



A FOND FAREWELL...



Dear Friends of Habitat:

As many of you have already heard, I have decided to step down from my position as executive director for Milwaukee Habitat, effective December 5th. I have had the pleasure of working with so many wonderful people here at Habitat; staff, volunteers and homeowners alike, and I think we've accomplished a great deal together in the past five years. Thanks to all of you for all your hard work and support. A very special thank you to my very dedicated, hardworking and talented staff, who also happen to be some of the nicest people I've ever worked with!

Stepping in as an interim director for the next few months is Karen Higgins, who will be working with the board of directors to search for a permanent replacement. Karen has over 20 years of experience in running non-profits, including several in the Milwaukee area. Welcome, Karen!

This is a great organization, and I am proud to have been a part of it. Thanks to all of you who support its mission, because you truly are helping build homes and hope in our inner city neighborhoods. Have a blessed Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Sara Kierzek



ALSO...PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW ADDITIONS

Hello Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity family. My name is **Sheryl Berkley**. I've been working in the Accounting field for over 10 yrs. I love helping people so I think I have found the perfect job for me. Prior to MHFH, I worked for Zilber Ltd as an Accounting Assistant and to add to my not so busy schedule, I am taking night classes at UW-Milwaukee to expand my Accounting knowledge. I enjoy reading, its one of my favorite past times; though every now and again I write poetry. I enjoy taking long walks with my husband (though not so much these days as it's so cold out) and shopping with my daughter. I'm excited to be working here and have enjoyed meeting all of you. I look forward to a long working relationship. Take care everyone,



Sheryl Berkley

Karen Higgins is serving at MHFH as interim Executive Director. She comes to the organization with over 25 years of non-profit experience. She specializes

in working with organizations on Board Development and organizational development. Grassroots organizations are her specialty! She is excited for the chance to help MHFH recruit its new Executive Director as well as the opportunity to help manage the day-to-day operations of the organization. Karen lives in Whitefish Bay, is married, and has two children ages 11 and 14. Karen looks forward to getting to know everyone. We welcome her!





RECAPS. . .

LAYING THE FOUNDATION: Dinner and Auction - On Saturday October 3rd, 2009 over 250 guests from our community of



support including; Sponsors, distinguished donors, local business, church, political and community leaders, volunteers and staff joined together at the beautiful and historic Humphrey Scottish Rite Center in downtown Milwaukee for an evening of recognition, fine dining, camaraderie, exciting auction bidding and generous giving. With the kind donations and participation of all who attended, contributed to our auction and helped reduce the costs of the event, we were able to **raise \$72,000** towards our mission. **Thank you** to our special guests, our Sponsors, our volunteers and our donors. Your support is an inspiration to us as we work each day to enrich the lives of people in the Milwaukee community who dream of owning their own homes, bringing new hope and energy to revitalizing our neighborhoods. **We rely on the generosity in the community for time and financial support. Thank YOU for being part of our community of support! Mark your calendars for next year: Saturday October 16th, 2010 at the Humphrey Scottish Rite Center.**

From November 15-20, 2009, **The Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project** united volunteers and families from around the world in need of decent, affordable housing in the Mekong region. During the weeklong build, volunteers built with nearly 166 families in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and China's Sichuan Province.



THRIVENT HOUSE DEDICATION

THANK YOU to those who made it out on Saturday despite the cold to attend the Thrivent House Dedication Event. We had a great turnout and a surprise marriage proposal to celebrate! Thanks again and save the date for our June and September houses and Condo Dedications respectively:

- Saturday February 20th 10am – 12pm
- Saturday March 27th 10am – 12pm
- Saturday May 1st, TBA

Miracle on Canal St.

— POTAWATOMI BINGO CASINO —

MILWAUKEE HABITAT AMONG THE 20 MILWAUKEE AREA CHARITIES TO SPLIT MORE THAN \$1 MILLION DOLLARS!!

FOR THE FIFTH STRAIGHT YEAR, twenty children's charities from southeastern Wisconsin are splitting \$1,004,651 after Potawatomi Bingo Casino announced the money raised during their Miracle on Canal Street program. Each charity received \$50,232!!

Money for the program was raised through special Miracle bingo games, and a few special events. The funds have been accumulating throughout the year and the 2009 total was revealed during the Miracle Bingo Bash event on Friday, December 11th in the Casino's Nest of Life Bingo Hall. Representing Milwaukee Habitat were 30 individuals, including homeowners, staff, volunteers, and board members.





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Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

A REMINDER TO ALL:

Milwaukee Habitat Warehouse/Office will be closing at noon on December 24th and will remain closed for the holidays until January 4th.

We wish you all a warm holiday season to you and your families!

Please Share The News:

Our upcoming Homeowner Information Sessions will take place on:

Saturday, Jan. 9th - 9am, 10am and 11am

Tuesday, Jan. 19th - 5:30pm and 6:30pm

Applications will be due by February 5th at 4pm!

Learn to Install Solar Technology with Habitat:

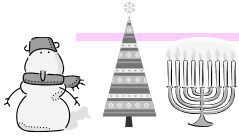
As a reminder, Milwaukee Habitat has partnered with WeEnergies and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) since early 2008 to install solar systems on Habitat homes. There are still scholarships available for Habitat homeowners and their family members. Space is limited, but it is a great opportunity for those interested in investigating a career in renewable energy. For more information on the workshops and their prerequisites, visit the "Learn" page at:

www.the-mrea.org. For those interested in attending a workshop through a Habitat scholarship, please contact Adam Helt-Baldwin at: ahelt@milwaukeehabitat.org or ext 17

Milwaukee Habitat Homeowner Newsletter is published bi-monthly by Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. Articles and advertisements from homeowners are always welcome and appreciated. Contact: Alisa Streets at: astreet@milwaukeehabitat.org or call (414)562-6100 ext 27.

Habitat's Youth United

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity has kicked off a new program to involve youth ages 5-25 in the Youth United program. The goal of Youth United is to have a Habitat home built and funded entirely by young people in the Milwaukee community. Youth United is a youth driven program that includes volunteering, education, advocacy and fundraising for affordable housing. Volunteer opportunities include Youth Build days for groups or individuals ages 16 and up, and Youth Service Saturdays for younger youth. Available dates for these opportunities will be available in January 2010. The playhouse project, as well as student run advocacy events will be offered in the spring as others ways to get involved. Leadership opportunities are also available on the Executive Committee for youth interested in the planning and execution of YU activities. **More info or to volunteer, call Laura at: 414.793.1099 or email youthunited@milwaukeehabitat.org**



Local Happenings



WINTER FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Slice of Ice - Opens Thursday, December 3 (weather permitting) @ Red Arrow Park 414.289.9791 Bring your own skates and skate for free or rent skates for \$6.

Candlelight Walk — Celebrate Winter Solstice! Explore Riverside Park by candlelight with a guided walk accompanied by poetry and readings of the season. After the walk return to the Center to warm yourself by the fire with apple cider, snacks and music. Sat., Dec. 19th from 7-9pm. Walks leave every 15mins.

Candy Cane Lane - Candy Cane Lane begins on November 27th and runs through December 27th. Santa makes his appearance from Dec 6th, onward. Candy Cane Lane is located just north of Oklahoma Avenue between 96th and 92nd Streets. Free but suggested donation/non-perishable food item.

The Jingle Bus: Now - Jan 3rd. Thurs - Sundays from 6 to 9 pm (last bus departs at 8:20 pm) @ 161 W. Wisconsin Avenue. Tour downtown's lights through the ease and comfort of the Jingle Bus. At just \$1 per person, this 40-minute tour acquaints riders with key downtown landmarks and all the festive scenes. Board the Jingle Bus from the Festival's Warming House at the Plankinton Arcade in The Shops of Grand Avenue. Each ride, free cocoa, coffee and cookies will be served. Kids will also receive a holiday coloring book. Discounted parking is available in The Shops of Grand Avenue parking structure for only \$2 with a Jingle Bus voucher. Enter the structure from the Plankinton Avenue entrance between Michigan Street and Wisconsin Avenue.

Your **Milwaukee Public Libraries** have put together an amazing Winter Calendar offering free special events, activities, and classes for babies, preschoolers, grade-schoolers, teens, and families from Dec until February. Call your local library or visit: www.mpl.org for more info.

2008 Flood Victims Could Get \$6 Mil in Aid...

The WI Dept of Health Services announced in November that the WI Conference of United Methodist Church will administer the 2008 Flood Recovery Program. Homeowners in the 30-county area of S. E WI that was affected by the floods and storms could be eligible for the funds if they meet financial qualifications and other requirements. The funds will be designated to help repair damage to primary residences, replace items such as furnaces and appliances and provide case management support. The funds must be distributed by Sept. 30, 2010. Homeowners in need of support and were flood storm victims can call (877)-947-2211. More info is also available about the program online at www.2008floodrecovery.org.

Growing Power's Market Basket Program Please call : 414.527.1930 and leave a message or Email our market basket coordinator more info at karen@growingpower.org

Share Food Program: visit: www.sharewi.org Email: info@sharewi.org Toll-Free: 1-800-548-2124 Phone: 262-783-2500

The Hope Network publishes a free 16 page newspaper every quarter. For instance, a recent issue included: Listings of over 100 local parenting classes, Information on emergency food, shelter, clothing, counseling, and other help, information on several upcoming free events and other inexpensive ideas for family fun, Games or crafts you can make with your children, Child care information, Free community resources, free health care locations and Free educational and job training programs. If you would like to receive a copy every quarter of our free newspaper, please call HOPE Network at 262-251-7333. Www.hopenetworkinc.org

Bottomless Closet - dedicated to improving the lives of women (and their families) by providing professional clothing and consultation to ensure proper workplace etiquette and preparedness. To learn more about Bottomless Closet Milwaukee and learn how you can become a client, contact your nearest job center or call **2-1-IIMPACT**, or (866)-211-3380 toll free.

Milwaukee Recreation Guide, Winter Edition - Registration began December 7th. For a free activity guide, you can visit: www.milwaukeeerecreation.net OR call: 414-475-8180.

Online registration available.

Something for everyone! Milwaukee residents receive discount for program/class fees. They feature: adult, active older adult, after school programs, aquatics, family classes, family and friend field trips, outdoor/nature activities, paralympic sports, special Olympics, and therapeutic recreation, as well as youth and teen programs/classes.

Urban Ecology Center - Washington Park (414)-964-8505

- ***FREE Science and Math Tutoring** Every Tuesday and Thursday except December 24, 29 & 31st. 4 - 5 p.m. For kids in K-12
- ***FREE Outdoor Play** Every Friday except Dec 25 & Jan 1st. 4-7pm Sleds, snowshoes and hot cocoa provided. Open to everyone Call to register.
- ***Adult Discussion Group** - talk about what's happening in and around Washington Park. Meet neighbors and discuss ways to improve environment in park and surrounding neighborhoods. Every Weds except Dec. 23 & 30th. 7-8pm For adults. Call to register.
- ***Other UEC events for the young and old**: Science Saturdays, Animal Feeding, Burdock Brigade, Intergenerational Citizen Science, Knitting Circle, Papermaking, Early Morning Bird Walks, Intro to Tai Chi, Tours, Nature-Based Arts & Crafts, etc. Call for more information!