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WINTER | 2010

HEB Homeowner Newsletter

Habitat Family Holiday Parties!

Season's Greetings! This December, Habitat for Humanity will be hosting two holiday parties for all of our partner families!

If you did not receive your invitation in the mail, RSVP at www.habitatbay.org/rsvp or by calling Isabel Paez at 510-251-6304 ext. 362.

The parties are potluck style, and everyone is invited to bring delicious items to share with others!

Concord

December 4th
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge
1805 Broadway

Oakland

December 11th
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
2619 Broadway



HOME BUYER ORIENTATIONS

Do you remember when you first heard about Habitat for Humanity East Bay? Do you remember when that neighbor, co-worker, flyer or news clip told you that you may be able to own your own home? We are always looking for new homeowners and hope you can help us spread the word.

January 8th, 2011

11:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
2619 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612

January 15th, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Ambrose Community Center
3105 Willow Pass Rd, Bay Point, CA

You MUST attend an orientation in order to apply!

QUESTIONS?

Call (510) 251-6304 x367

Exploratorium Trip!

The Family Resource Committee is a volunteer-led committee that supports homeowners after move-in through various events focusing on youth opportunities and community building. This fall, the FRC, in coordination with Cal Habitat students and Habitat East Bay staff members, hosted two events to encourage exploration and empowerment. (See more on page 4)

Saturday, September 18th, 2010



"With our committee, we plan specific events in conjunction with the Family Resources Committee of Habitat East Bay to engage and educate the kids from Habitat homes..."

Every time we have a new event and I see a friend from a few months back, I'm taken aback by not only their physical growth, but by their maturity, their drive to succeed and become scientists, architects, and engineers.

...These kids keep me grounded and remind me that healthy communities are built from the ground up - with compassionate, human relationships and willingness to contribute towards our collective responsibility."

—Marvin So
Public Health Major
Cal Habitat Member



"One of the boys was interested in doing something related to architecture when he graduated from high school. Since I am majoring in that very subject, I was able to give him some advice and tell him what he can look forward to studying in college..."

...Overall, it was a good time for everyone to get out, meet people and learn more about science! I cannot wait to see all of the kids again."

— Maria Khatri, Architecture Major
Cal Habitat Member



Family Fun Day!

Saturday, July 24th, 2010



The 5th Annual Family Fun Day event was a huge success due in large part to the contributions and hard work of Habitat East Bay homeowners and the FRC Team and partners. The event took place at Lafayette Recreation Reservoir on the afternoon of Saturday, July 24th. Clear blue skies and fantastic weather, ribs and chicken BBQ'd to perfection by homeowner grillers Marvas McCladdie and Jerald Dillard, a delectable spread of potluck side dishes provided by the homeowners, and games and prizes complimented an afternoon of socializing amongst the Habitat East Bay families. This year the event was also supported by our partner, Alameda County Department of Agriculture, who provided an informational booth on home gardening.

For those that attended we look forward to seeing you again next year, and for those that were not able to attend we hope you can join us next summer!



New Staff Members!

Habitat for Humanity East Bay wants to welcome a new staff member to the Homeowner Relations Department: **Jen Golike**. Before starting with Homeowner Relations in September, Jen worked with Habitat East Bay as the Executive Assistant and Events Coordinator. She brings a wealth of knowledge to our department and is excited to become more involved with existing and new homeowners in her new role.

You may have noticed two other new faces in the Homeowner Relations Department. **Chris Laster** and **Anna Bachman** are the new AmeriCorps volunteers for the 2010-2011 year. They are here to assist partner families and new applicants.



Empower III

Saturday, November 6th, 2010

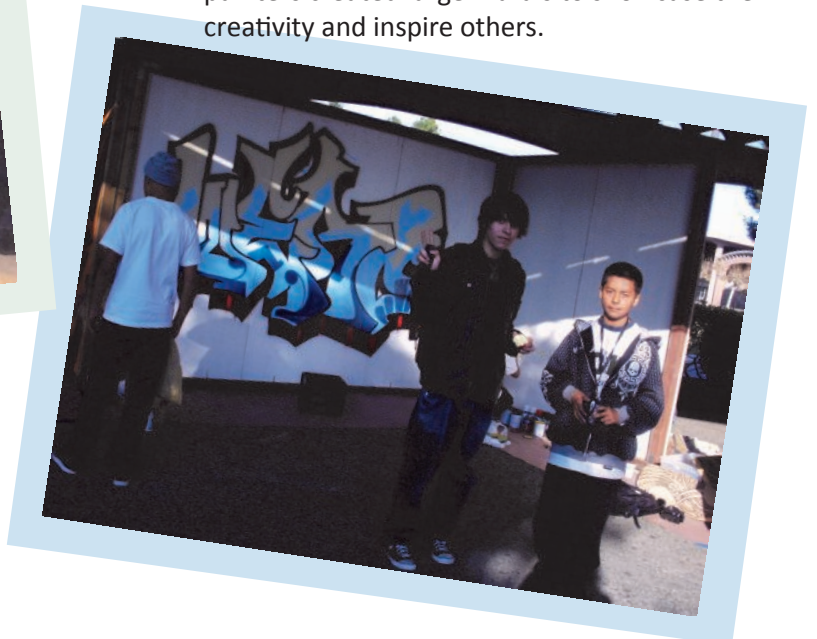
The Family Resource Committee took a group of 35 youth and 20 volunteers to a performance arts event at Chabot College titled Empower III. The event was hosted by the non-profit organization Soulciety which provides health, educational and arts programs to engage youth in positive activities. Through a combination of dance, music and poetry, the performance promoted a message of self-discovery and encouraged creativity and expression.



Before the performance, the FRC invited a dance instructor to show the kids various hip hop moves and dance styles.


In addition, the students from Cal Habitat created a life-sized interactive game based off the board game, Cranium. The youth from various Habitat houses in the East Bay got to know each other with activities such as charades, puzzles, and acting.

Outside the event, local graffiti artists and painters created large murals to showcase their creativity and inspire others.



If you have not yet participated in an event hosted by the Family Resource Committee, it's not too late! Each year, the FRC hosts between three and four events. The next one will be held in February 2011. If you are interested, contact Tim Thomas at 510-251-6304 x 316 to find out more!

Got Mail?



As Habitat homeowners, you know that homeownership comes with many responsibilities. However, one responsibility that may not seem obvious right away is the importance of protecting you and your family from fraud and scams. Recently, a Habitat homeowner called the office because they were concerned about a letter they received indicating a substantial increase in their insurance payments. As it turns out, this letter was fraudulent, and the Habitat homeowner was right to call our office to get more information. If anything ever seems strange to you, make sure to investigate before you give out any personal information (bank account information, social security number, address, etc.)

It is important to understand all the mail you are getting, whether it is fraudulent or not. Many Habitat families have been calling the office about tax bills they have been receiving in the mail, thinking that they owe a lot of money. However, money is being taken out of your impound account with Multi-Financial Services to pay your taxes and notifications are being sent to you simply for your own financial records. This is just one example of the importance of fully understanding your responsibilities as a homeowner and taking action if you are unsure about something.

For more information on security, privacy and identity theft, please visit the Federal Trade Commission website at:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/data.shtm>

The Federal Trade Commission-Bureau of Consumer Protection website also has loads of information on other consumer protection issues such as health insurance, education, employment, credit, loans, and telemarketing concerns. Please visit the Consumer Protection portion of the website at: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/index.shtml> and explore these important issues!

You can also contact Alana Riemermann for more resources at (510) 251-6304 ext.365 or at ariemermann@habitateb.org.

Recent Dedications!

Before moving to the Edes Avenue community, Chi Wai and In Peng lived in a high crime neighborhood in a small one bedroom. Now they are excited to have a home of their own as they get older and to work together with their new neighbors to improve the larger community.

Additionally, the couple is currently sponsoring the immigration of their son and his wife who will join them in their home once they get to the United States.



Adekunle and Omotoke Arimoro came to the United States in 2006 after winning the Nigerian green card lottery. They have three children, Adeyinka (5), Olayemo (3) and their newborn daughter.

The family is excited to live in the Edes community and have more space. They are also looking forward to how having a home of their own will improve their children's lives.

Owning a home will help "give my children the best education and support that will make them responsible citizens," Adekunle says.



Linda and Mario Bamberger have lived in Hayward all of their lives. For them, the community is their home and the place where they plan to raise their children, Daisy (8) and Jacob (4). So, after putting over 35 bids on market-rate houses over the past year, you can imagine their dismay when they were continually outbid by investors. The prospect of owning a home in the town they grew up in would have been close to impossible if not for Habitat East Bay. "For us, owning a home is a dream come true," says Mario.



Elsy Valadez first learned of Habitat East Bay's program several years ago when her daughter, Sabrina, overheard a conversation while at work. Now, she is grateful for the opportunity to own her own home.

The family plans to stay involved with Habitat for Humanity to help pay their good fortune forward to another family. Whether it is volunteering here in the Bay Area, or someday in El Salvador where she is from originally, Elsy believes that her contributions can help make the dream of homeownership a reality for another family like hers.

INTERESTED IN LEADERSHIP TRAINING?

Come learn practical life skills to become a better leader and community member

February 7, 2011: The Responsibilities, Mechanics and Challenges of Running HOAs

March 7, 2011: Program in Observation of Women's History Month

April 4, 2011: Acquiring Skills to Run your Base Organization: Techniques of Public Speaking

May 2, 2011: Acquiring Skills to Run your Base Organization: Planning & Facilitating Meetings

June 6, 2011: Relationship Building & the Organizing Process: Door Knocking

July 11, 2011: Relationship Building & the Organizing Process: The One-on-One Interview

September 12, 2011: Understanding the Features of your Home: How to Do Home Maintenance

All trainings will be held at 2619 Broadway, 3rd floor Conference Room

For further detail, contact Tim Thomas at 510-251-6304 ext. 316 or tthomas@habitateb.org

Build-A-Thon! April 16-19, 2011



Come help us build!

When: April 16-19, 2011. 7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Where: 81st Avenue, southwest of Rudsdale Street, Oakland, CA

Please contact Katherine Mendes at (510) 251-6304 ext. 375 for more information.

Or register at www.habitateb.org/build-a-thon



**2619 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612**

Attn: Homeowner Relations

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