

*"Building Homes, Building Hope"*

## Local Habitat Plans Record-Breaking Event

By Becky Weaver

Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity will seek to create the "world's largest sandwich wrap" at a record-breaking event and fundraiser, Saturday, September, 18.

The inaugural "Breaking Ground, Breaking Records" event, which is slated for 1 to 5 p.m., at Vic's Pub and Blaise Alexander Ford at 2167 and 2265 Old Turnpike Road (West Market Street), is open to the public and will feature "affordable fun and entertainment for all ages," Union-Snyder Habitat Development Chair Lisa Rossi said.

"There will be something for everyone that day, from green carnival games made from reused or extra construction materials to giveaways and activities with inflatable games such as sumo wrestling, sword fighting and the Bunge Cord Challenge," Rossi said.

Working with Vic's Pub, the local Habitat affiliate will seek to break the record for the world's largest sandwich wrap, to be recorded by Miami, Florida-based World Records Academy (<http://www.worldrecordsacademy.org>). Pieces of the wrap will be sold for \$1 each.

Churches and other nonprofit organizations also will offer food items, and live music will be played throughout the day. Those who attend also will have a chance to sign the starting beam for Habitat's next home and to meet some of the organization's partner families.

Breaking Ground, Breaking Records is intended to promote Habitat partnerships and raise awareness and support for the organization. Proceeds from the event will be used to build safe, affordable homes for local families in need.

Many local businesses stepped up to support the event in partnership with Habitat, Union-Snyder Habitat President Tom Rambo said.

"All this will be made possible with the sponsorships of local businesses who share in the mission of Habitat," Rambo said. "Special thanks go to Vic's Pub, Blaise Alexander Ford, SUN Orthopedic Group, the Son's Power, CITGO, and Susquehanna Valley Hearing Professionals for being sponsors of the event."



**Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>  
2010 Union-Snyder

Habitat's goal is to fulfill the dream of home ownership with simple, basic homes for families in need. The organization has partnered with 18 families since it was founded in 1991. Families must be able to pay a no-interest mortgage and commit to 250 hours of "sweat equity," by helping with construction of their own home and working on future affiliate projects. They also must complete a home ownership course.

It costs about \$100,000 to build a Habitat home. Families pay back Habitat through interest-free mortgages, and payments are put in the Fund for Humanity for future home construction. Volunteers complete the majority of the labor to build the home.

For more information about this inaugural event, please visit our local affiliate website at [www.usfhf.org](http://www.usfhf.org) or call 1-888-995-4387.

# Newest Habitat home to have solar water heater, thanks to donation

By Becky Weaver

The newest Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity home, under construction in New Columbia, will be a little greener thanks to a donation from a local business.

The Son's Power LLC in Lewisburg has donated and will install a solar-powered hot water heater in a home under construction at New Columbia Road for Robert and Amanda Friend and their children, Brian, 6, and Ashleigh, 3. The "Apricus Evacuated Tube System" uses solar thermal technology to heat most of the hot water needed for a typical home, said Joseph True, the renewable energies integrator at The Son's Power.

"Solar thermal systems provide the quickest return on an investment and are more efficient at providing hot water year-round," True said. "This type of hot water heating system will reduce the family's utility bill by 25 to 30 percent." The system's retail cost is about \$8,000.

The Union-Snyder Habitat Board of Directors has made a commitment to include greener technologies and building materials in its newest homes when possible, chapter President Tom

Rambo said.

"In addition to the environmental benefits of the system, we think the system will save our partner family in the long run by reducing the family's monthly expenses," Rambo said.



The Son's Power is a renewable energy company with a retail store in Lewisburg. In addition to installing and maintaining solar-powered systems, the business offers products including educational renewable energy games, solar chargers, composting equipment, solar panels and wind turbines.

The Friend family is the 18<sup>th</sup> family to partner with the Union-Snyder Habitat affiliate since the organization was founded in 1991. Their 1,040-square-foot, three-bedroom, ranch-style house

is being built on a lot adjacent to the home of the Lopez family, a fellow Union-Snyder Habitat partner family. **The home dedication is slated for 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 14.**

The Friends currently live in a cramped, drafty, two-bedroom apartment in Bloomsburg. Their new home, which includes many donated materials in addition to the solar water heater, will have separate bedrooms for the children and a space for family dinners.

Habitat's goal is to fulfill the dream of home ownership with simple, basic homes for families in need. Families must be able to pay a no-interest mortgage and commit to 250 hours of "sweat equity," by helping with construction of their own home and working on future affiliate projects. They also must complete a home ownership course.

It costs about \$100,000 to build a Habitat home. The family will pay back Habitat through an interest-free mortgage, and the payments will be put in the Fund for Humanity to be used for future home construction. Volunteers will complete the majority of labor to build the home.



*USHFH's newest home in New Columbia*

## Major Donors for 2009 - 2010

M & T Bank	\$5,000
Union County United Way	\$4,000
St. John's Lutheran Church, Leck Kill	\$3,543
Sovereign Bank	\$2,500
Degenstein Foundation	\$2,500
Christ Church, Beaver Springs	\$2,334
The Mustard Seed	\$2,000
United in Christ Lutheran Church	\$1,617
Walmart, Selinsgrove	\$1,000
Walmart, Lewisburg	\$1,000
Susquehanna Bank	\$1,000
Middleswarth	\$1,000
St. John's United Church of Christ	\$510
Northumberland National Bank	\$500
Milton Savings Bank	\$500
First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg	\$500

Thank you also to the generous individual contributors who donated a total \$16,665 this year.

# Why Should I Volunteer for Habitat?

By Sandy Hopkins

Why should I volunteer? What's in it for me? This is a question that the majority of us have asked ourselves if we have never had a volunteer experience.

When you volunteer you are giving something back to your community by lending a helping hand to people and to this organization. What you may not realize is that volunteering also benefits you as an individual. There are many good reasons to get involved by volunteering including finding hidden skills and talent, making new friends, the opportunity to explore career and personal interests, enrich your education, increase your self-confidence and have fun all while you're making a difference in your community and peoples' lives.

There is also a certain amount of self-satisfaction when you have given of yourself to others. Our current volun-

teers will tell you that there is nothing like the feeling of knowing that you have helped someone who is less fortunate than you. To know that the children you see running around on dedication each day have a much brighter future in front of them because you took the time to help them.

And there's more. If you are looking for a new job or a career change, volunteering can enrich your resume, increase the number of personal references, help you develop marketable job skills, and let you try out that new occupation to see if it is a fit for you.

You do not need to be experienced in any of our open volunteer opportunities; all you need is the desire to help someone in your community. Currently the following committees are looking for volunteers: Construction, Development (fundraising), Family Selection, Family

Support, Church Relations, Site Selection, Public Relations and Rehabilitation. You can find a description of each of these committees on our website at [www.usfhf.org](http://www.usfhf.org) where you can sign up on-line or you can contact our volunteer coordinator, Margaret Moyer at [momo@dejazzd.com](mailto:momo@dejazzd.com).

Why should I volunteer for Habitat? Because we need you!



## USHFH Board of Directors

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*Amanda Friend putting in some "sweat equity" at the current USHFH home*



*USHFH volunteers at the Groundbreaking for Friend family*

## Eight Ways to Make a Bequest

You have worked hard to accumulate assets throughout your life. Including a bequest in your will to Union-Snyder Habitat For Humanity may be the best way to make a meaningful gift and save specific assets, such as property, securities or real estate, in case you or your family members need them in the future. Please contact USHFH Development Officer Sandy Hopkins at [sandy@usfhf.org](mailto:sandy@usfhf.org) or 570-490-9158 for more information.

1. Specific bequest. This is an outright gift of a certain item to a beneficiary. If the item has been disposed of before death, the bequest is not effective.
2. General bequest. This is an outright bequest gift, usually of a stated sum of money. If there is not enough cash in the estate, other estate assets will be sold to meet the bequest.
3. Residuary bequest. This is an outright bequest of all the "rest, residue and remainder" of an estate after other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid.
4. Contingent bequest. This is a bequest made on the condition that a certain event must occur before distribution to the beneficiary. You can make provisions that money, property or a particular share will be given to some individual if that person survives you; otherwise, it is distributed to Habitat.
5. Restricted bequest. You may restrict your gift by directing how you want it used or by allowing us to spend only the income earned on the principal.
6. Unrestricted bequest. This gift has no conditions attached, allowing us to determine the wisest, most pressing need for the funds at the time of receipt.
7. Honorary or memorial bequest. This is a gift given "in honor" or "in memory" of yourself, in your family's name or on behalf of someone else.
8. Endowed bequest. This allows you to restrict the principal of your gift, requiring funds to be held permanently and only a percentage to be used yearly.



**Union – Snyder  
Habitat for Humanity**

**Building Houses,  
Building Hope**

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## Annual 'Duck Derby' Raises More Than \$2,000

By Elise Pentz

The yellow ducks raced again at the Lewisburg Arts Festival April 24, raising more than \$2,600 for future Habitat for Humanity homes in Union and Snyder counties.

Hundreds of ducks drifted down Bull Run Creek at Hufnagle Park as part of the annual Bucknell University Habitat for Humanity Rubber Duck Derby at Bull Run Creek off Market and Sixth streets downtown. Supporters sponsored ducks for \$5 each or by the "six quack" for \$25.

"The event was amazing," said Robyn Roogow, a rising senior at Bucknell University who volunteers for the university Habitat chapter. "It was great to see all of Lewisburg cheering on their rubber ducks as they raced each other down the creek. I think that is really what the Rubber Duck Derby and Habitat for Humanity is all about -- coming together as a community to help others in need and cheering them on throughout the housing process."

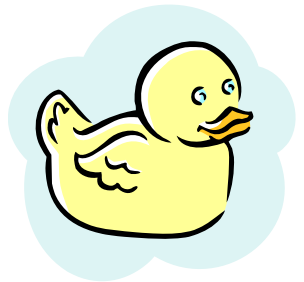
Proceeds benefit the Bucknell Habitat campus chapter, which works with the Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Last year, the Bucknell and Susquehanna University campus chapters co-sponsored a home for the Lopez

family in New Columbia, contributing \$20,000 raised at events such as the duck derby and Trick-or-Treat for change, in which the students distributed door hangers to local residents and collected donations on Halloween.

The races at Hufnagle Park each year last for about 30 minutes or until enough ducks have passed through the finish line to qualify. Sponsors whose ducks placed in the race won cash and material prizes donated from Habitat supporters throughout the Susquehanna Valley.

Also at the arts festival, dozens of children participated in a rock-painting activity organized by Union-Snyder Habitat's Public Relations Committee, decorating stones with designs ranging from stick figures and flowers to colorful landscapes or simple initials. The committee also recruited several new volunteers and provided information to potential partner families.

Thanks to all who volunteered, sponsored a duck or signed up to join our effort!



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