

# Homesfront

## What We Build: Flatirons Habitat Celebrates World Habitat Day 2011

### Flatirons Habitat for Humanity

#### Mission Statement

Flatirons Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry, enabling low-income families to become homeowners by partnering with them to build simple decent affordable homes. Our goal is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness locally and globally, so that all people have secure homes and may grow into all that God intends.

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#### Flatirons Habitat ReStore

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**December 1985 the United Nations** designated the first Monday in October as World Habitat Day. World Habitat Day is a day of grassroots action for people to unite in their efforts to eradicate poverty housing. In response to this declaration, Habitat for Humanity International created Habitat Week and extended the focus to include the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project.

This year Flatirons Habitat for Humanity participated for the first time by putting together a photo campaign which was kicked off on World Habitat Day 2011 – October 3. The prompt “What Will You Build?” was used in the campaign to draw more attention to the local need for adequate shelter. Three of the answers received are highlighted in this article.

#### A HOME:

To date, Flatirons Habitat for Humanity has built 63 homes and four more are in progress to be completed in December. In January we will begin work on three homes at Coburn Square in Boulder; look for more information about this project in the next edition of HomesFront. Boulder County and Broomfield County have a great need for additional



Wednesday crew regular Joe Pickett shared his answer on drywall during a workday. Photo by Phil Dorth.

affordable housing opportunities. Flatirons Habitat is helping fill that need by working with families who make between 25-49% of the area median income and who have lived or worked within our service area for twelve of the last twenty-four months. Simple, decent and affordable housing can make a very positive change for a family from better achievement scores at school to a healthier and more stable family environment.



A Broomfield resident embraced her love of community while stopping by the Broomfield Library during World Habitat Week. Photo by Britton Hart.

#### COMMUNITY:

Flatirons Habitat for Humanity builds community through our Keys Community program and Blueprints classes. This strength-based course helps families achieve stability, self-sufficiency and fosters relationships in our service area. The Keys Community addresses the root causes of local poverty with education, evaluation and regularly scheduled mentorship meetings.

Flatirons Habitat builds community through our sweat equity requirements, having homeowners work alongside volunteers on their own homes as well as the homes of their neighbors. When Habitat homes are completed, Flatirons Habitat reinforces those relationships, inviting neighbors, volunteers and community

## Flatirons Habitat for Humanity 2011

### Board of Directors

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#### Executive Team:

- Bob Wettergren, *Director of Construction*
- Lisa Gills, *Director of Development*
- Clinton Moore, *Director of Family Services & Government Relations*

Georgene Anderson, *Finance Director*  
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Ryan Pilcher, *Volunteer and Green Build Coordinator*  
 Chrissy Pitzen, *Community Relations Coordinator*  
 Nicky Tilley, *Keys Community Coordinator*

### HomesFront Editorial Team

Lisa Gills, Clinton Moore, Chrissy Pitzen, Jenny Ray, Elizabeth Weaver and Bob Wettergren

*HomesFront* design and production donated by Rick Bickhart

*HFH* is a member agency of *Community Shares of Colorado*



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Today, 1.6 billion people live in inadequate shelter around the world; 1 billion of those live in slums. By 2030, it is expected that 2 billion people will live in slum communities. As Flatirons Habitat for Humanity and Habitat for Humanity International participated in month-long activities starting with World Habitat Day on Monday, October 3rd, we remembered the world's housing situation is a crisis in need of attention and action. Our cover story outlines ways in which Flatirons Habitat recognized and participated in this annual event.



Executive Team members Bob Wettergren, Lisa Gills and Clinton Moore (from L to R). Photo by Mike Neville mpnphotography.com

This fall more than 500,000 families will be sleeping in safe, decent, affordable homes thanks to Habitat for Humanity's efforts worldwide. It took Habitat 24 years to build 100,000 homes. In the past 11 years, an additional 400,000 families have been served. In Kenya, Habitat will celebrate its 500,000 home in partnership with families who were displaced during the country's 2007 post-election violence and have been living in tents for more than three years.

This milestone build invites all who have participated or been inspired by Habitat's work to look back with pride and ahead with a renewed commitment to take action and work toward ensuring everyone has a decent place to live. Now more than ever, support is needed to help Habitat for Humanity address critical housing needs in our community and around the world. Advocates for Habitat for Humanity address the causes and systemic issues that perpetuate poverty housing. We invite you to partner with Flatirons Habitat for Humanity to advocate and educate our community about the local, national and international housing crisis. Please visit this link ([www.flatironshabitat.org](http://www.flatironshabitat.org)) to find out how to get involved both locally and internationally. And during this time of year when many give thanks and tend to count their blessing, please remember Flatirons Habitat for Humanity when making your year-end gift decisions.

—Clinton, Bob & Lisa

# Flatirons Habitat Selected as HUD Grant Recipient

In early 2011, Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) distributed more than 160 grant applications to Habitat affiliates and state support centers interested in funding through HUD's Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Program. HFHI narrowed down the one hundred grant applications to choose 30 affiliates and one state

support center to receive a portion of the \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Flatirons Habitat requested the three-year grant award to fund the new position of Faith Relations Manager and Catherine Ballance was hired in August to fill the position. "I am excited about and grateful for the opportunity to help congregations

## Saying Hello, Goodbye and Warmest Wishes



New members of the Flatirons Habitat team (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): Jackie Wood, Catherine Ballance, Elizabeth Weaver, Chrissy Pitzen and Ryan Pichler. Stephanie Delaney is not pictured. Photo by Phil Dorth.

**Catherine Ballance** joined the Habitat team in August as the Faith Relations Manager. She is grateful for the opportunity to combine her love for ecumenical ministry with her background in nonprofit development work. Habitat for Humanity has long held a special place in her heart. Catherine and her husband Bob moved to Boulder in 2010 when he accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church.

**Jackie Wood** is excited to be joining the Flatirons Habitat team as their Volunteer Specialist. She was previously volunteering with the Peace Corps in Bulgaria as an English teacher and has long been passionate about human rights. Her return to the Denver Area and work with Habitat for Humanity will ensure her desire to continue helping people well into the future.

**Elizabeth Weaver** joins us as our new Development Assistant having just finished a service year as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville in Virginia. Elizabeth is energetic and excited to participate in fundraising strategy as well as major events. She is getting married this December.

build communities with people in need as an expression of the love of God,” said Catherine. “In these complicated times it’s inspiring to see people from different traditions and cultures uniting to make that vision a reality. The need is so great; together we can make a profound and lasting difference.”

Habitat affiliates selected to receive a portion of the grant will help rebuild and revitalize neighborhoods and improve the lives of residents by creating affordable housing opportunities through community development. Flatirons Habitat is expected to increase its house production by at least 15 percent over three years and to match their grant funds by a ratio of 4:1. Flatirons Habitat will also have access to continuing education to enhance its technical

**Chrissy Pitzen** recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a degree in Civil Engineering. She joins Flatirons Habitat as an AmeriCorps VISTA in the role of Community Relations Coordinator. Her passion for Habitat was ignited on a mission trip to the Mississippi Delta where she spent a week working on a Habitat work site with the children of current Habitat homeowners.

**Ryan Pichler** joins us as an AmeriCorps VISTA working as our Volunteer and Green Build Coordinator. He just graduated in May from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a degree in Civil Engineering. Ryan is excited to continue Flatirons Habitat’s excellence in green building and work with all the wonderful volunteers.

**Stephanie Delaney** joined Flatirons Habitat at our ReStore in Broomfield as a cashier. She is excited to learn more about Habitat and the families we serve. On her days off, she enjoys time with her two puppies.

### Our warmest wishes to these special people:

**Erin Teague**, our Volunteer Coordinator for the past three years, has decided to go back into massage therapy full-time. In Erin’s three years, the volunteer program grew by thousands. Regardless of the large number of volunteers signing up Erin always took a strong interest in the talents of every individual volunteer. Her upbeat passion for working with volunteers will be missed.

**Matthew O’Neil**, ReStore General Manager and **Dee Kessler**, Office Manager have moved on to new opportunities. We wish them great success in their new ventures in life. We thank them for the contributions they have made to our affiliate.

And, finally, congratulations are in order to **Jenny Phillips** on her recent marriage to David Ray. The happy couple exchanged vows on October 23 in Boulder. Jenny’s new name is Jenny Ray. She also has a new title, Grants & Communications Specialist, to reflect her current responsibilities at the Flatirons affiliate. ■

and administrative capabilities.

“What an incredible opportunity for the Flatirons affiliate”, said Lisa Gills, Co-Executive Director. “Our affiliate has charted a path over the next three years to increase the number of homes built and families served. Flatirons Habitat is committed to increase its overall impact in the community by engaging community partners, building energy efficient Habitat homes and increasing the affiliate’s sustainable income.”

Habitat for Humanity International began receiving HUD grants in 1998. Habitat affiliates have received \$58 million in Section 4 HUD funding since 2003. Nearly 380 affiliates nationwide have benefited from the grants. ■

World Habitat Day continued from page 1

partners to our home dedications. **Our next dedication will occur on Sunday, December 4 at 2:30pm at Coal Creek Village in Lafayette.**

**SUSTAINABILITY:**

Flatirons Habitat promotes sustainability by building green. Flatirons Habitat is an ENERGY STAR partner and builds 100% of our homes to meet, and surpass, federally set energy efficiency standards. We do this by utilizing ENERGY STAR certified appliances, enhanced insulation techniques, central boiler systems and compact florescent light bulbs. Flatirons Habitat also completed its first four LEED certified homes at Northfield Village, at a Platinum rating in 2010. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is an international green building certification system that provides third party verification of energy and water savings and improved indoor and outdoor environmental quality. Our current project, Coal Creek Village, will also be LEED certified.

Thank you to all who helped us gather photos and those who participated in our photo campaign and other World Habitat Day activities. The campaign utilized groups of volunteers by sending them out to different parts of our service area and having them ask community members to respond to the prompt. With the help of Broomfield United Methodist Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, the Habitat Club at Fairview High School, and our volunteers, Britton Hart, Lisa Hart,



CU Student Cole Stange shared his love of Boulder through sustainable building. Photo by Chrissy Pilzen.

Miranda Rakes, and Chris Rakes, we were able to collect over 125 responses. Flatirons Habitat staff also visited the students in the 1st grade classes at Lafayette Elementary to talk about habitats and making a difference in our community. Co-Executive Director/Director of Construction, Bob Wettergren, traveled to Haiti to participate in the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project. ■

## Community Builds Grant... for Those Who Prefer Construction Work

Flatirons Habitat is happy to announce the availability of the Community Builds Grant. We realize that many people wish to help Habitat families but, for many reasons, do not have the funds for a traditional Team Build Day sponsorship. This grant will waive the cost of a Team Build Day for the selected recipient. Applications can be

downloaded at [www.flatironshabitat.org/pages/teambuildddonations.html](http://www.flatironshabitat.org/pages/teambuildddonations.html), at the bottom of the page. Please send completed applications to Chrissy Pitzzen at [cpitzen@flatironshabitat.org](mailto:cpitzen@flatironshabitat.org) or to our office (see new address on back page). The next application deadline is January 31, 2012. ■

### Living Green

## Another Home Depot Foundation LEED Grant

**You may recall** our last four new construction homes at Northfield Village were recently certified as Leadership in Environmental and Energy design (LEED) Platinum. This is the highest level of green building attainable in the international LEED program. Through this certification, we have demonstrated to the community that low income housing can have the same energy efficient features as more expensive homes. We are very pleased to announce that our current Coal Creek Village fourplex has been selected for another Home

Depot Foundation LEED grant. This will be our second time to be selected for such a prestigious grant. While it's very hard to improve upon LEED Platinum certification, our construction staff is committed to further exploration into cost effective green building techniques that we can continue to apply to our new families' homes. Our mission is to provide our families with the most cost effective, energy efficient, comfortable, and well built low-income home possible. While Kermit the Frog sang, "It's not easy being green," we're loving it! ■

## Emerald Hill Home Dedication

On October 19th, 2011, Flatirons Habitat dedicated a lovely home to a well-deserving family. The Bautista family is now a proud homeowner in Broomfield's Emerald Hill neighborhood. Over the past several years Ms. Bautista, her daughter and two grandchildren have moved from place to place due to continuously escalating rent. Recently, they were living in a family member's house. Ms. Bautista sleeps on the couch every night and the home was too crowded for the kids to feel comfortable playing.

Ms. Bautista has worked at Boulder Community Hospital for the past 17 years. One of her co-workers is also a Habitat partner family at the Emerald Hill Habitat neighborhood and suggested Ms. Bautista apply for a Habitat home. Ms. Bautista attended an informational meeting at the Broomfield Library and was impressed with the Habitat program. She applied and was selected as a partner family for the home. Since being accepted in to the program, Ms. Bautista feels



The Bautista family. Photo courtesy of Ms. Bautista.

less stress in her and her family's lives. A stable home means everything to them – a place where her grandchildren can live in a safe neighborhood and finally have their own house to call home. ■

## Clergy Day Build 2011

On October 11, clergy members gathered at the Coal Creek Village Habitat site in Lafayette to work and to enjoy one another's company. The annual Clergy Day Build illustrates what Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller referred to as "theology of the hammer": people of all religious faiths coming together to share the love of God by building simple, decent, affordable homes. A sincere Thank You to Carrabba's Italian Grill for providing lunch for clergy, volunteers and staff. ■



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Father Ted Howard, St. John's Episcopal Church; Rev. Stan Adamson, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church; Rev. Bob Ballance, First Baptist Church-Boulder; Father Tom Lynch, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church; Rev. Greg Garland, United Church of Broomfield; Rabbi Marc Soloway, Congregation Bonai Shalom. Photo by Catherine Ballance.

## Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendars

### December 4, 2011:

Join us for the **dedication of homes at Coal Creek Village A in Lafayette**. Friends, family members, volunteers, sponsors and other donors are all welcome to celebrate with our four families at Coal Creek who will soon be living in their new Habitat homes. The celebration starts at 2:30pm and will include a house blessing and refreshments.



Coal Creek Village Building A. Photo by Phil Dorth.

**December 6, 2011: Colorado Gives Day** – take part in this statewide day of giving by making your contribution to Flatirons Habitat on [givingfirst.org](http://givingfirst.org).

**February or March 2012: Coburn Square Family Welcome** in North Boulder

**February 12, 2012:** Join us for the **2nd Annual Bowl n' Build** at Chipper's Lanes from 3–5:30 pm to help support Flatirons Habitat's work. We are currently signing up lane sponsors and teams so hurry before we sell out again this year. Email [jphillips@flatironsshabitat.org](mailto:jphillips@flatironsshabitat.org) for more information.

**February 17, April 9 and June 11, 2012: Broomfield Community Work Days at Flatirons ReStore** in Broomfield. Register on the Flatirons Habitat website by clicking **Volunteer Now**. ■

## Meet Our New Coal Creek Village Families



The Brackett family. Photo courtesy of Ms. Brackett.

### The Brackett Family

Ms. Brackett works at the Rocky Mountain Cancer Center as a Medical Assistant. She currently lives with her two daughters, 10 and 3 years old, in low-income housing in Lafayette. The apartments are old, unstable and unsafe. Unfortunately, the family has been stuck in an income bracket where Ms. Brackett's income is too high for certain government assistance but too low for them to survive financially. They were barely able to make ends meet. Ms. Brackett wanted a better, more stable life for her girls and was ready for a change. She was debating on staying in Colorado or returning to Texas because she didn't think she could ever afford to provide her family a permanent home here. While attending Flatirons Community Church, she saw a flyer for Flatirons Habitat for

Humanity. She applied and was accepted into the program a few months later. In fact, she found out they had been selected for a home while sitting in a drive-thru line at McDonald's! The news brought tears to her eyes. Ms. Brackett believes owning her own home will finally provide her family a sense of community, make her a stronger parent, and allow her to start saving for college for her girls.

### The Herrera Family

Ms. Herrera's attitude on life has changed since becoming part of the Habitat program. While completing her sweat-equity hours on the build site, her eyes have been opened to what people are capable of when they volunteer. "It's amazing that people donate their time to help my family and other families. I'm so blessed to work on the construction site next to every one of them," states Ms. Herrera. Life for the Herrera family has been tough. Ms. Herrera raised five children on her own without financial or emotional support. She has had to work two jobs just to keep food on the table. Her older kids helped raise the younger ones, since Ms. Herrera was always working to support the family. She feels she has missed out on much of their lives. Currently the Herreras live in Section 8 housing in Lafayette. Their electric bills are outrageous, sometimes as much as \$250 per month. She is unable to afford a car due to the massive electric bills. The family has moved around a lot to find comfortable living conditions that could possibly meet their needs. "I just wanted a place where my kids, grandkids and other family members can come to when needed, a place to finally call home, forever." Ms. Herrera heard about Flatirons Habitat's program through Flatirons Community Church in Lafayette. She attended an informational meeting in November of 2010 and after completing the application she was accepted into the program. Her entire outlook on life has changed; she now has hope.



The Herrera family. Photo courtesy of Ms. Herrera.



The Mensik family. Photo courtesy of Ms. Mensik.

### The Mensik Family

Ms. Mensik is a single mother of four children ranging from 6 to 23 years old. In order to make ends meet Ms. Mensik has been working two jobs: a full-time position at Clinica Campesina in Lafayette and a part-time job at a ballet studio where her girls take dance lessons. Due to divorce and lack of financial support for her children, life for the Mensik family has been difficult. After the divorce there were many financial debts. By working many hours and frugal living, Ms. Mensik has been able to manage the debts but has had little left over for basic needs much less a mortgage. She found she was paying half her income (after taxes) on child care. Ms. Mensik's oldest son was in the Army until he was injured. He returned home and during this summer has assisted with child care. He is now enrolled in college full-time. The pastor at Ms. Mensik's church sent her information about Flatirons Habitat for Humanity and she applied to partner and was soon accepted into the Habitat program. "Being a part of Habitat has brought me hope and has put a smile on my face that can't be erased." For the first time Ms. Mensik feels she can start to plan for the future because she will have a stable home for her family. Ms. Mensik also joined our *Keys Community* program so she can learn how to gather the tools to help her become successful in every area of her life. This has given her hope, something she hasn't had in many years.



The Putthoff family. Photo courtesy of Ms. Putthoff.

### The Putthoff Family

Delighted...surprised...excited are a few of the words that describe what they felt when they were accepted into the Habitat homeownership program. They had received a flyer from their pastor at Shepherd's Community Church about an informational meeting at the Lafayette Library. They applied in November of 2010, were accepted in March of 2011. The Putthoff family currently lives in Lafayette in a 2 bedroom apartment which they have outgrown as their children have grown older. After moving to 14 different homes in 4 different parts of the country over the last 11 years, they were ready to make Lafayette their home. They are thankful to place their roots in Lafayette for many reasons. They love the school their children attend, are heavily involved with their local church, have established friendships and just love Colorado! After struggling with family hardships and issues over the past few years, the Putthoff family received solid footing again and started praying for clarity, direction, and stability in their lives. Their faith in God was rewarded and their prayers answered! ■

## ReStore Update & Broomfield Community Work Days



**Broomfield residents are invited** to join us on any of three community work days at the Flatirons ReStore in Broomfield. We will be offering

residents a chance to work with our ReStore team – and sometimes with our Habitat family members – on projects that contribute to a new look and shopping experience at the ReStore. **The first Community Work Day is Friday, Feb 17, 2012.** Please visit the Flatirons Habitat

website [www.flatironsshabitat.org](http://www.flatironsshabitat.org) to register by clicking *Volunteer Now*. Other Broomfield Community Work Days are listed in the Upcoming Events section on page 5.

If you haven't been by the ReStore lately, please come by and see the changes. We are constantly working to improve the shopping experience and have re-organized the sales floor as a result. Here are a few recent comments from ReStore shoppers about the changes: "The furniture room looks fantastic!" "It's so open now!" "Looks great" "It's nice to have the clothes and books on the main floor." ■

### We are most grateful to those who made financial contributions or pledges of \$250 or more from May 19 through October 31, 2011.

Pete Abel  
 \*Alpine Plumbing and Heating Inc  
 Bill and Cheryl Andrews  
 Linda Barr  
 Cheri Belz  
 Boulder Mennonite Church  
 Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
 Nell and David Box  
 Brocade  
 Broomfield United Methodist Church  
 Broomfield United Methodist Women  
 \*Carrabba's Italian Grill

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church  
 Church of the Holy Comforter  
 City and County of Broomfield  
 City of Lafayette  
 \*Climate Masters Service Experts  
 Community Shares of Colorado  
 \*Convergence Solutions  
 First Baptist Church of Boulder  
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 Lisa Gills and Michael Gallagher  
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P.O. Box 21207  
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## We're Moving.... New Addresses Yet the Same Commitment to the Flatirons Community!

If you plan to visit the office, we are no longer at the Frontier Avenue address but have a new home in Lafayette. All phone numbers and email remain the same.

**As of November 28**, Flatirons Habitat for Humanity has two new addresses:

**1455 Dixon Avenue, Suite 210, Lafayette CO 80026**

**P.O. Box 21207, Boulder CO 80308**

Please come by and see us but note our holiday schedule!

**Holiday Office Hours:** CLOSED: Monday, Dec. 26, Wednesday, Dec. 28 and Monday Jan. 2

**HOLIDAY HOURS:** 10am to 2pm on Tuesday, Dec. 27, Thursday, Dec. 29 and Fri., Dec. 30

*Flatirons Habitat would like to thank Oliver and Ann McBryan for their generous support of the affiliate and all their efforts to see this move happen. Thank you!!*



*Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas  
from the staff of Flatirons Habitat for Humanity!!*