

Fall 2010

## Building Houses, Building Hope: Meet our 2010 Partner Families

With nine projects currently underway, the 2010 build season is going strong. This is our first build season in *our* new home and because of our new facility, we will be able to stay productive throughout the winter months. This means we will be able to offer even more opportunities for volunteers to get their hands dirty and help make a difference in their communities.

Our 2010 Partner Families, like all of the families that go through our program, are truly deserving. Each one represents its own story of strength, perserverance and commitment to realizing the dream of homeownership. Please visit our web site for more information about our current Partner Families or how to become one.



### Homes currently under construction:

(families pictured above clockwise)

- 1254 7th Ave, Akron - Banks Family
- 1180 McIntosh Ave, Akron - Brown Family
- 232 Haven Ave, Barberton - Durant Family
- 3925 Moreland Ave, Stow - McClendon Family
- 461 Bell St., Barberton - Mlady Family
- 3909 Moreland Ave, Stow - Oddo Family
- 1161 McKinley Ave, Akron - Robinson Family
- 1360 8th Ave, Akron - Rehab
- 396 Madison Ave, Akron - Rehab



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### Youth United celebrates World Habitat Day



HFHSC is now officially a Youth United affiliate. That means we are able to offer opportunities and activities for youth ages 5 - 25 to become engaged in our mission. Our first Youth United events this year corresponded with World Habitat Day on Oct. 4.

The Spring Garden Waldorf School in Copley Township held an assembly to celebrate the kickoff of their partnership with Youth United. Activities included singing, presentations and the unveiling of the school's t-shirt design and Habitat banner. The school plans to engage their students with the affiliate at each grade level in a variety of different ways.

The University of Akron Campus Chapter helped raise awareness on World Habitat Day by building a cardboard shanty town in the middle of campus. The Campus Chapter falls under the Youth United umbrella and are working very hard to raise funding to build a house in the University Park Alliance area through their Project: M.I.S.S.I.O.N. (Making Insufficient Shelters Scarce In Our Neighborhood). The Project M.I.S.S.I.O.N. house will serve as the affiliate's first Youth United house build.

For more information about youth programming, contact Cyrus Weigand, Americorps VISTA and Youth Programs Coordinator, at 330-745-7734 x 206 or youth@hfhsummitcounty.

### Habitat for Humanity of Summit County partners with award-winning survey team

HFHSC first partnered with Professor Gary Schuller's University of Akron/Summit College Surveying and Mapping class in 2003. Since then, the students have surveyed 15 Habitat home sites, averaging around two per year for the affiliate. As Professor Schuller explains, "Surveyors are the trail blazers, the Lewis and Clarks of the construction world. They are the first ones on a site." The class boasts a high participation level because of the hands-on, real-world experience it affords the Akron students.

Typically the first trip the class takes out to the site gives the students the opportunity to set up their control points, GPS observations and tie into the elevation benchmark. During this excursion the students will also look for boundary pins. The next time they go out to the site, the students do precise measurements of the lot, trees and utility lines. The third and final trip is spent staking out the foundation for the house. A professional contractor will then check the students' work and give them an "A" for accuracy.

While the University of Akron Surveying students are not working on staking out Habitat sites, they are busy winning awards. The class has been taking part in an annual national competition since 2002. For the fifth time in nine years, they have taken first place in the Student Surveying Competition sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors. "Forensic Surveying" was the theme of this year's challenge, held in Phoenix, Ariz. on April 25. The team had to reconstruct an accident scene and research methods and best practices. It is our privilege to have them on our team.



### Kent State public relations students work to promote the ReStore



HFHSC was the client for Kent State University's 2010 Spring Semester PR Campaigns course. The class, which serves as the students' senior seminar project, is an intensive 15 week assignment that is the culmination of everything they have learned throughout the course of their studies. The class was split into three "teams" and charged with creating a comprehensive strategic public relations plan for the Summit County ReStore with the end goal of increasing awareness, sales and donations at the store. The class made presentations in April and one team was judged the winner. The partnership yielded great ideas for future marketing and PR campaigns for the ReStore, and valuable real-world experience for the students. HFHSC is happy to have future young professionals helping its cause and is looking forward to sustaining these relationships.

## Shoppers get creative with ReStore purchases

When innovation and unwanted goods come together, items that one person has gotten rid of can be repurposed and brought back to life through the creativity of another.

Joan Colbert, Akron artist and frequent ReStore shopper has done just that. During a recent visit to the ReStore, Joan found a large old door. Something about the door caught her interest and she decided she had to have it. After getting the heavy door home, Joan realized it would fit perfectly as a divider in her entryway. She and her husband, Gene, sanded and painted the old door before installing it in the entryway. Joan is excited to be able to decorate the door's windows for the upcoming holidays. To see more of Joan's artwork and crafty ideas, visit [www.joancolbert.com](http://www.joancolbert.com).



Another creative ReStore customer purchased a standard, run of the mill shutter for just \$5, added a sheet of plywood and painted it with chalkboard paint. The result: a kitchen chalkboard masterpiece! Similar pieces at upscale home decor stores retail for over \$200.

Not only are these projects eco-friendly, but also fun and useful. Visit the ReStore often, with its constantly changing inventory, you never know what will inspire you.

## Coming soon: deconstruction projects

HFHSC has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant with the City of Akron to pilot a demolition and deconstruction project of four houses. The affiliate has also been awarded NSP (Neighborhood Stabilization Program) funding from the City of Akron and the County of Summit to build 10 new construction homes and rehab three existing homes next year in the Akron, Barberton, Norton and Twinsburg Township areas. One of the new construction projects at 461 Bell Street in Barberton has just started.



**Open to the public!**

**Habitat for Humanity**  
of Summit County

**ReStore**

[www.hfhSummitRestore.org](http://www.hfhSummitRestore.org)

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Thursday, Friday,  
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Coupon only valid at the Summit County Habitat ReStore  
2301 Romig Rd, Akron, OH 44320  
330-745-9098

One coupon per person. Cannot be combined with any other offer or sales. Offer expires 6/30/10. No cash value, promo only.

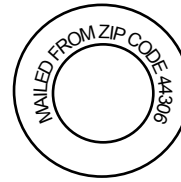
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habitat@hfhs Summit County.org  
www.hfhs Summit County.org



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*Save the Date!*  
*Annual Dinner*  
*Tuesday, March 15, 2011*  
*Guy's Party Center*

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- Devin Powers - ReStore Warehouse Associate
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- Amy Singleton - ReStore Cashier/Customer Service Rep.
- Rick Thoerig - ReStore Manager
- Dave VanHoose - ReStore Assistant Manager
- Cyrus Weigand - AmeriCorps VISTA, Youth Coordinator
- Will Yoho - Site Supervisor

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**Concerned about the environment?**  
**Prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail?**

E-mail us at [habitat@hfhs Summit County.org](mailto:habitat@hfhs Summit County.org) with the subject line: *E-mail Newsletter*, and next quarter's newsletter will go to your inbox instead of your mailbox!

Open to the Public:



Thursday,  
Friday &  
Saturday  
8 am - 4 pm



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED REMEMBERING HABITAT IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING? YOU WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. If you have already included or wish to obtain information on including a charitable bequest in your will or trust, contact the office at 330-745-7734.