

## Goddard, Coyne named volunteers of the year

By Julia Ferrante

Longtime volunteers Sue Goddard and Janie Coyne were named the 2009 Jane Gibson Volunteers of the Year at a November recognition event at Susquehanna University.

Goddard, a construction volunteer for Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity, and Coyne, who serves on the local chapter's family support committee, were honored for their "exceptional dedication and many hours of hard work to further the mission and goals" of the local chapter.

Goddard joined Habitat in 2003 and has worked as a construction volunteer and group leader, assisting in the planning and building of four homes, noted Paul Hoot, who retired from the board in December after six years as chairman of the construction committee. Goddard has more than 30 years of experience in residential construction and rehabilitation projects as well as woodworking.

"Early in Sue's career, she became interested and woodworking and still finds time to do custom home furnishings," Hoot said at the volunteer event. "The attention to detail which Sue developed in woodworking shows in everything she does."

As part of the family support committee, Coyne has served as a mentor to Union-Snyder Habitat's partner families, helping to resolve conflicts with a "tough love" approach, chapter Vice President Cherie King said. Last year, she intended to resign from



*Congratulations to Sue Goddard and Janie Coyne, 2009 Volunteers of the Year!*

other commitments but stayed on at King's request.

"Our partner families look to her as a mentor as she teaches them how to manage their finances and become successful homeowners," King said. "Janie is very compassionate and cares for the families."

The Jane Gibson award is named after a volunteer who was an inspiration to others in the local chapter and is given each year to a construction and non-construction volunteer who embody her spirit.

"Jane Gibson was a beautiful person who glowed from the love she had for others," King said. "She was a great teacher to many, including me. I was so impressed with Jane's passion for people and wanting to help others become successful. She was one of the first

"Habitaters" I met and was inspired beyond belief.

"I carry thoughts and memories of her close to my heart and when I feel a little discouraged, I bring them out to help energize me so I can carry on with the Habitat mission of helping others," King said. "Jane is sadly missed but fondly remembered each time we give a 'Jane Gibson Volunteer of the Year' award to a deserving individual."

# Board names new president, executive committee



*Tom Rambo, new chapter president*

By Becky Weaver

Tom Rambo, a two-year veteran of Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity, has been named president of the Board of Directors.

Rambo, who has served as vice president and recording secretary on the volunteer board, succeeds Cherie King, who completed a two-year stint as chapter president in December. King will stay on as vice president for one year to ease the transition to new leadership.

Rambo, 46, has more than two decades of experience in law enforcement. He joined Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove in 2004 as the assistant vice president of student life and director of public safety. Previously, he was a police officer in the city of Philadelphia and chief of police at the University of Pennsylvania.

Rambo teaches a class for first-year students at Susquehanna University and is developing a course about the legal system in the United Kingdom.

In his new position with Habitat, Rambo will oversee efforts to expand the Union-Snyder chapter's pool of volunteers and to find a "signature" fundraising event to promote the organization's mission of building safe, affordable homes.

"My role is to support the board and help them with what they need," he said.

Rambo, who lives in Selinsgrove with his wife and two children, also serves on the board of Snyder County Red Cross and collaborates with a local branch of the United Way on projects with Susque-

hanna University. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, traveling and golfing.

King, who has been a Habitat volunteer for seven years, including five years on the board, said she is proud of the board's accomplishments during her term as president and of her work on family selection and home construction. Those accomplishments include a new, two-year partnership with Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild, a national program to help young adults build educational and career skills while providing affordable housing to the community.

Union-Snyder Habitat also is working to combine forces with the Northumberland Habitat affiliate, expanding its service area and opening opportunities for home rehabilitation as well as building new homes. Habitat also is pursuing plans for a Restore, where new or like-new building materials will be sold to raise funds for Habitat projects.

"This will allow us to take more in-kind contributions and cause less waste to end up in landfills," King said. "It will also provide a business to the community where people can buy new and slightly used construction supplies."



## USHFH Board of Directors

**President** — Tom Rambo  
**Vice President** — Cherie King  
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### *In other board news:*

- ◆ Pam Perna, coordinator of construction volunteers, agreed to serve a second three-year term.
- ◆ Paul Hoot, chair of the construction committee, completed his second three-year term. King presented him with the Golden Hammer award for his dedicated service. He is succeeded by Merv Reedy, another construction volunteer.
- ◆ Secretary Holly Paige and Treasurer Pat Wendt will continue in their current roles. Wendt plans to retire next year, and the board is seeking a successor. The board also is seeking chairs for the church relations and family selection committees.

For more information about getting involved, please call 570-374-2437 or toll free 1-888-995-4387 or e-mail [info@ushfh.org](mailto:info@ushfh.org).

# Local affiliate to partner with Central PA YouthBuild on next two houses

By Julia Ferrante

Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity has launched a two-year partnership with Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild to help construct its 18th house in New Columbia and another home in 2011.

About 20 young adults from six counties in the Susquehanna Valley will work with Union-Snyder Habitat and the Housing Authority of Northumberland County this spring to construct affordable housing in local communities. During the six-month program, trainees, who range in age from 18 to 24 years old, will split their 30-hour, five-day weeks between the classroom and the construction site, learning academic, career and life skills, said Kate Lomax, the youth coordinator for the Central PA Workforce Development Corp.

"I am excited about partnering with YouthBuild because the staff and trainees will fit in well with our other volunteers and donors," said Tom Rambo, president of Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity. "The entire program is making a great contribution, and it is an honor to be a part of it."

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild is part of a national program that helps young adults rebuild their lives while rehabilitating or building affordable housing. The local organization is supported by a three-year grant and administered by the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation in partnership with Central Susquehanna Opportunities Inc. and the Home Builders Institute, the workforce development arm of the National Association of Home Builders.

About 10,000 participants in 275 YouthBuild programs nationwide have pursued their high school general equivalency diplomas while building construction skills, Lomax said.

A number of other Habitat affiliates have partnered with YouthBuild, King noted. The partnerships ensure a steady supply of construction volunteers to fulfill the mission of providing affordable homes to those in need. The program also brings people of different backgrounds together for a common goal. The participants will be taught building and safety skills and serve as an example to other volunteers.

"We'd like to have the YouthBuild group have the true Habitat experience, to work alongside our partner family and to understand Habitat from family selection to how a house is built," said Cherie King, vice president of Union-Snyder Habitat.

In addition to construction skills, the trainees learn essential life skills such as budgeting, nutrition and parenting. YouthBuild is a training program, so trainees are eligible for modest stipends every two weeks to assist with living expenses. Incentives and penalties are also provided so that the trainees experience the true rigors, rewards, and sanctions of employment.

"Our goal is that the trainees graduate from YouthBuild with credentials that will make them more marketable in the workforce, with a clear direction for their life, with construction skills that will have value regardless of their career path and a sense of ownership over their life and within their community," said Rachel Smith, Assistant Director for the Central PA Workforce Development Corp.

Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild recruits from Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Lycoming and Columbia counties. For more information on Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild, contact CPWDC at 570-522-0600. To refer a youth to the program, contact Central Susquehanna Opportunities Inc. at 570-644-6575, ext. 109.



Photo courtesy of YouthBuild.org



**Union – Snyder  
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Building Houses,  
Building Hope**

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## Inaugural 'Quarter Auction' a success thanks to sponsors and volunteers

Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity held its first Quarter Auction in November, and it was a success in many ways. The event was at the American Legion in Lewisburg and offered more than 50 items donated by local businesses and friends of Habitat.

Participants bid for a chance to win some wonderful prizes. Food was served, and a great time was had by the volunteers and attendees.

Volunteers who helped with the event, including development committee members and students from Habitat's Bucknell University campus chapter, did a wonderful job of making sure the event ran smoothly. Many of the volunteers had never run an event like this before, but you would not have known it. We had volunteers at the door selling paddles and 50/50 tickets, serving food and beverages, and running the auction itself. Student volunteer Hanna Zachary was better than Wheel of Fortune's Vanna White when it came to showing and describing the auction items. Her efforts made the audience so enthusiastic about every item; they could not help but bid!

The attendees all found something that

they wanted to win, some betting aggressively. We can attribute this to the variety and quality of the donated items. Donations include gift certificates from Purity Candy, Creative Image Plus, La Casa de Pizza, Vargo Outdoors, Citgo, Young Tin, Puirsiel's Irish Pub, Blockbuster Video, Walmart, Beth's Hair & Nails, Canoe Susquehanna, and Weis Markets. Gift baskets were donated from The Sholley Agency, Robin's Nest Boutique, and Maria Myers of Mia Bella's Candles and merchandise donated by the Printed Page, Creative Image Plus, Evangelical Community Hospital, Friends of Habitat (anonymous donors), Margaret Moyer, Kleckner's, Sports Zone Memorabilia, Ellacinders Jewelry and Beads, The Mercantile, Joanne Brown and Vic's Pub. Two of the more unusual donations were a pair of tickets to a concert from Union-Snyder Habitat President Tom Rambo, and our grand prize, a television stand from Standout Designs in Milton. We can't thank our generous donors enough for opening up their hearts and giving. We could not have done this without them!

— Sandy Hopkins

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