



Ray Sigrist of Tacoma Grocery Outlet presents the Soriano family (House 131) with household supplies and a gift certificate.

“Hi. We want to give to Habitat homeowners. Will you let us?”

New Partnerships With Habitat Families

By Rebecca Behizadeh

I have to be honest about Habitat for Humanity’s partnerships with Outback Steakhouse and Grocery Outlet; although I’d like to take credit for those relationships, I in fact did little to make them happen. You’d think that our partnership with these two corporations would have required hours of haggling and wheedling, or at least a few polite but insistent invitations. Instead, both of these organizations contacted us. They said, in effect, “Hi. We want to give to Habitat homeowners. Will you let us?” It was a hard decision, but someone had to make it: “Okay!” I said.

Joe Gonzales is the manager of the Outback Steakhouse on East 38th Street in Tacoma. He had already provided refreshments for various volunteer functions when he approached us with what he really

wanted to do — serve Habitat homeowners at his restaurant. We accepted his offer and held our first Habitat Family Reunion in June 2007, packing his restaurant with 130 Habitat family members and Family Partners. While there, we celebrated two recent milestones: the Choy family paying off their mortgage (our first family to do so) and the Pringles becoming our 150th family. After our program, the wait staff came out, bearing plates of steak and chicken, salad and potatoes. The kids got chicken fingers, and everyone sipped sodas. On leaving the restaurant, it was clear that good food and good community make for a Sunday afternoon well spent.

North Tacoma and Tacoma Grocery Outlets approached us in a similar way. I got a call asking whether homeowners would like to receive products from Grocery Outlet — everything from cleaning supplies to dry goods, flatware to perishables. Again,

[New Partnerships... continued on back page ►](#)



The Nguyen-Dang Family

Welcome to the Nguyen-Dang Family

By Chris Edwards, Family Partner

Cau Nguyen and Muoi Dang arrived in the United States in 2003 with dreams of a better life for their children. In Vietnam, Cau taught mathematics to elementary school children. He was dedicated to his church and taught bible studies to young people and adults. Muoi had her own shop, where she sold ingredients for food preparation.

Although Cau and Muoi left their home and jobs to take on the challenge of life in a new country, they enjoy sharing photographs of their beautiful homeland. Cau works in Fife, where he operates electronic manufacturing equipment that produces fiberglass window frames. Muoi is a manicurist at V&D Nails in Tacoma. The couple currently rents a home from their Vietnamese Baptist church.

[Welcome... continued on page 2 ►](#)

You've Helped Build It!

Numbers are powerful—they can thrill you or shock you.

Last year, 1,650 U.S. Habitat affiliates built 5,583 homes. Worldwide, Habitat served more than 48,000 families.

Affiliates tithed \$11 million to tithe building partners. This November, our tithe partner, Guatemala, will celebrate the building of its 25,000th home.

Two years after Hurricane Katrina, Habitat had completed 1,100 homes. More than 70,000 volunteers, many from our community, made that happen. And Habitat has completed more than 12,000 houses in the tsunami region.

Your efforts and those of thousands like you made these successes possible. But we have so much more to do:

- Worldwide, 1.6 billion people live in substandard housing.
- Hurricane Katrina damaged or destroyed 500,000 homes.
- In our community, 180 families requested invitations to our next application meetings, but we can select only 8 to 10 of them until next spring.

Numbers are powerful, but behind every number is a hope for a brighter future. You and people like you will help us meet the challenges ahead. If you'd like to join us for a global village trip to Guatemala or Romania or help in Louisiana, visit www.tpc-habitat.org for information.

The most powerful number is 1: YOU—all it takes to make a difference. You are Habitat for Humanity, and you help build it!



Maureen Fife, Chief Executive Officer
Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity

Welcome... from cover

Education is important to Cau and Muoi. Their elder daughter, Tra-My, 23, and their son, Luan, 18, are attending college. Their younger daughter, Bich, 5, just lost two front teeth, likes to watch Elmo, and loves to practice her English. She's off to a great start in kindergarten because she knows her ABCs and numbers and has already started to read and write.

Generous and delightful, the Nguyen-Dang family is excited and thankful to have been selected for a Habitat home. In Vietnam, a house costs about \$3,000, so to obtain a home in the United States is a real dream come true. The family is working on their sweat-equity hours and can hardly wait to hear where their new home will be built.



The Plotnikov Family

By Bill and Diana Landahl, Family Partners

Anna and Valentin Plotnikov were born in the Soviet Union — Anna is from Belarus, and Valentin is from Ukraine. After the couple married, they settled in Donetsk, Ukraine.

Valentine used to work as a supervisor of a power plant. Now, he is starting an automobile repair business in Gig Harbor. Anna works part-time in a local hospital. The couple came to Tacoma because Anna's parents and a sister live in the area.

The Plotnikovs have seven children. Their eldest son, Artem, 22, has moved out and lives in the North End. Their eldest daughter, Yelena, 20, is in college; Yuriy, 16, is in high school; Pavel, 14, is in middle school; and Andrey, 10, and Irina, 6, are in grade school. Irina and Anna, who will be 2 in November, were born in the United States.

At the end of August, the Plotnikovs moved into a community of 16 Habitat homes called McKinley Court. They are excited to be living in their own five-bedroom home, which Anna says is like a miracle for her family.



The Scolnic Family

By Jerry Lejeune, Family Partner

When I talked with the Scolnic family about Habitat's rules regarding resale of their home, Zena, the spunky mother of six, replied, "We would never sell our home. It will be a museum." That tells you what their home means to the Scolnics.

Val and Zena, married for 26 years, came to Tacoma from Moldova, where Val had worked in construction, and Zena had done odd jobs and cared for their six children. When I asked Lilia, 21, their eldest daughter, what her mother did, she replied, "I can't tell you exactly what, because she did everything."

Life in Moldova was difficult. It was almost impossible to provide food for the family. Val spoke with his brothers in the United States and decided to move so that the family could have a chance at a better life. In April 2004, Val and Zena packed up their family — Petru, 19; Veaceslav, 17; Vitalie, 14; Alla, 9; and Ilna, 6. Lilia and her husband, Sergiu, and their daughter, Estera, 3, also came. In 2005, Lilia and Sergiu had a son, Jonathan.

Work for the Scolnics is second nature. They approach any task with enthusiasm and joy. Nothing is wasted, and nothing is taken for granted. It was at record-breaking speed that they completed their sweat-equity hours. And it was with great pride that they added personal touches to their

new home. What an honor for me to be with them on this journey!

The Scolnic home abounds with good food and good people. They are warm and welcoming. In this energetic family, there is laughter and prayer. Gratitude is in their eyes and on their lips. When asked about their new home, one of the Scolnics replied, "It is the most happiest thing that has happened." Knowing who the Scolnics are, I think that Habitat would agree.



The Trinh-Duong Family

The Trinh-Duong Family

By Duong Hoa and Lan Altman, Family Partner

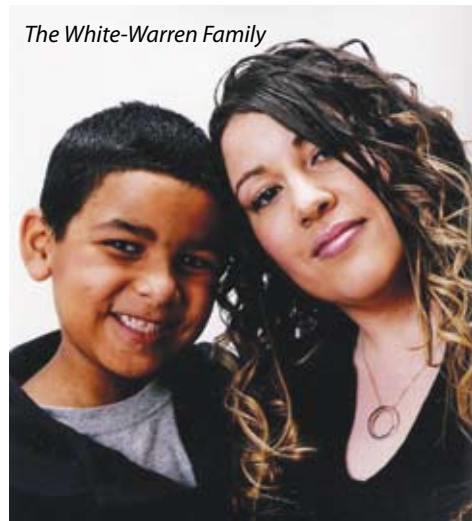
First and foremost, I'd like to thank you for choosing my family to become a Habitat homeowner. I understand that selection is highly competitive, and I want to let you know that your decision is greatly appreciated.

Second, I'd like to give a brief introduction about my family. My name is Duong Hoa. I've been living in the United States for over 13 years. I applied with my brother-in-law, Trinh Anh Tuan, and my sister, Duong Phuong Nga, who is now deceased due to breast cancer.

My sister has two adorable children: a 7-year-old son named Trinh Anh Khoa and a 5-year old daughter named Trinh Phuong Thanh. With my sister's medical condition and our overcrowded living arrangement, she applied to the Habitat program and was selected. Unfortunately, cancer

took her away before she had a chance to see the house.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank everyone for their contributions as well as devotions to make homeownership a reality for low-income families.



The White-Warren Family

The White-Warren Family

By Sharon Van Kirk, Family Partner

The White-Warren family is excited to be part of the Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity program and is now working to gain the sweat-equity hours necessary for home ownership.

Jennifer White is 25 years old and has lived her entire life in Tacoma. She graduated from Wilson High School in June 2000, and in June 2002, she completed training at Bryman College in medical assisting. She now works full-time for MultiCare.

Jennifer's son, Thadeaus Warren is an active and bright 7 year old, who was born on Cinco de Mayo (May 5) in 2000. Thadeaus enjoys reading and is in second grade. He also is a member of a Boys and Girls Club, where he is in Boy Scouts and plays basketball. He also loves to draw, swim, and ride his bike.

When she's not working, Jennifer also likes to draw, swim, bike, and read. She and Thadeaus enjoy camping, and they both delight in going to movies together.

Jennifer's primary goal, her dream really, is to own a home, to give herself and Thadeaus a place that is truly theirs. They both say that having a room of their own is the most exciting, and Thadeaus says that it is hard to wait.

While completing her sweat equity hours, Jennifer is learning many important skills such as basic electrical, plumbing, and construction (building a porch was a highlight). This knowledge will be invaluable when she becomes a homeowner.

Thadeaus and Jennifer look forward to moving to their new neighborhood and to continuing to work with Habitat.



The Kampi and Clere Families

The Kampi and Clere Families

By Pat and Patty Coogan, Family Partners, with the Kampi and Clere Families

Sisters Agnes Kampi and Winfred Clere grew up on a small farm in Uganda. Like their father, who was the postmaster, they attended Catholic missionary schools.

About 14 years ago, Winfred and her husband Earl, a retired American college professor, moved to Tacoma. After seven years as a nurse, Winfred went back to school. In 2006, she graduated from Evergreen State College with a degree in social work.

Four years ago, political unrest caused Agnes to seek asylum in the United States — a status that would permit her children to join her. Last year, Earl, Winfred, and Agnes applied to Habitat

for a home for their families. They were selected, but the home would be started only after the children arrived. After numerous delays and with the help of many people, Agnes's children arrived on June 22, 2007. We broke ground for their home on August 4 and dedicated the blitz-built home on September 30.

Ronald, 17, likes basketball. Sarah, 14, likes volleyball. She had a great day when Family Partners Pat and Patty Coogan invited the family to their beach home and taught the children to swim. Francis, 12 1/2, radiates

joy. And Mercy, 10 1/2, enjoys soccer and swims with gusto.

The dream of the Kampis and Cleres is a reality, and their joy is clear as they pose following a moving dedication ceremony.

The children thank Pat and Patty, whom they regard as their personal angels, for raising funds and making travel arrangements for their flight to Tacoma. The families thank everyone for touching their lives as they eagerly begin life in their new home.

New Staff Members



Kirsten Lysen
Lutheran Volunteer Corps

I'm Kirsten Lysen, one of two new members of Lutheran Volunteer Corps working at Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity.

I'm from Bothell and graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with a degree in anthropology, focusing on central Andean archaeology. My other major interest is music; I play piano and have been a church musician for many years. I also love to travel with my family and have been lucky enough to go to South America, Europe, and Asia.

Working at the ReStore as a volunteer and marketing coordinator is terrific!



Chris Redding
Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Hello, I'm Chris Redding. I was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Growing up, I played basketball, soccer, and tennis. And I still enjoy

camping, hiking, and fishing with family and friends.

I went to the College of Wooster, in Ohio, and earned a degree in religious studies. I also studied for six months at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa — a transforming experience that shaped my desire to devote a year to service.

I am excited to be a volunteer coordinator at the Tacoma/Pierce County office and contribute to Habitat's mission.

Katrina Rebuilding Continues, UPS Style

By Alison Paradise, Team Leader

It has been two years since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. Much has been rebuilt, but much remains to be done.

Low-income families continue to struggle for affordable homes. As the demand for good homes increases, so do the rents — and they increase beyond what many of these families can afford. The work of Habitat for Humanity to provide homes for these people has intensified.

Last year a group of college students from the University of Puget Sound spent their spring break building a home in Mobile, Alabama. In March 2008, they will do it again.

We hope to take a group of 30 to Gulfport, Mississippi, during the week of March 17 to 21, 2008. If you are interested in joining us or in supporting the group, contact Alison Paradise at paradise@ups.edu or at 253-879-3572.

Upcoming Events

Third Annual Fundraising Breakfast for Building Better Lives

Benefiting Habitat for Humanity Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula
Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church
7700 Skansie Blvd., Gig Harbor
Check-in begins at 7:15 am
The one-hour breakfast program begins promptly at 7:30 am.

Eighth Annual Fundraising Breakfast for Changing Lives

Benefiting Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity
Wednesday, March 5, 2008
University Place
Presbyterian Church
8101-27th Street West,
University Place
Check-in begins at 7:15 am
The one-hour breakfast program begins promptly at 7:30 am.

Home Builders Blitz 2008

Saturday, May 31, to
Saturday, June 7, 2008
We'll build 8 to 10 new homes in just eight days!

For more information, visit www.tpc-habitat.org or call our office at 253-627-5626.

Wish List

Habitat for Humanity is a volunteer-driven organization. Volunteers are involved in most phases of construction, and work side-by-side with other volunteers, the Habitat crew leader, and the family who will live in the home.

We especially need skilled plumbers, electricians, and drywallers. If you have not volunteered before, getting started is easy—just come to an orientation.

For more information, call our office at 253-627-5626 or visit www.tpc-habitat.org.

Tri Party at Reynolds Park



The Tri Party at Reynolds Park on August 4 included the Women Build dedication, the dedication of the park, and the groundbreaking for the now-completed Building on Faith home.

Happy Holidays from Habitat

The holidays are coming, and we have two great gift ideas that will benefit families who dream of owning a home:

- **A Gift From the Heart card.** You can donate any amount to Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity, and we will send a card in your name to anyone you choose. The card reads "To wish you a joyous holiday, a contribution has been made in your name to Habitat for Humanity by [your name] to help bring the gift of homeownership to a family in need."

To send a card, visit www.tpc-habitat.org or send a check to Habitat for Humanity, PO Box 7124, Tacoma, WA 98417-0124. On the memo line, write *Gift From the Heart*.

- **A ReStore gift certificate.** Terrific for the weekend warrior or DIYer on your list. The ReStore offers a huge selection of new and gently used home improvement items, including tools, building materials, appliances, furniture, light fixtures, and more.

To buy a certificate, stop by the store: 505 Puyallup Avenue, Tacoma, Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm, or Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.



The Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity office staff celebrates the arrival of a brand new Nissan Titan truck, one of 10 trucks that Nissan North America donated to Habitat affiliates across the country.

DONATE your VEHICLE
to help build homes.



Call **1-877-277-4344**
or visit
www.carsforhomes.org

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Women Build IV a Roaring Success

By Alison Paradise

Bring a bunch of women together, and we can do anything ... even build a house. And more than 200 women did just that this summer. We endured rain and sun and everything in between to build an attractive two-bedroom home for Michelle Martin and her son, Keondre.

Women from all walks of life and of all ages pitched in. Sisters worked together, mothers and daughters joined forces, and coworkers got to know each other in new ways. We had reunions and birthdays and just celebrated being together for a worthwhile endeavor.

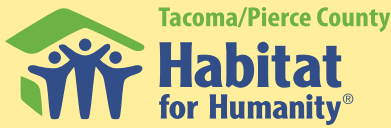
While making new friends and renewing acquaintances with old ones, we practiced old skills and learned new ones — we hammered, we painted, we insulated, we put in doors and windows. Some of us challenged ourselves to do things we had never done before and were empowered by the experience.

Some women came for one day; others came every day. Everyone had a great time and left knowing she had helped a great family realize their dream of home ownership. The house was dedicated on August 4 as part of the Tri Party at Reynolds Park celebration.

A heart-felt thank you to all who participated in this year's Women Build.



We gratefully acknowledge Denny Nelson, longtime friend and supporter of Habitat for Humanity, for generously donating his 1997 Ford Explorer to the Tacoma/Pierce County office.



Tacoma/Pierce County

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Our mailings are an expense to us, so if you do not wish to receive our newsletters, please call our office at 253-627-5626. Be assured that we do not sell our mailing list to, or share it with, anyone.

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Board Members

The board of directors is the governing body of the Habitat organization. Board members are elected to two-year terms. The board meeting is the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 7 pm in the St. Patrick Church Fellowship Hall.

Calvin Hewitt, Chair
Barbara Lane, Vice Chair
Jerry Lejeune, Secretary
Scott Ritchie, Treasurer
Bill Brice
Cliff Brown
Andy Casillas
Tom Geary
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Robert Estrada, ReStore Manager

Ole Larson, Assistant Manager

Kirsten Lysen, LVC, Volunteer Coordinator

New Partnerships... from cover

I thought long and hard: "Okay!" Both stores are run by husband-and-wife teams — Tacoma Grocery Outlet by Ray and Audrey Sigrist and North Tacoma Outlet by Ken and Lyn Lowe. And the couples are committed to providing \$400 of goods to each homeowner when the home is dedicated. Their gifts couldn't come at a more perfect time, because moving always requires unexpected purchases that quickly add up. Their generous gift gives Habitat homeowners a great way to deflect the cost of moving and provide for their families during what is often a chaotic transition.

There are easier, less time-intensive ways to give back to the community, but these people didn't want to write a check from their offices — they wanted to invest time and energy in their act of service. Their participation confirms for Habitat staff, volunteers, and homeowners that the community appreciates and supports what we're doing.



The Pringle family was celebrated as the 150th family at the Outback Family & Family Partner Reunion.

Support those who support Habitat!
Outback Steakhouse: 253-473-3669,
Tacoma Grocery Outlet: 253-581-5333,
North Tacoma Grocery Outlet:
253-565-2441.