing a net-zero energy home (A little tricky with volunteers - you have to teach them new ways of building, according

to Brady Nelson of Denver's Habitat affiliate) to safely cleaning brown fields for housing.

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer described his efforts to support environmentally friendly projects in the borough. Politicians have to do their part to ensure that cities move forward with green building, co-generation and solar-energy initiatives, he said.

The symposium showcased Habitat-NYC's upcoming LEED-standard green complex on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn and included walking tours of innovative green buildings around the city, including the Habitat-NYC condominium building currently under construction in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn - one of the first buildings in the city to employ energy-efficient Insulated Concrete Forms.

Attendees left the symposium energized, vowing to make changes in their respective communities. This was one of the best Habitat conference I've attended. Kudos to all for your hard work! Veronica Garcia said, promising to take valuable information with her back to the Los Angeles Habitat affiliate.

The symposium was funded by a grant from United Technologies. Support also included funding from the Mizuho Foundation to create green home-maintenance manuals for Habitat-NYC homeowners and from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.



Spreading the Green Gospel

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