



Sharing the LOVE on Hart Street

Ten New York City couples made the Valentine's Day holiday extra memorable by celebrating it on a Habitat-NYC construction site — appropriately located on "Hart Street" in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

They arrived with sleeves rolled up, hammers in hand, and ready to build affordable

Continued on page 6



Meet a Habitat-NYC Family Partner

June Hooper



June Hooper's huge, sunny smile leaves no clues about her present living situation. For the past 15 years she's been living in a dark basement apartment.

She shares a single bedroom with her seven-year-old son, Michael. They have no kitchen. When the oil delivery company comes, fumes fill their small living space, and the two small windows she has are not enough to air it out. "It's very cramped in the basement," she says.

That will change soon. Once she completes her 300 hours of sweat equity, June and Michael will be able to move into a comfortable two-story, two-bedroom Habitat-

NYC home in Queens, not far from the hospital where she works in patient transport.

Although she's employed fulltime, June's salary is barely enough to

cover her housing costs, transportation and food. An affordable home will bring relief to her budget as well as her housing problem.

June says she "can't wait to move in." She adds that Michael is so excited that "every

day he talks about our new home and he begs me to let him come and help build so it will be ready sooner."

'Every day my son talks about our new home and he begs me to let him come and help build so it will be ready sooner.'

*Cover Photos by Anthony Collins
www.anthonycollinsphoto.com*



Habitat for Humanity - New York City
transforms lives and our city by building quality homes for families in need and by uniting all New Yorkers around the cause of affordable housing.

Habitat-NYC Board of Directors

Rev. Mark Hallinan, Chair
 Society of Jesus (Jesuits), New York Province

Karim Hutson, Vice Chair
 Genesis Partners Real Property, LLC

Nia Rock, Vice Chair
 Sovereign Bank

Neil Bader, Treasurer

Christine McGuinness, Secretary
 Schiff Hardin LLP

Jennifer Armstrong
 Hemlock Group

David Bach
 FinishRich Media

Evan Bauer
 Evan Bauer Information Technology

Robert Burch
 A.W. Jones Company

Charisse Ford
 The Estée Lauder Companies, Inc.

Carmen Gellineau
 JPMorgan Chase

Aileen Gribbin
 Forsyth Street Advisors, LLC

Chris Hoeffel
 Investcorp International Inc.

Jeff Infusino
 Oliver Wyman Financial Services

John Isaacs
 CB Richard Ellis

Rabbi Bob Kaplan
 CAUSE-NY / JCRC

Peter Knitzer

Shauna Long
 FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation

Peter Murray
 Lowen Development

Martha Parrish

Doug Paul
 Credit Suisse

Douglas Renfield-Miller

Connie Sargent

Andie Simon
 Warner Brothers Records

The Rev. Thomas Synan
 Church of the Heavenly Rest

Julia Taylor
 Platinum Caterers

Josh Lockwood
 Executive Director

111 John Street, 23rd Floor
New York, NY 10038
Tel: (212) 991-4000
www.habitatnyc.org



From the Executive Director

"Dear Habitat for Humanity,

Thank you for painting the girls gym on Martin Luther King Day! You made us shine again!"

. . . So read a thank you letter from a fourth grader at P.S. 54 in Bedford-Stuyvesant,

following a volunteer "Brush with Kindness" project that enlisted 40 Habitat-NYC volunteer painters to brighten a girls gymnasium over our annual Martin Luther King Day weekend build. *(See the article and photos on page 5.)*

When Habitat-NYC first began Brush with Kindness in 2007, we had modest ambitions. We knew our volunteers were eager to undertake any and all sorts of community improvement projects in distressed neighborhoods. But we did not foresee the overwhelming demand from community facilities in desperate need of rehabilitation, repair and beautification.

Since launching the program as a large-scale, ongoing initiative this year, we have received countless requests to improve hundreds of community spaces, public parks, public school classrooms and senior centers. In this recession, many critical public spaces are falling into disrepair, hurting property values and community pride, destabilizing neighborhoods and making critical services harder to obtain.

For this reason, Habitat-NYC is committed to running our Brush with Kindness program in parallel to our homebuilding program in low-income neighborhoods. And we have our thousands of volunteers, and our generous donors, to thank. Each week, we're sending armies of big-hearted volunteers to an array of sites in hard-hit communities. And these folks are working alongside Habitat-NYC family partners and community residents to help our city weather these challenging days.

Many thanks to you all for supporting this important work!

Businesses With a Heart

What's common to all the companies and foundations listed below? Their employees and retirees donated to Habitat-NYC in 2009 and these generous businesses have matched the employees' gifts. If you are making a gift to Habitat-NYC, please check with your HR Department to see if your company makes matching gifts. Our Habitat-NYC homeowners join us in thanking you all!

A&E Television Networks
 AIG Matching Grants Program
 American Express Foundation
 Ameriprise Financial
 Avon Products Foundations Inc.
 Bank of America Foundation
 Bank of New York Mellon
 Chevron
 CNA Foundation
 Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation
 Eileen Fisher Inc.
 Exxonmobil Foundation
 Financial Security Assurance
 Fitch, Inc
 Ford Foundation
 Forest Laboratories
 Gap Foundation
 Gartner

GE Foundation
 GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
 Global Impact
 Goldman, Sachs & Co.
 Google
 Harris Bank Foundation - Bank of Montreal
 Honeywell Hometown Solutions
 ING Financial Services LLC
 Jefferies & Company, Inc.
 Johnson & Johnson
 JP Morgan Chase Foundation
 Key Foundation
 Macy's Foundation
 McGraw-Hill Companies
 Merck Partnership for Giving
 Microsoft Giving Campaign
 Moody's Foundation
 Morgan Stanley

Mutual of America
 New York Community Trust
 NYCharities.org
 Outten & Golden LLP
 Pepsico Foundation
 Pfizer Foundation
 Prudential Foundation
 Random House
 Rockefeller Corporation
 Soros Fund Charitable Foundation
 Source Media Inc.
 Thomson Reuters Tax and Accounting
 Tiffany and Company
 Travelers Foundation Tudor Investment Corp.
 Unilever US
 Wachovia Foundation
 Wells Fargo

Q & A with Bob Vila

One of the most trusted names in home improvement is also a big supporter of Habitat for Humanity - New York City. The star of *This Old House* has been involved with Habitat-NYC for more than a decade. Presently he serves on our Leadership Council and recently visited the green roof at Habitat's Fox-Leggett homes as part of a new green building project.

Habitat: You've been active with Habitat-NYC for more than a decade. What inspires you to remain involved?

Vila: I feel strongly that the Habitat for Humanity model is one of the most successful approaches to solving the problems of homelessness in our country and around the world.

Habitat: Why have you chosen to become a leader in the greening of buildings nationwide?

Vila: The age of wasted energy has to come to an end. I am trying to promote new approaches to home building and also the way we operate our homes and public buildings.

Habitat: What was your most inspiring moment with Habitat-NYC and our families?

Vila: Our Blitz Build in Yonkers years ago showed me the

human face of our volunteers. Their determination and willingness to help others is what makes Habitat so successful!

Find out more about what Bob Vila is up to by visiting his website: www.bobvila.com.



Bob Vila (right) discussing the green roof at Fox-Leggett with former Habitat-NYC Board Chair Les Bluestone.

Loan Rangers Ride Again!

Taking aim at credit card repair

It's just three numbers — but it can affect everything from getting a loan to renting an apartment to securing a job.

Credit scores let lenders know how likely an individual is to pay money back on time. And this score follows people for a lifetime. As the economic recession wears on, more and more people find themselves living in debt. Low-income New Yorkers, like Habitat-NYC's family partners and others in their communities, are especially vulnerable to scams that ruin credit scores. As debt mounts, penalties increase and avenues for new loan opportunities become scarce.

More than ever, Habitat-NYC's Loan Rangers Public Awareness Campaign is riding to the rescue. Trained volunteer "loan rangers" provide free workshops to members of congregations, schools and community groups, educating them about dangerous financial practices and helping them find better alternatives.

Currently, our Loan Rangers are focusing on credit repair. Workshops include critical guidelines on how to attain credit reports and scores, what financial behaviors affect credit scores and constructive tips to improve credit scores. They explain changes enacted in the recent credit card reform bill and present better resources to the public to help New Yorkers manage a healthy financial life.

To learn more about becoming a Habitat-NYC Loan Ranger or hosting a Loan Rangers presentation in your community group, visit www.habitatnyc.org/advocate.

Hope Help & Relief Haiti

Celebs unite to help Habitat rebuild Haiti



Habitat for Humanity's efforts to help rebuild Haiti received a boost, when Mary J. Blige, Andre Harrell, André Balazs, and Donna Karan formed Hope Help & Relief Haiti and hosted its first benefit.

Whoopi Goldberg presided over the auction and a sellout crowd attended a concert and after party, which raised more than \$1.2 million. Funds are going to support relief work by Habitat for Humanity, Partners in Health, and Yéle Haiti.

Donna Karan is pictured at left. Above are Russell Simmons, Mary J. Blige, Andre Harrell and Wyclef Jean.

Photos by Jemal Countess & Larry Busacca © WireImage.com

Individual & Family Foundation Donors

March 1, 2009 – February 28, 2010

\$50,000 and Up

Peter & Peg D'Angelo in honor
of St. John's University
Habitat Campus Chapter
Kathy Ferguson & Mark Zurack
Aura Levitas
Tal Pritzker & Choresh Wald

\$15,000 to \$49,999

Robert Hackney
John & Sueanne Kim
Maureen McPhilly O'Reilly
& William O'Reilly
Carole Pittelman
David Terveen

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Anonymous
David Bach
Evan & Joan Bauer
Les Bluestone
Robert & Melissa Burch
Stuart Feffer & Elizabeth Armet
Tara Higgins
J. Christopher & Ellen Hoeffel
H. Roemer & Constance McPhee
Alex Porter
Marcia Raff
Connie & John Sargent
Andie Simon
Charles Spear Charitable Trust

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous
Sandra Baron & Gregory Diskant
Robert Barry & Josh Lockwood
David Boroff
Tom & Meredith Brokaw
Louis & Marilyn Brus
Kevin & Denise Conway
Scott Ferguson
John & Gillett Gilbert
Anne Gumowitz
Suzanne Halbardier
Gail Hessel
Peter Knitzer & Roni Berg
Leslie Lane & Alan Vorchheimer
Charles Laven
Claudia Machaver &
Michael Bloome
Henry McKean
Martha Parrish*
Robin Reardon
The Renfield-Miller Foundation
Alex Rigopoulos
Ellen Violett & Mary Thomas
The Winters Family Fund

\$2,500 to \$4,999

291 Foundation
Gillis Addison
Mark Almeida & Theresa Galvin
Stephen Belber
Mara Flash Blum
The Margaret A. Darrin
Foundation
DeLancey Charitable Trust
Huntley & Emily Garriott
Patricia Hall
Dana Hart
Steven Jeraci
Kevin & Elise Jusko

Sung-Eun Stephan Kim
Neil Kittredge
Laura & Marc Klein
Engeline Kok
Alexander Liberatore &
Margaret Iannuzzi
The John L. McHugh Foundation
Ruth & John Schaeffer
Michael Sears
Rajeev & Anupama Shah
The Margot Sundheimer
Foundation
Ueberroth Family Foundation
Graham Willoughby

\$1,500 to \$2,499

Priscilla Alexander
Adrian & Christine Alley
Alice Bergman
Susan Besse
Rajeev Bhaman
Rene Blank
Anthony & Nancy Bowe
Barbara Brody
Jeanette Brooks
Jean Brown Johnson
Efrain & Maryann Byrnes-Alvarado
Hermia Byron*
William Canovatchel
Ruey-er Chang
Tom Cramer
Laura Day
Suzanne Donohoe
James Duffy
Roger & Irina Erickson
Matthew Fishbein
Anita Friedman
Vincent & Lorraine Gesualdi
Wendy Goldberg
C. Vernon Johnson
Diane Katzin & Richard Kurnit
William Kourakos
Cynthia Krupat
Richard Ledes
Brian Lewis
Gigi Mahon
Brian Mak
Kayalyn Marafioti
Christine McGuinness
Tarek Meguid
Dana Niblack
Fred & Vivian Price
Lenore Puleo
Todd & Marie Ruth
Mary Beth Ryan
Valerie Tootle
Brian & Cynthia Trudell
Roberta & Thomas Van Buskirk
Bob Vila & Diana Barrett
Peter Wood
Pauline Yoo & Jahangier Sharifi
Hidekuni & Laura Yoshida
Jeffrey Zeidman & Oscar Rinaldi*

\$1,000 to \$1,499

Sam Abbay
Shridhar Acharya
Peter Ackerman
Roger & Elizabeth Ailes
Jeremy Amar
Anonymous
Jennifer Armstrong
Dwight Arnesen
Bryan Baker
Ann Barber
Stephen Baum
David & Mary Blair
Jonathan & Sheri Boos
Frediano & Connie Bracco
Jeffrey & Linda Brodsky
David Brown
Susan Buckley & Lance Sherman
Norman & Jenny Buggel
Jeffrey Calkins
Loretta Cangialosi
Deirdre Carson
Brian Champeau
Neil Cheng
Donald & Ruth Clausen
Paula Cooper
Peter Cott & Kenneth Leedom
Molly Crichton
Rosemary Darmstadt
Michael Dean & May Kin Ho
Susan & Jim DeMaio
David & Anna-Karin Dillard
Mark Dixon
Danilo Dixon
Dawn Doherty
Arden Down
Adam Dworkin & Dale Riedl
Henry & Kathleen Elsesser
J. Pepe Fanjul
Judith Feldman*
Lawrence & Pauline Feldman
Bryce Ferguson
Stephen & Nikki Field
Fischl Gornik Family Foundation
Jane Gelb
Nicholas & Amanda Gelber
Robert & Lois Geller
Wade Guyton
Linda Hacker
Etsuko Hamada
Barbara Hanlon
Douglas & Katie Harter*
Felicia & John Hendrix
Craig & Vicki Holleman
Babette Hollister
Nancy Holwell
Mark Hummell
John Isaacs
D. Jacobs
Nathaniel Jacobson
Laurie Ann Jacoby
Sarah Jeffords
Ellie & James Johnson
Salar Kamangar
Angela Kopp
Kristine Kreilick
John Kwon & Jeanne Cho
Robert & Bohak Kwon
Theresa Larre
Karen Lawrence
Gabrielle Layden
Matthew & Sabrina LeBlanc
Barry LePatner
Vicki Levine
Lichtenberg Family Foundation
Dean Lin*
Jeffrey Lin
Shauna Long
Grace Lyu-Volckhausen
Kerrie MacPherson
Namita Mani
Susan Martin

Georgene & Hamish Maxwell
Mary Mc Kercher
Robert and Joyce Menschel
Family Foundation
Cindy Mernick
John Miraglia
Keith & Linda Monda
Myrtho Montes
David Moody
Thomas & Judith Moore
Cynthia Morales
Shepard Morgan
The Donald R. Mullen Family
Foundation, Inc.
Janet Mulligan
Duncan Murdoch & Wai Ling Chan
Sean O'Brien
Clare O'Brien
Ann Oestreicher
Ken O'Hara & Diane Thomas
Tae Kyu Park
Douglas Paul
John & Patricia Pegram
Greer Phillips
Sharon Pietrzak
Jackie Piraquive
John Potter
Chris Puma
Marina Rabinovich &
Igor Goshchinsky
Maryam Razavi
Molly Reinhart
Michael Robinson
Robert Roslawski*
Valerie Ann & John Rowe
Chris Ruggeri
Bernard Salanie*
John Saunders
Rachel Schnoll
Patricia Ellen Shevlin
Robert & Mary Ellen Sinko
Steven Stankiewicz &
Louise Kurahara
Sarah Stevens-Miles
Susan Tanaka & Lewis Alexander
Larry & Pamela Tarica
Julie Taymor
Craig & Nancy Tenney
Arlene Timmins*
Aaron Topol
Dawn Tsien
Paul & Andrea Vizcarrondo
Josh Wallach
Milton & Caroline Walters
Zali Win
Alice Young
Sally Zasloff

*Monthly contributor to our
Foundation Builders Society

Brush with Kindness

Making Crucial Investments in Distressed Neighborhoods

At a time of high foreclosures, job loss and economic distress, Habitat-NYC has taken stock of our capabilities – and set out to help the communities where we build by providing targeted capital improvement projects to help strengthen them.

Over the past year, we greatly expanded our "Brush with Kindness" program in terms of targeted areas and number of projects. Habitat-NYC volunteers were paired with community facilities that needed simple repairs or a fresh coat of paint in locations from Staten Island to the South Bronx.

The result: Throngs of Habitat-NYC volunteers, armed with toolkits, paintbrushes, shovels and rakes, have fanned out across the city to repair and beautify schools, community centers, parks and the many other neighborhood facilities that serve residents and enhance their quality of life.

Most recently, we've embarked on a partnership with the New York City Housing Authority to improve community rooms, senior centers and youth centers in public housing projects.

Grace Leonardo volunteered with her coworkers at ParadyszMatera, a marketing firm, painting the gym, stage and hallway and gardening outside at the

Tompkins Center in Brooklyn. "We had a great time!" she said afterwards. "We're so happy to have been able to help Habitat-NYC and I have to say, many people are already asking me if we going to do this again next year!"



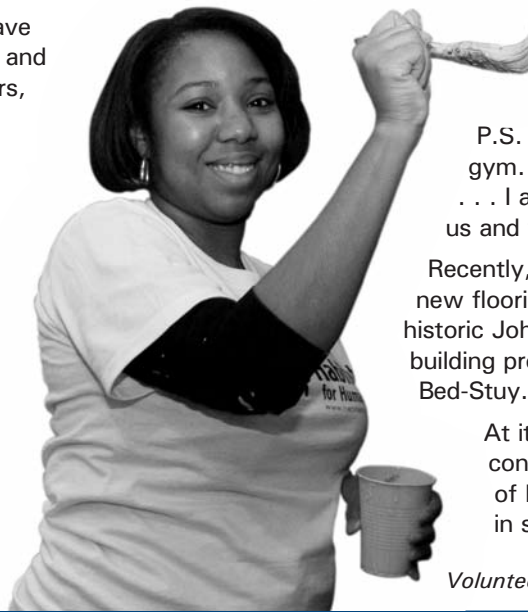
'You came and helped us and you did not even know us.'

During our 2010 annual Martin Luther King Jr. Build weekend, volunteers slathered about 18 gallons of bubblegum-pink paint (the students' choice!) on the walls of the girls gym at P.S. 54 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, giving them a bright and cheerful space to play. Many students sent delightful thank you letters. Brianna from P.S. 54 wrote, "Thank you for painting the girls gym. It is so beautiful. I think you are great people . . . I appreciate you because you came and helped us and you did not even know us."

Recently, Brush with Kindness volunteers installed new flooring and repainted community rooms in the historic John Wesley Methodist Church, near our current building project – our 16-unit Hart-Lafayette homes in Bed-Stuy.

At its heart, Brush with Kindness is about connecting the community through simple acts of kindness so that families can once again live in safe and decent neighborhoods.

Volunteers painted P.S. 54's gym bubblegum pink.



Not Just Building Homes — Building Communities

Brush with Kindness dispatches hardworking and dedicated volunteers into neighborhoods throughout the city to add new coats of paint and minor repairs to community centers and schools and to help clean up and plant community gardens.

Volunteers are shown here, clockwise from bottom right, working to brighten up neighborhoods and lives. They include: St. Joseph's School in Staten Island; Hull Street Garden in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Brooklyn; P.S. 54 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn; and P.S. 62 in the South Bronx.



Valentine's Builders Put Their Heart into Their Work

Continued from page 1

homes for fellow New Yorkers and raised more than \$7,500 to help cover construction costs for the new homes on Hart Street and Lafayette Avenue. The four-

story, four-unit affordable condominium building, where they installed Sheetrock and painted walls, is one of four new Habitat-NYC buildings in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Here's what some couples had to say about the day:

"This is our Valentine's gift to each other," said Mary Ann DeJesus, who worked alongside her husband Jose DeJesus to paint an apartment. "This is a really fun way to spend Valentine's Day with the man I love, doing the things I love."



"We can go to the movies or out to dinner any time," said Ted Murphy. His Valentine, Laura Grave, added, "We go out often – we wanted to take a day and do something different."



"It's great to think that there will be a family living in this room," said Lee Donner, pausing to survey the bedroom he and Sarah Weintraub were painting. "We've always wanted to do a Habitat build, and this seemed like a good opportunity."



Cover photo: Victoria Wagner and Anthony La Porta. Photos by Anthony Collins

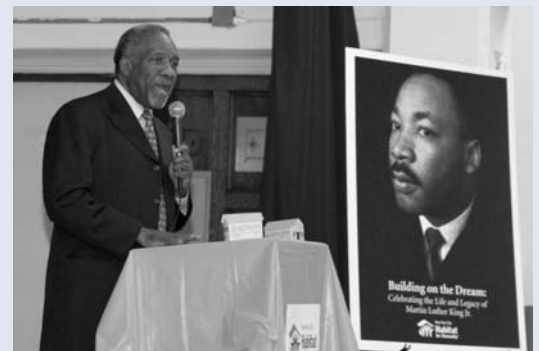
Habitat-NYC Remembers Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream

For the 11th year in a row, Habitat-NYC hosted our annual "Building on a Dream" Martin Luther King weekend build to recognize King's vision and to continue his dream by constructing affordable homes for New Yorkers in need.

This year, 70 volunteers from 17 faith groups spent Saturday and Sunday installing Sheetrock in walls and ceilings at 118 Hart St. in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. The units are among 16 Habitat-NYC homes currently under construction on four sites on Hart Street and Lafayette Avenue.

Volunteers also repainted the girls gymnasium at P.S. 54, a local elementary school.

Pictured here, clockwise from bottom far right, are volunteers preparing to measure Sheetrock, State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, volunteers cutting Sheetrock and keynote speaker Rev. Johnny Ray Youngblood of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church.



Photos by Anthony Collins