



New Homeowner Spotlight



CONGRATULATIONS, CAMINA SIMMONS!

Camina Simmons says, "I feel as though I am more than ready to put my hard work and dedication into not only building my dream home, but being able to assist others with building theirs." Her 3 year old son, Cardyaire, and their new little puppy lived in a one bedroom apartment and were excited to move into their new home. Camina works at Hope House, in addition to her part-time job at Vliet Discount and is attending MATC pursuing her degree in Human Services. From all of us here at Milwaukee Habitat, we wish you and your family well in your new home!

A MESSAGE FROM KIM REGARDING WATER HEATERS:

This season's water heater model (and possibly the next) has an extra sensitive sensor that detects flammable fumes. What this means to our homeowners and to us is that paints, stains or any kind of welding should not be done or kept near the water heaters.

For many of the homeowners refinishing their basements, the water heater seems to shut down. You'll notice the two lights on the temperature changer are at opposite ends of the spectrum. In some cases you can turn the water heater off, unplug it, wait and then plug it back in. Sometimes you can simply keep pushing the buttons. In other cases, you may need to call in a water heater specialist.

Ways to Avoid This:

DO NOT store any vaporous materials near the water heater.

TURN OFF water heaters when finishing the basements or doing any painting in them.

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP



The Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest organized annual cleanup. It encourages citizens to get involved, cleaning in and caring for their own communities.

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity will be participating in the 2010 Great American Cleanup on **Saturday, April 24th from 8:30a.m.-1:30p.m.** The cleanup will take place in 3 locations: at the Woodlands, the area near MLK, Jr. School and around 21st St. School.

We will meet at the Warehouse, carpool to the designated neighborhoods, and then meet back at the Warehouse for a light brunch and giveaways. For more information, contact Ayoka at: 414-562-6100x11 or ahuff@milwaukeehabitat.org

APRIL'S YOUTH UNITED UPDATES:

PLAYHOUSE PROJECT: Celebrate the warm weather with a fun, hands-on building project! The playhouse project is a fundraising tool for Youth United and a great way for you to support Habitat no matter what age! Materials are provided by Milwaukee Habitat and you are able to build, decorate, and fund raise using the playhouse to directly contribute to the sponsoring of a Habitat home!

FOOTBALL FOR HABITAT: In honor of GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY, come and support Youth United and the Milwaukee Iron at an indoor football game at the Bradley Center on Saturday April 24th, at 7pm. Proceeds will benefit the Youth Build, and there is a special price for those who mention Habitat for Humanity! Prices range from \$11 to \$38, so come and enjoy a game with us!

Looking for something to do this summer? Use your free time to learn the skills of construction and leadership, do something physical, and improve the Milwaukee community! Enjoy the nice weather this summer and volunteer with Habitat!

Contact Laura at (414) 793-1099 or by email at youthunited@milwaukeehabitat.org for more information!

Urban Ecology Center - offers science and math tutoring at their Washington Park location every Tues & Thurs from 4pm-5pm for kids in grades K-12th. **Free**—donations appreciated.

Making It Home Film Festival - Kick off event with Bill McKibben. Co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Humanities Council and Milwaukee Film. Riverside Park **Friday, April 16th @ 7 p.m.** For everyone. **Free. Registration required** for this limited seating event. Call 964-8505 to register.

23rd Annual Earth Poets and Musicians Celebration. **Friday, April 23 @ 7 p.m.** For everyone. **Free.** Join Milwaukee laureates for poetry and music. Feel free to share your own as well.

From canoeing and hiking, to exploring astronomy or your back yard, the Urban Ecology Center has programs for everyone, of all ages. The Urban Ecology Center has two locations that provide public programming - Riverside Park (1500 E. Park Place) and Washington Park (4151 W. Lisbon).

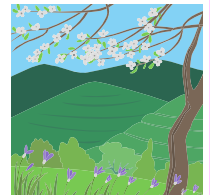
The UEC also offers a **paid, 10-week summer internship** ideal for someone looking to gain experience in environmental education (as a camp counselor), outdoor adventure activities (canoeing, rock-climbing, etc.), field research, volunteer coordination, land stewardship, green building management and working in a non-profit organization. Compensation is \$2,000. Upon completion of the internship, the UEC strives to help interns gain employment through networking, job announcements and writing letters of support. For more info contact Beth Fetterley at bfetterley@urbanecologycenter.org or (414) 964-8505 x103

Local Happenings

Drop-In Job Help! - Need Help Getting a Job Online?

A job trainer specialist will be available to help you learn how to:

- complete online job applications
- write a resume online
- search online job listings
- obtain a free e-mail account



LOCATIONS:

MLK Library: Mondays, 1-4pm

Forest Home Library: Mondays, 5:30-7:30 (bilingual available)

Atkinson Library: Tuesdays, 1-4pm

Central Library: Tues 4:30-7:30pm, Fridays 9-noon, Sats 1-5pm

Bay View Library: Thursdays, 10am-1pm

Free Tax Preparation Services and E-File

REMEMBER, you have until April 15th to utilize one of Milwaukee's **FREE** tax preparation services. These services are only available if last year your household earned less than \$56,000 annually.

- Free e-filing of your Federal & WI State taxes
 - Assistance Earned Income Tax Credit, WI Homestead Credit and other credits
 - Opportunity to receive your refund in as few as 7-10 days w/ direct deposit
 - Free preparation of Prior-Years' Tax Returns
- Call (414) 963-2694 or visit: www.cr-sdc.org**



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SAVE THE DATE...

In honor of Earth Day, the Milwaukee ReStore will be having a 50% off sale (excluding carpet) on Saturday, April 24th!!!! 8:30am-3:00pm @ 801 S. 60th St. in West Allis, WI

SWEAT EQUITY OPPORTUNITIES:

4/10 Bottomless Closet – Seasonal Inventory Change Over
10am-2pm. 10 people needed, h/o + 1, sign up w/ Ayoka

4/10 Women’s Resource Day – Staff MHH table
MATC-Downtown Campus
8am-2pm, 2 shifts of 2 people (8am-11am and 11am-2pm)

4/14 WWBIC Workshop—Developing Your Leadership Skills
Learn how to effectively formulate, express and sell your ideas, persuade or recruit the energies of others. Interactive workshop. FREE event @ Washington Public Library, 6pm-8pm
Contact WWBIC to sign-up: 414-263-5450 or wwbic.com

4/17 Bottomless Closet Donor Day—Help with receiving and sorting clothing donations. 4 people needed, sign up with Ayoka

4/18 Thanks A Bunch Lunch—assist with set up/event/clean up
12 noon-5pm @ the Grace Center. Sign up with Alisa

4/24 Great American Clean up/Earth Day Celebration.
8:30am-1:30pm, plan for h/o+4, ages 12 and up @MHH (& Woodlands), sign up with Ayoka or Alisa

5/8 Money Conference—MANDATORY ATTENDANCE
Free for MHH Family Partners. 8:30am-3:15pm @ Manpower, Inc Cherry Street/MLK Drive. Must register with Ayoka

Please Share The News:

Our upcoming Homeowner Information Sessions will take place on:

- Saturday, April 10th @ 9am, 10am and 11am
- Wednesday, April 21st @ 5pm, 6pm, and 7pm
- Saturday, May 8th @ 9am, 10am, and 11am
- Wednesday, May 19th @ 5pm, 6pm and 7pm

“On My Radar”

PLANT SHARE - Sat, June 5th 9am-Noon

Garden Walk - Sat, August 28th, time TBA

Currently looking for House Assistants during Blitz Build Weeks.
Upcoming Blitz weeks are:
May 10-14 and July 12-16

For more info, see page 4.

Homeowner Homecoming

*****We are currently seeking committee members to offer their time, talents and ideas for the Homeowner Homecoming Planning Committee. Our Next meeting will be Monday, March 1st at 5:00pm located at the Habitat Warehouse. A celebration for homeowners by homeowners!**

The 2nd Annual Homeowner Homecoming Celebration will take place on Sunday, August 15th 2010.

Help "Get Things Done" with Milwaukee Habitat, As One of Our AmeriCorps Members!

Are you -- or someone else -- interested in taking a year or two out of your life to help build homes and hope... while at the same time developing leadership skills, serving alongside and leading volunteers, and helping Habitat fulfill its mission of providing simple, decent, affordable homes for those in need?

Milwaukee Habitat AmeriCorps may be just what you're looking for! We hope to begin accepting applications for seven AmeriCorps member positions some time this June, with the service year beginning around Labor Day of 2010 and ending in July, 2011. Positions may be available which range from six that are construction-related, to one which would be helping to coordinate volunteer and Habitat partner family activities.

See <http://www.milwaukeehabitat.org/pages/view/volunteer/31> for more information

or contact Steve Tennies at: stennies@milwaukeehabitat.org

or 414-940-1905.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!



Looking For....Blitz Build Week House Assistants

If you are interested in being a part of the Blitz Build Weeks but have not been assigned a house yet or maybe construction just isn't your cup of tea, consider participating as a House Assistant. Be on site and a part of the excitement. Tasks include helping to check in volunteers, work with MHH staff to keep supplies well stocked at each build site and enjoy the experience of watching a neighborhood being built from the ground up! House Assistants are an integral part of our Blitz Build Weeks moving along smoothly. If you are currently working on your sweat equity, this is an opportunity for you not to be missed! If you are just looking to re-connect with Milwaukee Habitat and be a part of the Build Weeks, this is a great way to plug in! Snacks, lunches and all the Gatorade you can drink will be provided. Contact Katie Kowalski, Volunteer Coordinator by phone or email at 414-460-6219 or kkowalski@milwaukeehabitat.org to sign up today.

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.