



Tiara Mills and daughter Taveyah of Mashpee are the newest Habitat homeowners.

NEWSLETTER HOUSE EDITION

INSIDE

- 2 Director's Note: Haiti
- 3 Tiara's Story
- 4 Campaign to Raise \$75,000 for Restore
- 5 Volunteer Spotlight
- 5 Women Build Complete
- 6 New Development Director
- 7 Church Sponsors Habitat Home #75
- 8 Open House

# Welcome Home

Each family's story is unique. But each family's story is the same: local wages that are unequal to the cost of local housing prices, the hope of a better future, the daring and determination to apply to Habitat, the willingness to commit hundreds of hours to building a home with our volunteers.

Late in August we will raise the walls on our 75th new Habitat for Humanity home on Cape Cod.

## 2011 NEWSLETTER HOUSE

*Please help us give a special hand up to a local family*

Like all of our homes, it will be built on faith and filled with hope and promises for a Cape Cod family. This is the sixth year we have dedicated a newsletter as our "Newsletter House Appeal Edition."

If you have read our newsletter over the years, you will know that there is no "typical" Habitat homeowner. We have provided the opportunity of home ownership to two parent families and single parent families, multigenerational Cape Codders and new citizens whose lives are already a vital thread in the fabric of our community. Habitat homeowners represent a beautiful rainbow of ethnicities and backgrounds.

Each family's story is unique. But each family's story is the same: local wages that are unequal to the cost of local housing prices, the hope of a better future, the daring and determination to apply to Habitat, the willingness to commit hundreds of hours to building a home with our volunteers.

The congregation of the Federated Church of Orleans is sponsoring this home with a gift of land and a major cash donation. The applications of hopeful families are under review.

But we still can't build this house without your financial support. We need to raise \$60,000 more to pay for all the building materials and professional services above those that will be donated.

With a gift of at least \$12 from each of our readers we can all share in making this home a reality.

With your donation, yours will be one of the "many hands" giving a Habitat hand-up to our neighbor in need - helping to fund our 75th home on Cape Cod.

**Please send your gift today.**

Our new address is 411 Main Street., Suite 6, Yarmouthport, MA 02675.  
Thank you so much for your support.



**Habitat  
for Humanity**  
of Cape Cod

[habitatcapecod.org](http://habitatcapecod.org)

## Director's Note "Mési anpil"

It was my privilege to chat with Habitat Haiti's National Director Claude Jeudy at the recent Habitat for Humanity conference in Atlanta.

I asked what he would want our contributors back on Cape Cod to know.



"First of all," he said, "express my gratitude. Imagine one day you are the director of a program building homes by a well established model. The next day, you are a leader of a monumental disaster relief effort."

Jeudy spoke to the enormous importance of donations to Habitat Haiti, as well as the involvement of Habitat International in providing high level guidance and technical support in the relief effort.

The other thing he wanted us to know is that the long term relief effort undertaken by Habitat – with a goal of serving 50,000 families – takes "vision, patience, persistence and partnership." By all accounts this is one of the largest and most complicated humanitarian crises in history. Along with the massive destruction, unemployment is now at 90 percent.

Habitat is working in close partnership with other humanitarian agencies, municipal and national officials, and leaders recognized by the community, and welcomes problem solving from all.

Some 28,000 families have been served so far – with emergency kits, emergency shelters, and transitional shelters – which are often added on to and improved. Habitat works in the areas of Cabaret, Hinehe, Port au Prince and Leogane. In November, the first 500 permanent homes will be built on municipally donated land as part of The Carter Work Project. Habitat will involve municipal and community leaders as partners in selecting those most in need.

There is a big emphasis on training and enabling. "If we just provide – we can only help those people we directly provide for. With training, we can enable more people to intervene and assist," Jeudy said.

Donations have funded not only building materials, but also are used to pay local Haitians to staff resource centers. The centers manufacture materials and provide technical assistance in building and adding on to shelters.

Habitat has a long term commitment to Haiti. The path to building permanent homes is slowed by very complicated land tenure issues, where some official titles were lost altogether in the earthquake, and there are multiple claims on many parcels. At the same time, Habitat is leading painstaking work in "mapping" one of the major slum areas in Port Au Prince, to establish who is living there, where they are from and where would they best be settled.

**Claude Jeudy's words to all the Habitat affiliate representatives assembled in Atlanta were: "Mési anpil" – which means, "Thanks – so much." With a gesture to the heart – his colleague emphasized the depth of feeling meant by those words.**

- Vicki

## On the Drawing Board for 2011

Here's what's in our plans for 2012 and 2013. All projects are pending final permitting approvals. Staff, board and lead volunteers are in high gear, planning and ramping to the needed capacity for funding and leadership. We look forward to providing more details on each project as it is etched onto our construction schedule.

**Bourne:** 6 Flintlock Lane – one home (private donation of land)

**Falmouth:** 55 Glenwood Avenue - a two family house (town donation of land)

**Mashpee:** 12 Russell Road (deeply discounted purchase funded by Charlesbank Homes) 6 & 9 Park Place Way, 10 Tri Town Circle (town donated land)

**West Barnstable:** two homes – feasibility under final review (private land donation)

**Marstons Mills:** Tree Town circle – up to four homes (land donated by Barnstable Housing Authority)

**Eastham:** Sunken Meadow Road – two homes substantially funded by Christopher Lovelock Estate (town donated land)

**Yarmouth:** 6 – 8 sites to be identified (purchased with Town Community Preservation (CPC) funds)

**Truro:** site to be identified (pending land purchase by Highland Affordable Housing Trust with CPC Funds)

**Dennis, Chatham, Brewster, Sandwich and other towns** – discussions in process.



Kathy Low and Judy Garvey from our Family Selection Office Team, display the site plan and design of the future Orleans house during an information session for applicants.

## Yarmouth Town Meeting Approves Major Funding for Habitat Land Purchases

With a nearly unanimous vote on an article sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), Yarmouth Town Meeting voters approved an article to provide \$240,000 in CPC funds to Habitat for the development of affordable homes in Yarmouth. With this funding commitment, Habitat plans to launch a focused search for land on which we might site 6 to 8 homes. Cape demographics point to Yarmouth as a town with many working families needing the kind of opportunity Habitat provides.

Since its founding in 1989, Habitat has substantially relied on towns to donate the land on which we build. This is the first instance of a town providing funds instead, specifically so that we may purchase suitable land. At least 10 percent of CPC funds must be used for affordable housing initiatives. With the donations and volunteer time Habitat invests in each home, the Yarmouth community will leverage great value for this grant – and a number of families will find a permanent solution to their years of housing crises.

Don Dickinson, board member and a lead volunteer in land acquisition for many years, said: “This is a very exciting opportunity the town has provided us. We are ready to start acquiring land and building critically needed affordable homes in Yarmouth.”

## Tiara’s Story

*If you apply yourself, anything is possible*

Tiara Mills of Mashpee is the newest owner of a Habitat for Humanity home on Cape Cod. Hers is the 74th local Habitat home to be built with the owner’s sweat equity along with thousands of hours from Habitat volunteers.

As a 26-year old Native American from the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, Tiara’s roots in the community go deep and wide. At her home dedication in April, a joyous and tearful group – including many family members and friends,



**Tiara Mills and daughter Taveyah receiving a bible from volunteering partners, Betsy Giles and Robin Trainor.**

volunteers and donors – crowded into her new living room and kitchen to bless the house and wish her well.

For Tiara, the long road to homeownership started about 16 months ago with a notice sent home from school about three Habitat homes to be built in Mashpee. Her journey concluded this spring with final details completed on the house and feeling “blessed” to move into a home and be on her own.

“I felt lucky to have such an opportunity at a young age,” said Tiara. “I am a single mother. I am independent and work hard. It shows a good example to my daughter: if you apply yourself, anything is possible. You can’t be in trouble and be in this program. You have to have a clean record.”

Tiara is especially pleased to own a home in Mashpee where she grew up. She and daughter Taveyah had been renting a small apartment, but Tiara was struggling to pay more than 40 percent of her income for rent and utilities.

Construction on her home began last September and continued through the winter and spring, and Tiara was involved at almost every step along the way.

“I’ve done everything in the house. I’ve been a part of it all: nailing, framing, walls, insulation, everything, painting, wood floors,” she said.

She is in awe over the help she received. “This is just a beautiful program where these people came every single week when they could be doing anything else. They were there with me.”

“I feel blessed to build my own house. I really can’t describe it. Building a home with these people is just amazing. They really care about you.”

“Mike (Williams, local Habitat director of construction) was great. He’s just an amazing teacher, such a giving person. He’s so precise. He just makes sure you have a perfect home.” Tiara also had a special hug and high praise for site leader, Barry Clifford, during her home dedication.

*Tiara continued on page 6*

## Habitat Commits to ReStore Campaign Under Way to Raise \$75,000

### *Mid-Cape retail store will sell slightly used or discontinued home products.*

The board of directors recently voted to launch a local Habitat for Humanity ReStore. There are over 700 Habitat ReStores in the U.S. and Canada. It has become such an important source of funding for many affiliates that Habitat International now provides significant training and support towards successful start up and operations.

To make the ReStore possible, we are seeking to raise at least \$75,000 to cover start-up costs, remodeling and the first six months of operations. We encourage one-time donations from generous contributors to invest in this capacity building initiative.

Habitat ReStore resale outlets accept donated goods which are then resold to the general public at a fraction of the retail price. The proceeds help local Habitat affiliates fund the construction of Habitat homes within their communities.

ReStore is a 4-win effort. Most importantly, it has the potential to generate significant funds so we can build more homes. It is a green initiative to divert usable home products from the waste stream. It will give lower-income homeowners access to lower-priced products, and it will provide a tax deduction for people who donate salable goods.

We will ask local contractors to encourage home owners doing remodeling projects to send their reusable home products our way for resale. "For example," said executive director Victoria Goldsmith, "if a contractor is replacing kitchen cabinets for a client and the cabinets are still relatively new, we would appreciate receiving them rather than sending them to the transfer station."

"By the same token," she added, "if a retail store has discontinued, opened packages or returned building products that they don't know what do with, we could take those off their hands. They could be everything from windows to toilets to kitchen sinks."



The local ReStore outlet, at a site to be determined, will focus on home improvement goods like furniture, home accessories, building materials and appliances.

Habitat ReStore resale outlets accept donated goods which are then resold to the general public at a fraction of the retail price. The proceeds help local Habitat affiliates fund the construction of Habitat homes within their communities.

**At this time Habitat is raising funds for start up. Once our ReStore is under lease we will begin accepting donations to sell at the store. Please watch for announcements as we work towards our future opening day.**

## 2nd Annual "You've Got Mail"

For the second year, Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod will round off the summer season by hosting a You've Got Mail event and Silent Auction. The event will feature beautiful hand-painted mailboxes created by local artists and filled with special tickets and gift certificates. Last year's event generated \$10,000 for Habitat home construction and provided an evening of fun and delicious food. Stay tuned for more details! If you are interested in volunteering or donating items for the event, please contact our office at (508) 362-3559.

## Fish-TV Covers Habitat Home Dedications

Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod dedication ceremonies have been broadcast on local public access television thanks to Dave Teffer of Fish TV. If you miss a dedication, be sure to check out our website. Links to Fish-TV's YouTube videos will be found on our home page, or on the In the News/Video page. [www.habitatcapecod.org](http://www.habitatcapecod.org)

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Lisa Bushy



**Lisa Bushy as a Women Build Day volunteer in Harwich.**

Board Member Lisa Bushy has a long background with Habitat for Humanity and in nursing.

She moved back to New England a few years ago from Georgia, where she had been development director at Habitat for Humanity of South Fulton, involved with fundraising, special events and donor support.

In Georgia, she also worked as a school nurse for Westminster Schools in Atlanta. Also, she has been development manager for Make-a-Wish Foundation in New York City.

Currently, Lisa is a public health nurse at VNA of Cape Cod, where she specializes in nutrition counseling, health & wellness, prevention and immunizations.

She joined the Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod board in 2009, and she has been active with our events committee. Lisa has done significant work with our first You've Got Mail Fundraiser last year and is our lead volunteer and a passionate force behind the current ReStore initiative.

Her dedication to Habitat for Humanity comes from the long-term difference it makes for people. "I've seen the results of what Habitat has done for people," she said. "It produces not just a short-term benefit, but it really changes their lives."

She is working toward opening a local Habitat ReStore on Cape Cod because it generates continuing revenue to help build more homes. "It is a sustainable way to keep the affiliate going at a time when it is challenged in raising funds," she added.

Lisa graduated from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and currently resides in North Eastham. She is married with one grown son who also does development work. When not involved with family, nursing and Habitat, Lisa also enjoys cooking.

## Women Build home on Timberlane Drive, Mashpee, is completed

Our fourth Women Build home and first one in the Upper Cape Region began last August 21 and went wonderfully thanks to our great Women Build volunteers. The dedication took place on March 12 this spring.

Olga Abramovic-Penney, the new owner of the home, gave special thanks to all her "sisters" who helped build it, site supervisor Sue Ernst, staff construction director Mike Williams, the men who lent a hand when needed, and longtime Habitat volunteer Marilyn George who urged Olga to apply for a Habitat home. Special funding came from another non-profit – Our First Homes, which made its gift to honor Habitat volunteer (and retired staff member), Pat Taylor.

Women Build is Habitat's volunteer program for women who want to learn construction skills and make a difference by building homes and communities.

Women Build brings together women from all walks of life to address the housing crisis facing millions of women and children worldwide.



**Olga Abramovic-Penney celebrates with her children at her home dedication in March.**

**Tiara continued from page 3**

She had lots of help from individuals and company volunteer teams. "Cape Air people were great. They were wicked nice. I really liked them a lot."

"National Grid people came over, too. That was great."

During the construction, Tiara juggled her time between building her home and working at a day spa in West Falmouth, where she does nails, makeup and front desk duties. She has also worked with people with developmental disabilities and with foster children.

Tiara is a proud graduate of Cape Cod Regional Technology High School in Harwich where she studied dental assisting and heating, ventilating and air conditioning. She learned cosmetology at Blaine, now part of Empire Beauty Schools.

Like all Habitat homeowners she had to qualify financially, and she will be paying back her no-interest mortgage to Habitat for Humanity on a monthly basis. Those payments then go to help finance new Habitat homes for future owners.

Congratulations to Tiara Mills, Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod's 74th new homeowner.

## New Development Director Sarah Tribuzio

Sarah Tribuzio has joined Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod as its new director of resource development. She will be responsible for securing corporate, foundation and individual contributions, grant writing, major gifts, annual giving and related programs and events.



Sarah most recently worked as development director for Penikese Island School, a therapeutic boarding school for boys, located on Penikese Island. Previously, she was director of corporate and foundation relations for Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women, in Boston.

Prior to that, she spent twelve years in Chicago doing fundraising work for the Greater Chicago Food Depository and for Chicago Lights, the community outreach organization of the Fourth Presbyterian Church.

"I am delighted to have been selected as Habitat for Humanity's director of resource development. It is an honor to be a part of Habitat's important mission and work of building homes, hope, lives and community on Cape Cod. I am looking forward to meeting our generous community partners and expressing my sincerest thanks for your steadfast support."

Sarah is a graduate of Wheaton College in Norton MA, and holds an M.A. in teaching and learning from DePaul University in Chicago. She lives in Sandwich with husband, David, and three children.

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Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod is a 501 © 3 non profit, affiliated with Habitat for Humanity International. As a non-denominational Christian housing ministry, our mission is to "work in partnership with families in need to build homes, hope, lives and community of Cape Cod." We welcome people of any faith and all walks of life to fully participate in all our work.

## Federated Church of Orleans: Sponsor of Habitat home #75

We expect to break ground this summer on the 75th Habitat for Humanity home on Cape Cod. The congregation of the Federated Church of Orleans has embraced this project with a donation of land, and the commitment of a \$50,000 cash sponsorship toward the construction costs. Congregation members also plan to be involved in many areas of volunteer work.

The following passage is a favorite of the Reverend Phil Mitchell (Board member and chair of our Church Relations Committee), because it recalls to us that we build not just houses – but homes.

**“ . the word “home” always sounds like poetry to me .... Every bird loves its own nest; the owl thinks the old ruins the fairest spot under the moon; and the fox his of the opinion that his hole in the hill is remarkably cozy. When my master’s nag knows that his head is toward home he wants no whip, but thinks it best to put on all steam; and I am always of the same mind, for the way home, to me, is the best bit of road in the country.”**

**from Charles Spurgeon’s John Ploughman’s Talks**

Habitat was founded as a non-denominational housing ministry that welcomes people of all faiths and all walks of life to demonstrate love of neighbor, and put faith into action through volunteerism, donations, and advocacy. Now, it seems fitting that our landmark 75th local Habitat home should have come about from a simple phone call, made with generous heart and spirit, offering land and support, motivated by the concern for local people who lack adequate, affordable housing.

Applications are now being processed. A family will be ready by late August to begin

working side by side with volunteers to frame their future home. (We still have to raise about \$60,000 for this home. We hope YOU will be a Newsletter House sponsor by returning your donation of \$12 or more in the enclosed envelope.)

**Our Church Relations Committee hosted breakfasts this spring at Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans, Dennis Union Church, and First Church of Christ in Sandwich. The gatherings provided us with the opportunity to say a heartfelt THANKS and offered an early preview of what’s in our plans for 2012 – and beyond!**



## THANK YOU

**Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod would like to thank the following contributors for their support.**

- BB Landscape Design, Sally Baer
- Best Buy Children’s Foundation
- BizChecks Payroll
- Cape and Islands Shredding Services
- Cape Air Nantucket Airlines
- Cape Cod Appliance
- Cape Custom Plastering, Ken Fletcher
- Captains Log, LLC
- Chatham Wayside Inn
- CL Noonan Container Service, Inc.
- Color by Susan, Susan Pike
- Clancy’s Catering, Dan Keefe
- Daryl Ward Electrical
- Eastham Discount Oil
- Falmouth Lumber Inc.
- Fish-TV
- Grouper Design
- Jack Landers-Cauley, PE
- Joyce Landscaping
- Kate Mitchell & Associates
- KMM Designs, Kathy Myers
- Linda Doll, Title search
- Martha and Bob Edwards, flooring
- Mid Cape Home Centers Show Room
- National Grid
- Nauset Lantern Shop, Michael Joly
- Real Estate Associates
- Snow’s Home & Garden
- Tedeschi Food Shops
- W. Vernon Whiteley, Inc.
- Waystack Realty
- Whirlpool Corporation
- Yoga Center of Cape Cod

We apologize for any mistakes or omissions and ask that you kindly report them to the development office at (508) 362-3559 ext. 14.

## How we do it

Every home we build relies on diverse funding sources. Each project is a little different. For the three Mashpee homes recently completed, in addition to our many individual, business and church donors, who support our work throughout the Cape, we had significant project grants or donations from: Mashpee Community Preservation Funds, Charlesbank Homes, the County HOME Consortium, Our First Homes (Women Build house), National Grid, Eastern Bank, and Cape Air. Mortgage payments back to Habitat from Habitat homeowners is another important source. Approximately \$15,000 worth of materials and services are donated to each home and volunteers contribute \$50,000 - \$70,000 (depending on house size) worth of construction value.

## Recent Grants

The following businesses, foundations and organizations have generously given to Habitat from January 1 - March 31, 2011:

**National Grid**

\$20,000 for ReStore and general operations

**Cape Cod Foundation through the Jesse and Juanita Grimes Fund for Humanitarian Services**

\$3,000 for Restore

**Elizabeth Garner Martin Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation**

\$5,000 for general operations

**Cape and Islands United Way Fund**

\$15,000 for Repairs program

**Town of Dennis Community Development Block Grant Program Funds**

\$25,000 for Repairs program

*Thank You.*

## Homers for Habitat

Every home run hit this season by new Red Sox first baseman Adrian Gonzalez will be extra special. For each round-tripper, Gonzalez and Eastern Bank will donate \$1,000 total to Habitat for Humanity affiliates serving eastern Massachusetts. Eastern Bank, through its charitable foundation, will donate \$500 for each Gonzalez home run this season. Gonzalez and his wife, Betsy, will match each donation. The charitable program will be highlighted during the fifth inning of every Red Sox telecast on NESN. Eastern Bank is the official bank of the Red Sox television network.

Gonzalez was acquired this off-season in a trade with San Diego.

Special thanks to **Grouper Design** of Yarmouthport for donating their time and expertise to the design and production of our Welcome Home newsletter.



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*Save the Date*

## You're Invited

### Open House at Our New Office

**Thursday, June 9, 4 – 6:30 p.m.**

**411 Main Street (Route 6A) Yarmouthport**

Tour the office, meet our board and staff members, and enjoy some light refreshments!

How to find us: Our office is on Route 6A between Clark and Pine Streets. If you are traveling from the intersection of Union St. and 6A, we are the 13th building on your left. Parking is in the rear.