



**Habitat for Humanity®**  
 Kansas City  
**Nuts & Bolts**



June 2009

Dear Rebecca,

*"Be nice and smile to everyone you meet. You don't know what they are going through, and they may need that smile. And treasure it." - Christine M. Huppert*

On my way into the office this morning, I noticed many a furrowed brow and scowling face of the drivers that passed me on Linwood. I wondered why, on such a lovely morning, they looked so angry. I wondered if they just lost their jobs, had a death in the family or simply got up on the wrong side of the bed. Then I decided to do something about it. I smiled at them. Some looked at me as if I was insane and others were too self-involved to even notice. But a few did see. A few did notice. And a funny thing happened ... they smiled back.

Each day here at Habitat KC we do our best to offer a helping hand to those who need it. We offer it with love in our hearts and a smile on our face. We have seen first hand how a genuine smile can make lasting impression and help people feel at ease and secure.

Give it a try tonight ... smile at every driver, pedestrian, bicyclist, who ever ... it's infectious.

Peace and blessings,

- Yahna Gibson, Executive Director

## Clive Rainey to Visit KC

Mark your calendars now ... Habitat Kansas City's 30th Anniversary Gala will be Saturday, October 10, 2009. This will be a fundraising event celebrating our 30 year history. Clive Rainey, HFHI Director of Community Relations, will be the featured speaker and guest for the

In This Issue

[Clive Rainey](#)

[Sponsor Highlight: Christ Community](#)

[Habitat on the Hill](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



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whole week.

Clive Rainey joined Habitat for Humanity International on April 1, 1977, soon after the organization was formed, as its first volunteer. One of his early duties was serving as chair of the family selection committee for the house-building program of Koinonia, a rural Christian community

where the idea of building homes in partnership with the poor was conceived. It was Rainey who brought the concept of "sweat equity" to Koinonia - and ultimately Habitat - after learning that developers of middle-class housing sometimes used a family's unskilled labor on their house in lieu of a down payment. In the summer of 1978 Rainey was sent to Immokalee, Fla., to assist Habitat's fledgling second affiliate in setting up its family selection process. The first homeowners there volunteered to do 2,000 hours of sweat equity - a number they suggested and the equivalent of a whole year of paid labor!

After sitting in on planning sessions for the launch of a Habitat project in Kinshasa, Zaire, Rainey felt called to be involved in that effort. In May 1979, he went to Kinshasa and began three years of work on Habitat's third international project. During that time Idi Amin, the infamous dictator of Uganda, was overthrown and the opportunity arose to start Habitat work in northern Uganda.



Inspired by two books - "A Distant Grief" by Ugandan pastor Kefa Sempangi about life under Amin, and a biography of David McKay, the first Protestant missionary to Uganda - Rainey felt compelled to take the lessons he had learned in Zaire and apply them to the effort to rebuild Uganda. The first

permanent structure built in Uganda in a decade was a little two-room house built by Habitat for Humanity with a widow and her two children as the occupants.

From September 1983 until September of 1989 Rainey served as Habitat's first Africa area director. Under his direction Habitat's work in Africa spread to 12 countries located throughout the continent. From 1989 to 1999 he served as a fund-raiser helping to

fund the Sumter County Initiative, Habitat for Humanity International's effort to eliminate substandard housing from its home community.

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Nice car. Donate it.



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Currently he serves as director of Community Relations for HFHI. In this role, he travels to affiliates asking them what they are

prepared to do in leading their communities in the elimination of substandard housing. He urges affiliates to plan for and work toward significant increases in their own housing production and to create collaborative partnerships with other housing providers, local governments, civic groups, churches, and other organizations and individuals in order to meet Habitat's goal of eliminating substandard housing worldwide. As local communities take on this challenge, Rainey works with Habitat field staff to strengthen affiliates for their role in the effort. This includes raising the affiliates' profile in their communities and helping them to develop the resources needed to meet the challenge.

Join us in October as we welcome Rainey to Kansas City! His lectures and presentations are not to be missed! Details will follow as the date approaches.

## CCEFC Building 6th Habitat KC Home



Christ Community Evangelical Free Church and Christian Fellowship Baptist Church continue their commitment to building homes with families in need for the sixth consecutive year. It all began in 2004 when then board president and member of Christ Community Church,

David VanLandingham, recruited his fellow church members to plan and execute a modified blitz build with the Opara family. Six years later they are still at it!

Other co-sponsors are DEMDACO and Ash Grove Charitable Foundation. Both organizations have members from Christ Community Church.

This Covenant Partnership is a model for others as this unique group puts great effort into getting to know the partner family and joining them in Christian fellowship. The bonds are strong and lasting, which is a key outcome of the Sweat Equity program unique to Habitat for Humanity.

This year the Bennie Ford family joins with Christ Community and their co-sponsors. Their five-week blitz build is underway and the house is coming along very quickly.

### Did you know...

By clicking [HERE](#) you have the opportunity to join all, some, or just one of our e-newsletter lists.

Habitat for Humanity KC typically puts out one or two newsletters, per list, each month.

You have complete control over what you receive from us.

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"What joy it is to watch a great group of people come together to build a home for a wonderful family. I love to see the look on the new homeowners faces the day we dedicate the house to new homeowner and to the Lord. It is a great feeling of accomplishment," explains Cindy Patrick, volunteer coordinator for Christ Community. "Building a house is like a story book. There are so many wonderful stories in each chapter and at the end of the build we are one big family. A happily ever after story!"

## Habitat on the Hill



Habitat for Humanity International was founded more than 30 years ago with the lofty goal of "ending poverty housing worldwide" but 300,000 houses later unfortunately we still have a long way to go. However, since 2007, Millard Fuller's vision that Habitat should be an advocate for those who live in substandard and slum housing has taken on a new level of engagement through the annual Habitat on the Hill conferences.

On June 1-3, 2009 HFHI held its third annual advocacy and legislative conference, Habitat on the Hill: Build Louder, in Washington D.C. More than 170 Habitat affiliate and HFHI staff advocates representing 36 states joined HFHI CEO Jonathan Reckford, and took part in over 450 meetings with members of Congress and their staffs to discuss key issues such as funding programs critical to revitalizing American and the inclusion of adequate shelter in and secure land tenure American foreign assistance reform.



"By approaching neighborhoods holistically and expanding rehabilitation, green building, repair and weatherization programs, Habitat can help neighborhoods become stronger, more resilient and more sustainable than ever before," said Reckford. "With the financial support of federal programs, Habitat brings the proven ability to fix homes, to partner with qualified families and to mobilize volunteers to turn neighborhoods around and help stabilize housing markets."

Habitat's Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative aims to help affiliated Habitat organizations serve more families in need and deliver an increased level of support to communities through rehabilitating and weatherizing existing homes with programs such as A Brush with Kindness.

The conference heard from distinguished speakers including HUD

Deputy Secretary Ron Sims; Rep. John Lewis (Ga.); Senator Jeff Merkley (OR); and HFHI board members Ken Klein and Henry Cisneros who all emphasized the power of advocacy, drawing attention to the importance of national service and highlighting the multiple ways affiliated Habitat organizations and supporters can unlock government resources to serve more families through new construction, rehabilitation and repair.

The 2009 conference theme, "Habitat on the Hill: Build Louder", is based on Habitat for Humanity's recently-launched multi-year advocacy campaign focusing on changing U.S. policies on the issues of neighborhood revitalization and secure tenure to improve access to adequate and affordable housing around the world. To learn more about advocating with Habitat visit <http://www.habitat.org/gov/default.aspx>.

At a reception following the Hill visits the conference participants heard from Rep. Brad Miller (D-NC), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who introduced the Shelter, Land, and Urban Management (SLUM) Assistance Act of 2009 to raise awareness of the importance of rapid urbanization and slum conditions in the developing world which can pose a threat to the security and stability of developing countries. Rep. David Price (NC-4), joined by other Members of Congress, also signed onto this bipartisan legislation as an original cosponsor.

Reps. Miller and Price were inspired to pursue this issue by separate congressional delegation visits to the Kibera slum outside of Nairobi, Kenya. The largest slum in Africa, Kibera, is the focus of notable charitable efforts such as Carolina for Kibera, organized by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The SLUM Assistance Act would expand on efforts like this with a level of support most non-governmental organizations cannot sustain.



"The United States was once the international leader in promoting policies and investments that improved the lives of millions of slum dwellers," said Rep. Miller. "If we are to promote our national security interests and drastically reduce global poverty, we must renew abandoned efforts to help with shelter and affordable housing."

One billion people, a sixth of the world's population, live in slums. That number is expected to double in the next 30 years. Many slums around the world have become incubators for the most significant global challenges including extremism, pandemic diseases, environmental degradation, and poverty.

To learn more about the SLUM Assistance Act (House Resolution 1702) please visit <http://www.bradmiller.org/node/93> then go to Habitat International's [website](#) to contact your Congressional Representative and encourage them to support the legislation and Contact your Senator's Office and ask that they contact the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to consider introducing similar legislation in the Senate.

Habitat for Humanity's current legislative advocacy priorities include:  
- Increasing the production and preservation



- of affordable housing in the U.S.
- Maintaining federal resources that support the work of Habitat affiliates nationwide.
  - Improving federal housing oversight.
  - Improving the security of land tenure for women.
  - Pursuing international poverty reduction initiatives.

To learn more about Habitat for Humanity's current legislative advocacy priorities visit [http://www.habitat.org/gov/legislative\\_priorities/legislative\\_priorities.aspx](http://www.habitat.org/gov/legislative_priorities/legislative_priorities.aspx).

## Upcoming Events



Check out our online [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) for more information.



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