



Mesilla Valley
**Habitat
for Humanity®**

celebrating our 20th anniversary

under construction

John Arguello, Executive Director

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April 2007

Las Cruces ReStore opening in June

If you're even an occasional viewer of home improvement TV shows, you may have watched enviously as someone who was remodeling up an old building for a residence found the perfect door or light fixture for his project by visiting the local Habitat for Humanity ReStore. On June, 15, you will have the same opportunity in Las Cruces!

Habitat ReStores are retail outlets where quality used and surplus building materials are sold at a fraction of normal prices. Proceeds from ReStores help local affiliates fund the construction of Habitat houses within the community. Many affiliates across the United States and Canada operate successful ReStores—some of which raise enough funds to build an additional 10 or more houses per year.

Materials sold by Habitat ReStores are usually donated from building supply stores, contractors, demolition crews or from individuals who wish to show their support for Habitat. In addition to raising funds, ReStores help the environment by rechanneling good, usable materials into use.

About our ReStore

We will be located at 2301 South Main Street, formerly San Saba Pecans. Our ReStore will primarily offer new and used building materials, gently used furnishings, and newer appliances. The ReStore will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Our landlord is already moving ahead with the remodeling and modifications needed for us to occupy the space.



Please tell people you know about the ReStore—for donations and as potential customers. The more we spread the word, the more successful we will be, and *the more houses we will be able to build.*

With 10,000 square feet of floor space to fill, we need your donations. One of our prime needs is new and used building materials, as well as plumbing accessories, light fixtures, lumber, floor tile, etc. If you have been remodeling, or know of people remodeling, please keep the ReStore in mind. If you are a business owner or manager or have a personal connection with a local business, Homer Brown, our ReStore manager, would appreciate receiving this information so he can make an appointment to explain the ReStore and invite their participation.

Working hard for the grand opening

Our staff and volunteers are currently scurrying in several directions to accomplish the multitude of tasks involved to get the store ready to open. Our publicity staff is already committed to heavily promoting

Exec. director changes

John Arguello is leaving us after guiding Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity (MVHFH) as executive director for nine-and-a-half years. John, who always wanted to be a teacher, has pursued the necessary schooling in his spare time and will shortly receive a master's in education to augment his two bachelor's degrees in construction-related fields.

Since joining MVHFH in 1997, John has been responsible for the building of 40 houses in Las Cruces, coordinating the efforts of home designers, construction crews, and the office staff, both

**Please come
to a
potluck honoring
John Arguello
Saturday, April 14
6:00 p.m.
Peace Lutheran Church**

professionals and volunteers. He has successfully managed the affairs of MVHFH under often pressing financial conditions and has represented the organization capably to our partner families, our contractors, the city government, and the public.

MVHFH and the forty families he has served wish John the very best as he enters this new profession.

Our new executive director, **Tom Chagolla**, will join us in late April. Tom and his wife Ruby are moving from Greeley, Colorado and have purchased a home in Las Cruces.

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ReStore (cont'd)

the ReStore by personal contacts with businesses, plus billboard advertising and even ads on television networks such as PBS, Fox, A&E, CNN, Discovery, HGTV, and The History Channel.

Our donations truck has been painted and the lettering has been completed. It is now being seen about town, driven by Ernie Rel, who joins the ReStore team as our driver/warehouse attendant. He hails from Las Cruces and has many qualifications that make him the ideal candidate for this new position. Ernie is already busy picking up donations, so be sure to say hello when you see him.



Volunteers of all kinds needed at ReStore

Many volunteers are already giving their time as we ready for our opening. A special thanks to Robbie Robertson, Kirby Prickett, Ed Smith, and Paul Bernhagen who have been on call for anything that has been asked of them. Care-A-Vanners Laverne Clarke and Jim Faulhaber also pitched in while they

were in Las Cruces. Mary Lou Brown is always available to assist Homer and fill in the gaps when help is needed.

In April, we will be painting, assembling shelving, and sorting inventory, as well as preparing, pricing, and displaying merchandise. If you would like to volunteer, please call Mary Lou Brown at 521-5927. You will be placed on a list, and we will call you as we organize this project. We are also pleased that work in the ReStore will be a great way for Habitat families to accumulate sweat equity hours!

The ReStore will function primarily with volunteer staff. If you would like to participate on a regular basis, we would like to hear from you. Those positions will include donation pick-ups, customer service (sales), prep and pricing, merchandise display, and cashier. Volunteers can choose the days and hours they wish to work.

For more information about ReStore, contact the Habitat office or call Homer Brown (202-4508).

Collegiate Challenge 2007 students work with MVHFH

Students from North Dakota State University recently spent their spring break week building homes with Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity as part of Habitat's annual Collegiate Challenge. The ten students arrived on Sunday March 11.

Their visit marks the first Habitat Collegiate Challenge build for MVHFH in several years that involved out-of-state students. "We were certainly glad to have them here," said Don Stover, construction supervisor. "They worked hard and got a lot done for us."

The Collegiate Challenge group contributed to the progress of the six homes MVHFH is building this season. In their one week here, the students sheathed and shingled the roof on 1436 N. Second St. and installed floor tile at 913 Pinon.

In their "off" time, the students explored the Las Cruces area. They slid down the dunes at White Sands National Monu-

ment, hiked to Dripping Springs, and visited Juárez, Mexico.

Collegiate Challenge groups typically provide their meals and transportation through fundraising and contributions from their school. Peace Lutheran Church provided a space for the students to sleep, make meals, shower and relax. In addition, the groups usually make a donation to the host affiliate.

Collegiate Challenge is a Habitat for Humanity International program that offers high school and college students year-round opportunities to use their vacations to serve a community by volunteering to build homes.

This year, an estimated 11,500 students from both the United States

and Canada will participate in Collegiate Challenge, visiting 235 locations in the United States.

Throughout its 18-year history, Collegiate Challenge has sent more than 139,000 students to build Habitat houses, and these students have raised more than \$11 million. They expect to contribute around \$1.4 million this year.



Executive Director (cont'd)

They are eagerly looking forward to the favorable change in climate!

Tom served as Executive Director of the Greeley Area Habitat for Humanity for the past six-and-a-half years. Under his leadership, the affiliate's productivity increased from three houses a year to ten, with a five-fold increase in their annual budget.

Prior to joining Habitat, Tom had accumulated extensive,

successful administrative experience in public service organizations. He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration.

We are happy Tom is joining us, and we are looking forward to a long and productive relationship that will benefit both MVHFH and Las Cruces families in need of affordable, decent housing.



North Dakota State University students "hammer down" on the roof at 1436 N. Second St.

Care-A-Vanners come to Las Cruces for team leader training

During the week of March 4, Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity hosted a team leadership training session with two specialized volunteers from Habitat International.

Geared towards RV Care-A-Vanners, the training session consisted of three-and-a-half days in a classroom setting and one-and-a-half days on the construction site practicing skills learned in the classroom. The group included ten couples who came from as far away as Delaware and as near as Las Cruces.

The classroom sessions took place at Hacienda RV resort, where the leaders, Linda Waldon and Lynn Laymon, taught skills relating to managing volunteers and understanding the needs of an affiliate's construction supervisor.

On Wednesday and Friday of their training week, the group practiced their leadership skills by taking turns as team leaders while hanging sheetrock in 1456 N. Second St.

Linda commented that the training sessions were focused on leading others and being led by others, more than actual construction skills, so the Care-A-Vanners could learn techniques that would help them function more efficiently in a group setting. This efficiency of leadership will also make

it easier for the affiliates to host Care-A-Van builds.

This is just one of several training sessions that Habitat for Humanity International has set up around the country in response to the increased number of Care-A-Vanners and the limited number of volunteers who are trained to lead a Care-A-Vanner build.

According to Linda, the training sessions are not only a way to advocate for Habitat and for Care-A-Vanner builds, but also a way to encourage seniors to participate in community service.

The training sessions were made possible through a grant from the Corporation for National Community Service, which provides funds to train volunteers for leadership roles.

What are Care-A-Vanners?

Habitat for Humanity International's RV Care-A-Vanner program offers anyone who travels in a recreational vehicle the opportunity to make a difference—and have fun while doing it—by helping build houses with families in need.

Every Care-A-Vanner building project is a unique and rewarding experience. Each build normally involves eight to 20 Care-A-Vanner volunteers and lasts two weeks. The work day is defined by the



Hands-on training has tangible results! affiliate, which also provides all the tools, instruction and supervision. In addition, the team often has the opportunity to work alongside local volunteers and future homeowners—a truly unforgettable experience.



For more information on the RV Care-A-Vanner program, visit <http://www.habitat.org/rv> or talk with someone in the office.

Thrivent Financial makes sixth house possible in 2006–07

With the help of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity (MVHFH) broke ground in mid February on the sixth house we will build in 2006–07—one more than last year.

The partnership between Thrivent and Habitat, known as *Thrivent Builds*, is a financial, volunteer, and advocacy alliance formed by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International. Thrivent Builds Homes enables Habitat affiliates all over the United States to build homes with the help of Thrivent Financial.

Thrivent Financial is a not-for-profit membership organization helping nearly three million members achieve financial security and give back to their congregations and communities. While the vast majority of Thrivent Financial members are members of Lutheran congregations, Thrivent Financial is a separate entity from the Lutheran Church. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com.

Thrivent Builds will fund 65% of the cost of the Las Cruces house; the local Thrivent chapter and Lutheran congregations will raise 10%; and the remaining 25% will be raised by MVHFH.

To qualify for this grant, half of the volunteers working on the house must be Lutherans, one-half of whom are Thrivent members. Four churches in the Las Cruces area will contribute to the building of this house:

“Thrivent House” at 1436 N. Second St. Peace Lutheran, Mission Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Faith Lutheran.

Not only is MVHFH grateful for Thrivent Builds' monetary contribution, but we are also grateful for the bonds this partnership will help us form with our community, connecting us with new volunteers while strengthening the ministry aspect of our work.

The Thrivent house is located at 1436 N. Second Street. If you are interested in contributing to its completion, call the MVHFH office or e-mail us at mvfhf@zianet.com.



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Dean Ayers of Peace Lutheran and Olfa Thingvalle working on the Thrivent house.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

APRIL 21 — Dedication of new homes on Piñon Street

MAY 19 — Dedication of homes on Second Street

Home dedications are MVHFH's most joyous celebrations, when homeowners receive the keys to their new home. Join us!

**Habitat For Humanity's
Mission Principles**

In all that we do in pursuing the mission of Habitat for Humanity, we pledge to:

- *Demonstrate the love and teachings of Jesus.*
- *Advocate on behalf of those in need of decent shelter.*
- *Focus on shelter by building and renovating simple decent, affordable houses.*
- *Engage broader community through inclusive leadership and diverse partnerships.*
- *Promote dignity through full partnership with Habitat homeowners and future home partners.*
- *Promote transformational and sustainable community development*

**Big
Thank
You!**

**to all of you who
support us so faithfully
with your donations,
time, encouragement,
and prayers.**