



# The BUILDER

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity

## SPRING 2007



### *An Answer to Prayers* **PAHH, Thrivent Team Up for Diamond Valley Build**

By Josette Kubin  
PAHH Public Information Committee

"This was an answer to my prayers," said Adrianna Armesto of her Habitat home in

Diamond Valley that is now on its way to becoming a reality.

Her prayers for a Habitat home began two years ago when – at her mother's prompting – she applied with dozens of others. "It was kind of a long shot thing," she recalls. "There were a lot of people applying. For us, there were too many people living in one home, and we needed something to help us out."

She was patient, but not idle. Armesto soon began the volunteer work Habitat requires of its applicants. A single-parent applicant must complete half of the 250 required "sweat equity" or volunteer labor hours required before a lot is assigned to the applicant. When Armesto received the phone call from Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity offering her the Diamond Valley home site, she had already finished more than 150 hours of sweat equity— well above what was asked of her – and she was having a good time working them.

"I really enjoy going to the construction sites and doing different things, like pouring cement, putting up rafters, installing the landscaping," she raved. "There was just one day when I had to do the insulation – and that was quite itchy and miserable. But aside from that, the rest is very fun."

What's interesting is that despite the ability of friends or family to contribute to the applicant's 250 required volunteer hours, Armesto has worked diligently and almost entirely on her own to achieve her required sweat equity hours. Twenty hours have been contributed towards her home by friends and family, and she is quite grateful to those who have volunteered in her name. "I'm so thankful for everything that has come my way," she said.

The Prescott Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is particularly grateful for the grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans that will enable Armesto's home to be built. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has partnered with Habitat for Humanity International in a four-year, \$105 million alliance to build more houses for deserving low-income families throughout the United States. Thrivent members, Lutheran congregants, and Habitat volunteers are key in this alliance.

The *Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity* project began in 2006, when 313 families in 43 states earned home ownerships. This represented an approximate 6 percent increase in Habitat's national house production. In 2007, Thrivent Financial has committed \$24.5 million to build 355 homes in 43 states. Arizona is one of those states, with three homes scheduled for construction in metropolitan Phoenix and the Thrivent-PAHH home to be built in Diamond Valley.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit organization helping its nearly 3 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to communities through activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations, and individuals in need.

Thrivent's alliance with Habitat for Humanity has resulted in a network of 1,699 Habitat affiliates and 1,362 Thrivent volunteer chapters nationwide working to eradicate sub-standard housing. Locally, members of the Thrivent Financial Mingus Mountain Chapter will help mobilize Lutheran congregants to join Habitat volunteers in the construction of Armesto's home.

### **How you can help**

**Members from local Lutheran churches and the Mingus Mountain Thrivent Chapter will have a central role in the Thrivent Build – PAHH project. Construction on our Thrivent home is tentatively scheduled to begin in August, and there are many ways people can volunteer on this project in the months prior to the build. For**

**more information and/or to volunteer with the Thrivent Builds – PAHH project, please contact Christine Mack at the PAHH Administrative Office: 445-8003, ext. 16.**

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## **Store Update Half-price Sales Boom; Gallerie Moves to Gizie Magee's**

By Tom Naus  
PAHH Resource Marketing Manager



In April of 2004, the Habitat Home Supply Store had its first storewide, half-price sale and it was so successful that we decided to have it quarterly. Since that time, each sale has set a new record. On Jan.13, we had our 11th half-price sale and it was a HUGE success, breaking all previous records. With temperatures in the 30s, our faithful public withstood the weather to shop. We were also blessed by the amount of staff and volunteers who showed up to help out. We are very grateful to all those involved in making this half-price sale our best to date.

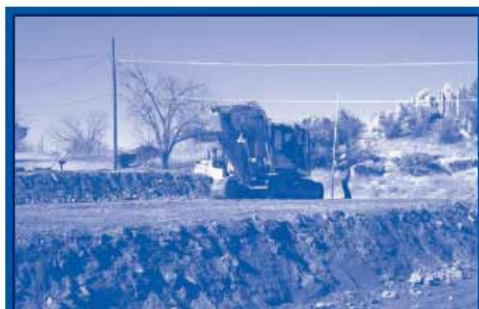
During the latter part of January, the store had some interior renovations, in what could be considered a much-needed face-lift. Susan Herdt, Habitat construction coordinator, redesigned the front interior of the store with Cindy Hopkins, store operations supervisor. Cindy and Darlene Moore, store staff person, were busy with brush-in-hand painting the store's interior. Other store staff and volunteers helped move existing displays, rearrange the cashier's area, hang posters of Habitat homeowners and arrange Habitat hats and T-shirts for sale to the public. It looks GREAT and seems to be working very well. Another job well done!

Cindy and Gail Martin, Habitat director of volunteer services, have implemented the idea of showcasing and honoring a "Volunteer of the Month," by posting the honoree's picture in the store and designating a parking space for the winning volunteer.

This past October, the Habitat store began a new fundraising project - "Gallerie de Habitat" - and the first art display showcased local artists Paul Abbott, with his oil paintings, and Mike Kocis, with his chainsaw wood carvings. The following month, Maryhelen Ewing and Rene Turner were featured with their works in oils. The Christmas holiday season brought needed space in the store, so the next featured artist was in January, with Julie Alver and her beautiful works and wonderful range in watercolors. We have since changed the venue and moved the "Gallerie de Habitat" to its new site... Gizie Magee's Deli, 208 W. Gurley St. in Prescott. The owners, Dave and Susie Sanders, have generously provided space for featuring monthly artists. February's artist was Julie Alver.

There was a reception at the deli on Feb. 7, so the public could have a chance to meet Mrs. Alver and view her exceptional work. Refreshments were provided by Dave and Susie, and we appreciate their generosity. Prescott Downtown holds its monthly "Artwalk" on the last Friday of each month and, in February, Gizie Magee's began taking part in that, as well. Each artist will have his or her work displayed throughout a given month, and we invite the public to come in to view their pieces and at the same time enjoy some GREAT food.

The "Gallerie de Habitat" fundraising project directly benefits our local artists and Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity ... because when you support one of these artists with the purchase of their artwork, Habitat will receive a percentage of the sale. Hope we see you at Gizie's!



## **Construction Update**

**by Susan Herdt, PAHH  
Construction  
Coordinator**

While we are in the midst of our busiest and largest build season ever, with five houses



currently in different phases of construction, there is

something to be said for the small details.

Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity's 44th house, in Chino Valley, is nearing completion, and Isabel Valencia couldn't be happier. As the building project is winding down, the future homeowners get to make decisions that will make the house truly feel like their home. Isabel has picked out her Formica countertop color and the style of her cabinet doors. In preparation for picking out her lighting fixtures at K's Lighting (a Prescott business that generously donates all the light fixtures for our Habitat homes), Isabel peeked into the showroom before entering. She said she could barely get past the front door when she was moved to tears ... never imagining that she would have such lovely things in her home! Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity builds simple, decent and affordable housing, but we also exceed the dreams of our future homeowners ... thanks to all our generous suppliers who are so giving of their time and resources to make these dreams a reality.

As for our other builds, progress has been slow but steady. The "green" build in Chino Valley, in partnership with Yavapai College, is in full swing, after a long winter break. The college students came back to many projects, including roofing and exterior siding. Meanwhile, the Meany Street trio of homes in Prescott will have the foundations poured around the first week of March. By late spring, five Habitat families will have new homes!

### **Volunteer News Let's Celebrate with a Potluck!**

By Gail Martin  
Director of Volunteer Services

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, so let's celebrate with a Volunteer Appreciation Potluck! We will have it at our office, in the First Christian Church, on Friday, April 20, at 5:30 p.m.

We've made some changes at the Habitat Home Supply Store this year. We now have a lead volunteer, Maryellen Chavez, who works with Cindy Hopkins, store operations supervisor, to designate tasks for volunteers. Maryellen has graciously undertaken this added responsibility.

Also, Lynn McDougal, one of our store volunteers, in collaboration with Cindy, has created a monthly store volunteer newsletter to keep everyone up-to-date on store news. Each month we are going to choose a Volunteer of the Month at the store. This person will have his or her very own parking space by the front door for the month and also wins \$50 in Habitat Bucks. Congratulations to Janet Chesnut, who is our first Volunteer of the Month. She is always willing to go the extra mile and help out when we are short or extra busy.

Thanks to our new volunteers on the construction site and at the store. I hope everyone has an enriching experience helping our mission of building affordable housing in our community.  
See you at the potluck!



### **A Note From The Executive Director, Miriam Haubrich**

In late January we held the first orientation of 2007 for new home applicants. There was intense interest in the faces of the volunteers and applicants alike. The application process is arduous in itself. However, for those who follow through and receive board approval, it is a dream come true. Prescott Area Habitat For Humanity provides simple decent housing that is affordable.

Recently, the Prescott City Council approved our purchase of property on Sonora Street, which we hope will allow us to build multifamily housing for low-income individuals and families.

I commend the leaders of the communities in our quad-city area for identifying the need for affordable housing and embracing the opportunity where they can assist.

There are many levels of housing needs where we have the opportunity to play a role in providing simple decent housing for low-income families in our quad-city area.

I wish to thank you all for supporting our mission and an ever-increasing passion for reducing poverty through simple decent housing.



## Chairman's Challenge

Another month has come and gone, and I am continually amazed at the continued generosity and willingness of the Prescott-area people. You continue to give and give and give. To that I say, "Thank you."

I was born and raised right here, in good old "Preskit," Arizona. As a youth, I can remember thinking how great it would be when I would graduate and get out of this little town. After living away for a few years (at school and during my internship in San Francisco), I was never so happy as the day I moved my little family back to Prescott and made it our home, again.

That's what Habitat for Humanity is all about. Making homes. Homes where families feel safe and secure. A safe place to return to. That's why I'm proud to be a Prescottonian AND a Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity volunteer. I hope to see you soon.

Thanks,

Matt Campbell, PAHH Board Chair

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## College-PAHH 'Green' Build Brings Home 'Gold'

The energy-efficient home that Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity partnered with the Yavapai College Residential Building Technology Program to build in Diamond Valley has been named a 2007 Gold Winner by the Energy Value Housing Award organization.

The award was presented at a ceremony during the International Builders Show in February in Orlando, Fla.

EVHA judges commented that the house "is extremely well adapted to its environment," that the build gave "great attention to detail," and that the home is "an exceptional house built as part of a training program that is committed to green, energy-efficient construction based on sound building science."

The Yavapai College program also won a 2007 Gold Winner award for another Prescott

home its students built in 2006. The college's two Prescott homes were among seven Gold Winners from across the country.

The *The Winner Magazine*, which featured profiles of the numerous award winners, noted that the YC Residential Building Technology Program "has proven that building science principles and green building concepts can be applied to affordable housing."

The EVHA receives its funding primarily through the U.S. Department of Energy's Building America program and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, with additional support from private-sector sponsors.

Habitat recipient Tina Roach and her son and daughter are residents of the award-winning Diamond Valley home.

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***"I think just the fact that people have a home does something for their self-esteem, their independence. They often get new ambition. They have seen success and they have seen a promise kept at least one time in their lives."***

***—Jimmy Carter, former U.S. President***



People throughout the world have been following former President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter's relationship with Habitat for Humanity International, since they became involved in 1984. This year, Arizonans can get up close with President and Mrs. Carter by volunteering to participate in the 24th Jimmy Carter Work Project... only a hop, skip and a jump to the Los Angeles area.

From Oct. 28 through Nov. 2, 2007, the former U.S. President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, along with his wife, and Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford will join volunteers from the United States and around the world in Los Angeles to build and renovate houses in partnership with families in need. The total number of houses planned for the week's blitz build is 250; 100 will be completed during the Jimmy Carter Work Project week and the rest completed in 2008 and 2009. The house designs will consist of duplexes, attached two-stories, and three- and four-bedroom homes.

The following information was taken from a press release regarding the upcoming week-long blitz build: "Struggles with affordable housing are evident across Los Angeles. The median income of renter households in Los Angeles is \$34,456, while the median price for a home is \$535,000, making decent, affordable housing all but out of reach for people of modest means. Less than 3 percent of new units built in Los Angeles County meet the national standard for affordable housing. Eighteen percent of all Los Angeles County residents – more than 1.7 million people – live below the poverty level, or 22 percent more people living in poverty than in the states of Louisiana and Mississippi combined ... Jimmy Carter Work Projects have resulted in homes that house more than 10,000 people around the world in communities such as Detroit, New York City, Houston and Miami and in countries such as Hungary, the Philippines, Mexico, South Korea and South Africa."

So, if you would like to expand your Habitat horizons, a mere \$800 will buy you a limited spot with the more than 2,000 volunteers expected from Los Angeles, the country and around the globe! Volunteers are invited to participate on a first come, first serve basis. As mentioned above, build slot fees are approximately \$800 for each volunteer. General volunteer registration will open in May 2007. For further information, contact: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles, 17700 So. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248, (310) 323-4663. It's possible that our affiliate will be participating with a crew from PAHH, so watch the summer edition of The Builder for further information.

### Charity Art Events Website Helps Habitat

By Thatcher Bohrman

Public Information Committee

Gary Benjamin's art auction and framing businesses have worked to help charities for 38 years, so when his wife told him about an art exhibit at Habitat's Home Supply Store, he called. He admits "I didn't know much about Habitat" when he first talked to Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity's executive director, Miriam Haubrich, but they soon discovered the partnership was a natural fit. Charityartevents.org offers thousands of fine art prints and custom framing that donates 25 percent of all sales to partner charities, and all it takes is a link on the Internet. The idea was unanimously approved when it was presented to the PAHH Board of Directors. Visit prescotthfh.org, click on the prominent link and you'll see how it all works. You'll see a vast array of art, and interactive features let you mix and match art with a huge selection of frames as well as wall colors that show you exactly how it will look in your home. When you purchase art for yourself or others, you are giving to Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity. Another positive factor: All materials are made only in the U.S.A.

Gary loves the Habitat mission, and has since joined the board. His charity art business was primarily running traditional art actions, which sometimes had as many as 25 events happening at the same time. It was an exciting way of life, but he appreciates the way the Internet has made the world bigger and smaller at the same time. "It's the 5-minute fundraiser, because it takes 5 minutes to send an

Introducing Our  
**NEW Fundraising Site**  
[www.prescott.habitatevents.org](http://www.prescott.habitatevents.org)

**New! Framed Art Gallery**  
Beauty Your Home or Office & raise money for Habitat for Humanity in just a few simple clicks.

- Choose from over 30,000 images!
- Choose your favorite frame!
- 30 day money back guarantee!

The advertisement features a green background with a white border. On the right side, there is a photograph of a framed art print leaning against a wall. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout, with the main heading in bold and the bullet points clearly listed.

**25% of sales benefit PAHH**

email to all the people on your list, your family and friends." Gary believes this is a vital way of reaching beyond the people in your immediate area to involve a wider family of giving.

Check it out right now: <http://www.prescott.habitatevents.org>.

### Car donations build homes, hope



Your car donation can help a family in the quad-city community build a house and the hope of a better life.

Car donations to Habitat's Cars for Homes program help Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity build houses in partnership with families in need of decent, affordable shelter.

It is quick and easy to donate a car, truck, boat, RV, motorcycle, construction equipment or other automobile, and your vehicle donation may be eligible for tax deduction purposes (Consult the IRS or your tax adviser for details.)

Donate cars to Habitat for Humanity's Cars for Homes program by calling toll free at 877-277-HFHI (4344) or log onto [www.carsforhomes.org](http://www.carsforhomes.org)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Every Month<br>Art Fundraiser | "Gallerie de Habitat"<br>Gizie Magee's Deli<br>(928) 445-8730                                 |
| March, April, May               | Holiday Card Contest<br>with Youth Groups of PAHH's<br>Partner Faith Communities              |
| Saturday, April 14              | Half-Price Sale<br>8 a.m. to 4 p.m.<br>Habitat Home Supply Store<br>(928) 771-1777            |
| Friday, April 20<br>ext. 14     | Volunteer Appreciation Pot-Luck PAHH Office,<br>5:30p.m. Contact: Gail Martin (928) 445-8003, |
| Wednesday, May 9                | Major Donor Appreciation<br>Contact: Donna-Marie Terranova<br>(928) 445-8003, ext. 15         |
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**Newsletter Co-Editors: Donna-Marie Terranova and Karen Despain, Printer: EMI PrintWorks**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE The Builder is the official publication of Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity, Inc. It is published quarterly and distributed free of charge. The purpose of this publication is to assist this nonprofit corporation in eliminating inadequate and poverty level housing in the Chino Valley, Paulden Prescott, Prescott Valley, Humboldt, Dewey, Skull Valley, and Kirkland areas and to raise the level of public awareness of the activities of PAHH locally and Habitat International worldwide.