Building homes, building hope...

A community where everyone has a decent place to live.

Habitat for Humanity®

of East Jefferson County

2011-2012 Annual Report to the Community
Letter from the Director

One of the remarkable things about Habitat for Humanity is the way it brings together so many people around a common purpose, with so much joy!

The problems we are working to solve do not inspire cheer—they are big and dreary and joyless. Children grow up in unhealthy conditions, in damp, moldy, drafty apartments and trailers. Parents make impossible choices between living in terrible conditions and paying unaffordable rent.

So it is a remarkable thing when people come together to solve problems like these and joy is one of the markers. Come by the Habitat job site and the first thing you will notice is the laughter. Volunteer for a day and before the morning is over you’ll find yourself enjoying time with someone you never met before.

Every house we build is the result of hundreds of joy-filled encounters. Every Habitat family turns the key and opens a door hung with love and laughter. Habitat families are literally surrounded their whole lives by the blessings of the community.

In November we completed the 24th Habitat house in East Jefferson County. Add to that the two houses we recycled locally and the 29 we built in Haiti, Brazil and Guatemala and you get 55 families whose lives have been permanently changed for the good in just over a dozen years!

It’s a remarkable accomplishment in any community. That it happened in a small, rural community in a relatively short span of time is something worth celebrating.

Long ago the prophet Isaiah declared that the real party, God’s celebration, would happen when people get rid of “the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke … and provide the poor wanderer with shelter.” (Isaiah 58:6-7)

That’s why we’ve committed to serve 50 local families over the next five years. We’ll continue to build new houses, but we are also adding critical home repairs (see page 5). True to our name at last, we’ll be working throughout East Jefferson County—in Quilcene, Port Townsend, and the Tri-Area. And we’ll continue our commitment to build houses overseas, sending 10% of undesignated contributions to our sister Habitat for Humanity affiliates in countries like Brazil.

We couldn’t do this by ourselves. With 2,800 volunteer hours to build just one house, it takes a whole community. Last year volunteers contributed more than 17,000 hours valued at $377,000. That’s amazing.

I invite you to join your neighbors and experience the joy of shared purpose.

In partnership,

Jamie Maciejewski
Executive Director
Couple Donates Chimacum Property

Dr. Jim Mc Carron and his wife Noreen donated a five-acre parcel of land in Chimacum’s Brookside Estates to Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County. “Habitat is now able to build homes with families in Chimacum, something we’ve always wanted to do,” said Habitat Executive Director Jamie Maciejewski.

Zoning allows three single-family homes on the tract, each bordering Chimacum Creek with setbacks of 100 feet. The lots were recently appraised at $75,000 each with gravel access, underground utilities and water lines in place. The septic permits will be renewed next summer and, according to Maciejewski, construction of the first of three new Habitat homes will begin in 2013. The Mc Carrons purchased the land in 1978 and planned to develop it. As time passed and their plans changed, they saw an opportunity to do something local that would make a difference in their community. Jim and Noreen became aware of Habitat’s work in East Jefferson County through their late friend and enthusiastic Habitat supporter Nora Porter. After shopping at the Habitat Store and contributing money to the non-profit, the Mc Carrons decided that the lots in Chimacum would be an excellent fit to Habitat’s mission.

“We really like the idea that Habitat is a hand up and not a hand out,” said Dr. Mc Carron. “We also hope that others in the community with property or money to give will do the same,” added Noreen.

Dr. Mc Carron is a general surgeon and practiced in Port Townsend from 1975 until 1999 when he retired. Noreen, a nurse anesthetist, retired in 2010. She stays active as a volunteer with JC Mash, a free clinic with offices in Port Townsend and Port Hadlock. Although the Mc Carrons have lived in Port Townsend since the 1970’s, Ireland is their native country, and they still speak with a bit of the charming Irish brogue.

$5,000 Gift Helps Build Homes, Pride

Jeanne and Duke Shold love their community – the closeness, the family, the way people take care of each other. “This is a great place to live, and when we are blessed with extra to give we like to help where help is needed,” said Jeanne. “Too few people have a safe, warm place to call home, and by giving to Habitat we can see the impact right here.”

Duke is impressed with how well-kept the Habitat homes are. “They show pride in ownership. It really looks like someone loves them,” says Duke. Habitat families’ sense of pride grows in part because all Habitat families are required to contribute 400 to 500 hours of “sweat equity.” Each family works alongside volunteers to build the home, learning valuable skills while also gaining a better understanding of how much effort goes into home construction.

Many times owning a Habitat home is the stepping stone to other new beginnings. “There is a deep satisfaction in owning your home. You can paint the walls whatever color you want, you can plant a garden, you have privacy,” said Jeanne. “By giving a gift to Habitat, we are helping families build that sense of fulfillment.”

All of the construction costs for building Habitat homes must be raised up front, which is why individual giving is essential to Habitat’s ability to help families in need. “Duke and I hope that sharing the news of our gift will inspire someone else to give,” said Jeanne. “We are proud of the work Habitat does in East Jefferson County.”

By the Numbers

13
the number of years Habitat EJC has been building houses

24
the number of homes Habitat has built in EJC

89
the number of East Jefferson County residents living in Habitat homes

4,226
the estimated number of East Jefferson County households living in unaffordable homes

1
the number of people it takes to make a difference

To donate or volunteer, call 379-2827
12 Years of Blessings

On a crisp December day 12 years ago, Mary Clausen and her three sons Derrick, Ricky, and Robert received the keys to their new Habitat home in Irondale.

When Mary applied to Habitat for Humanity, she worked full time at Don’s Pharmacy in Port Townsend. “Even though I worked full time, I could not afford to buy my own home,” Mary said. “When Habitat called to say I was selected, I felt like I had won the lottery. I was crying so much I couldn’t speak.” There was no need to say a word; Mary’s elation came through loud and clear.

Mary and her sons contributed more than 500 hours to help build their home. “While I was building my home, I would go by the house every morning on my way to work to take a picture. I wanted to remember every moment.”

Owning a home has brought Mary and her sons much joy and success over the past 12 years. Without the burden of high rent, Mary was able to afford to go back to school. She graduated from Peninsula College in 2006 and is now a medical office assistant at Jefferson Healthcare Walk-In Clinic.

Her sons are also doing well. Mary’s oldest son Derrick is blind, but went to the Emil Fries School of Piano Tuning and Repair, and now works for a piano-tuning business in Arkansas. Ricky lives in Denver and is studying graphic design. Robert, just five years-old when he moved into the Habitat home, is now a junior at Chimacum High School and plays basketball for the Cowboys.

“My Habitat home has been the foundation for the success in my life, and my boys will always have a place to call home,” said Mary. “I will never forget the day we moved into our Habitat home. It was December 23rd, 1999, two days before Christmas. There was a red bow on the door. It was the best Christmas present of my life.”

Mary continues to pay her no-interest mortgage to Habitat, providing funds to build more Habitat homes. A large green scrapbook of construction photos sits on her shelf with the words she read that day in 1999: “It took a lot of hardworking, wonderful people to get this accomplished. It is a beautiful house and we love it.”

A Warm Homecoming

Most of us don’t bat an eye when it comes to turning up the thermostat when the temperature dips, but that certainly wasn’t the case for Rose Varnet and her son Bela. For nearly three years they lived in a very drafty, single wide trailer.

They knew they needed a change. “It was an awful situation,” Rose said. “We had a horrible mold problem, and there was an inch wide gap around the front door that we stuffed towels into to try and keep warm.”

High cost kept them from filling the propane tank, so they relied on small, inefficient electric heaters to keep it from freezing on the colder days. Electric bills ranged from $130 per month in the summer to over $300 during the winter. “We were used to being cold,” recalled Rose.

In November they moved into their very own Habitat home which they helped to build. What a difference it made. In addition to their mortgage payment being less than their rent, their first month’s electricity bill was just $57. Low utility bills are the result of Habitat’s ongoing focus on energy efficiency. Rose and Bela’s home is Energy Star certified, with a high efficiency ductless heat pump as the primary heat source and insulation beyond that required by code. The home passed the required air leakage test with flying colors, exceeding Energy Star standards, thanks to Habitat volunteers’ attention to detail.

While not everyone gets excited about how homes become more efficient, the bottom line is that Rose and Bela helped build a home that not only met an immediate need, but one that will continue to be affordable for Rose and Bela for the long-term.

Bela, 17, said he learned a lot in the process of helping build his home. When some health problems prevented Rose from working as much as she would have liked, Bela stepped up to the plate. Bela’s 432 hours of sweat equity combined with Rose’s 227 hours made for a busy year, but looking back, they wouldn’t change a thing. According to Rose, Bela is “in Heaven” after nearly three years without having his own bedroom.

By the Numbers

The number of families moving into a Habitat home this year.

Roger Delmar
Family Selection Committee Member

Being a part of the small group that recruits and evaluates potential Habitat homeowners has been a truly eye-opening experience. For those like myself, who come from a more financially privileged background, really seeing the circumstances in which many in Jefferson County live was somewhat of a shock. Single parents struggling to make ends meet; whole families living in tiny, dilapidated trailers with inadequate heating, leaking roofs, or faulty plumbing; floors and roofs patched to keep out the rodents. Life has dealt these people circumstances that make the heart ache. To see them offered the opportunity to have their own home is like throwing a life ring to someone cut loose and adrift in a stormy ocean. Habitat just gave five families such a life ring. Now in 2012 we can work at pulling them in and bringing them on board, helping put their feet solidly in that new home to be.
Quilcene Cares A Whole Lot

According to Dr. Seuss, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better.” In Quilcene, a whole lot of people care, and because of this, much has been accomplished in the past 18 months.

When Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County was selected as one of five rural affiliates in the nation to pilot the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI), we took a leap, and after studying the possibilities, partnered with Quilcene community members in their efforts to revitalize the town.

Following the tenets of the NRI program, we based our initiative on these guiding principles in cooperation with the Quilcene community:

- Define a specific geographic area: the core business area and adjoining residential area
- Assume an asset-based approach when listening to community members: what are their resources, leaders, and community strengths?
- Recognize that housing is one component of a community development strategy
- Determine building and/or home repair projects identified by the community
- Make a multiyear commitment to the Quilcene community
- Commit to ongoing community evaluation of our work

Even with all of our optimism as we began the process 18 months ago, we did not anticipate the new friendships, partnerships, and creative problem-solving that would emerge. Building on the “Quilcene Conversations,” Habitat held community forums and surveys to determine what our contribution to the revitalization process would be. Ultimately, two projects were identified: (1) the establishment of a Habitat Store, and (2) exterior home repairs in the selected residential area. Once the projects were determined, things moved quickly:

- In May 2011, the Habitat Board of Directors approved the lease for the Quilcene Habitat Store
- In July, the store opened its doors
- In October, the NRI Family Selection Committee met and the first applications for home repairs were sent
- In November, applications were submitted and the NRI team is scheduling projects

In keeping with Habitat for Humanity’s “a hand up, not a hand out” philosophy, clients benefiting from NRI home repair will receive no-interest loans for supplies and labor and will be offered individualized repayment plans.

Bob Rosen, manager of the Quilcene Community Center, sees Habitat as a vital partner in the community’s revitalization efforts. “The presence of the Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Revitalization Program has had an enormous impact on the community of Quilcene. It simply couldn’t have come at a better time. The community had started a rejuvenation campaign and this program was able to fit in seamlessly and exceed many of our goals. This was made possible by the very well thought out and coordinated introduction of the program at community forums. The work that has been done thus far, together with the Habitat store, has been a true windfall for our community. We are deeply grateful.”

Connecting Home to Heart

Contributed by Jane Kopriva

Quilcene is a wonderful place and despite the loss of its logging industry, hard working, creative, and entrepreneurial residents have made Quilcene their home. Over the past year, the residents have opened the county park, cleaned sidewalks, replanted overgrown gardens, and built new entryway signs. They have also opened businesses, including a gift shop, a mechanic shop, a much-needed gas station, and the Quilcene Habitat Store. Despite a national recession, Quilcene decided to thrive.

It is indeed heartwarming for me to see that the combination of directed financial resources, passionate and committed community leaders, and the concept of neighborhood revitalization can provide the necessary elements to redefine the potential of a community.

Habitat’s Neighborhood Revitalization program also demonstrates that Habitat for Humanity as an organization can be the agent for positive change by providing on-the-ground support for such an effort. “Connecting Humanity to Home with Heart” is a mission carried out with many, many helping hands, sound leadership, expertise, and innovation. I am very proud to have played a role in this program and most grateful for the opportunity to provide ongoing support to Habitat, an organization whose successes speak for themselves.

Jane Laptad & Lynn Thompson

Quilcene NRI & Habitat Store Volunteers

Quilcene is a wonderful rural community in an idyllic setting. The citizens of Quilcene and the surrounding area have come together in an effort to sustain a way of life that is rapidly disappearing in this State and this Nation. After the demise of the commercial logging industry, Quilcene’s economy stagnated and homeowners found it more and more difficult to maintain and repair their residences. As unemployment remains high, NRI provides an opportunity for qualified home owners to affect the needed repairs so that they may remain residents of Quilcene, thus strengthening our community. Habitat for Humanity, the “ministry of the Carpenter,” offers a “hand up, not a hand-out” and brings to both those who partner with Habitat and those who volunteer a deeply gratifying experience.
Quilcene Opens Successful Habitat Store

Contributed by Olivia Parker

In June, a handful of volunteers began working to create a Habitat Store in Quilcene. By the end of July, the store opened its doors for business. Stories like this only happen when people come together with insight, skills and determination.

A launch task force of four volunteers (Mary Schmidt, Jane Laptad, Jane David, and Kathi Boyker) spearheaded the effort, along with numerous other community members. They worked on location, merchandise, procedures, volunteer recruitment, publicity and more.

The store opened with donations from the Port Townsend Habitat Store but quickly became self-sufficient as lightly used and new items began to pour in. Along with furniture, the store sells a selection of linens, dishes, utensils, glassware and other household items.

It currently takes a team of 35 volunteers to make the Quilcene Habitat store the success it has become in just six months. Kathi Boyker manages the store, volunteering her time and skill to coordinate the many elements of a retail business. Volunteers repair and refurbish tables, chairs, couches, lamps, and other items.

Nearly two million cars pass through Quilcene every year as tourists visit the Olympic Peninsula. The new Habitat Store, located off the highway, is perfectly positioned to encourage those cars to stop.

“Tourists are only one part of the clientele. The majority of the business comes from within the communities of Quilcene and Brinnon,” said Boyker.

No client is forgotten at the Quilcene Habitat Store. This year at Christmas, volunteers set up a table with gift items under $3 so kids could pick out presents for parents and friends. The gift table included wrapping paper and ribbon.

Currently the store is open two days a week on Friday and Saturday, but Boyker hopes those hours can be extended in the coming year to three or even four open days. It all depends on the volunteers.

It only takes a few hours a month to make a difference. It’s a great way to give back and to connect with the community at the same time. To help, please call the Habitat office at 379-2827 or email volunteer@habitatejc.org.

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The James House in Port Townsend is a nationally registered historic site. It is difficult to miss the blue, four-story Victorian home situated next to the Port Townsend Post Office. The home was built in 1890 by entrepreneur and capitalist Francis James, the same man who first developed Seattle’s Pioneer Square.

After Mr. James died in 1920, the home went through several phases before becoming a 10-bedroom bed and breakfast. It stayed that way for more than 35 years, making it the longest operating bed and breakfast in the Northwest.

In 2009, the James House became a private residence once again. Jesse and Dawn Mohrbacher wanted to move to Port Townsend from Alaska to raise their young son in a place with a much shorter cold and flu season. Their son suffers from a rare immune deficiency, and they needed a healthier environment.

As the Mohrbachers searched for the perfect home in Port Townsend, they couldn’t help but fall in love with the James House. “I grew up in Port Townsend and always dreamed of living in one of the grand old Victorian homes,” said Dawn. “The home wasn’t for sale at the time, but we called the owner to ask if she would consider selling it, and as it turned out, she had just decided to retire a few days earlier.” Dawn and Jesse purchased the home with the intent of bringing it back to its former glory.

It is no small feat turning the 10-bedroom B&B back to the original six-bedroom home. “The first step was deciding what to do with all of the extra furniture, beautiful pieces that needed some TLC,” said Dawn. “We considered having a garage sale, but we thought donating it made more sense. It was easier and it would support the community. It was a real win-win.”

As the Vice President of Community Relations for First National Bank Alaska, Dawn had worked closely with affordable housing projects for Alaska Native communities as well as Habitat for Humanity in Anchorage. So, when it came time to decide where to donate the items, she knew just the place.

“A team of Habitat volunteers made three trips to haul the furniture to the store,” Dawn recalls. Habitat Store Manager Vicki Lucas was astonished at how fast all of the items sold. “The Mohrbachers were extremely generous in donating all of those wonderful items,” said Lucas, “and Dawn continues to be such a great Habitat Store supporter.”

Many of Dawn’s collections showcased in the James House’s intricate cabinetry are filled with Habitat items. “Most of my tea sets are from the Habitat Store, along with half of my crystal, Depression glass, and silver. I even surprised my husband with a pair of 600 year old dragon statues that I found at Habitat,” said Dawn. “You just never know what you might find.”
Thank you to the following donors for your gift of home and hope to families in need.

Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County, P.O. Box 658, Port Townsend, WA 98368
(360) 379-2827 habitat@olympus.net Donate online at www.habitatejc.org

Gifts made from December 31, 2011
October 1, 2010 to

Gifts made in memory of... Pat Barlow Jerry Boatright Jane Covertone Gray Foster Jenny D. Hawthorne Gertie Mac Larry McNeilty Nora Porter Al Raber Phyllis Robinson Tom Russell Bryan Shreadar Harry Thayer Herman Voss

Yes! I want to invest in my community.

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Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County
www.habitatejc.org 2011-2012 Annual Report to the Community 7
Thank you Donors, Volunteers & Shoppers!

Shop! Shop! Shop!
High quality furniture, antiques, art, jewelry, housewares and more!

Open Wed.-Sat.: 10-5
2001 West Sims Way, Port Townsend

Open Fri. & Sat.: 10-4
294963 Highway 101, Quilcene

Thank you for voting the Habitat Store as Best Furniture once again!

Donate – Top 10 Ways to Support Habitat

1. Donate furniture, antiques or jewelry to the Habitat Store
2. Give online at www.habitatejc.org
3. Honor friends and family with a contribution to Habitat on a holiday
4. Sign up for automatic monthly deposits to Habitat
5. Give in-kind support, such as professional or contractor expertise
6. Donate your vehicle to www.carsforhomes.org
7. Donate land to Habitat
8. Donate stocks or other instruments
9. Sponsor a Habitat home
10. Include Habitat in your will or bequest

Volunteer – Join the Habitat Team!
Volunteer on the construction site, in the office, or at the store. All experience levels welcome. Call or email today!

379-2827 or volunteer@habitatejc.org