



The Prez Says

February 2016

Resale Store continues to set new records

Our January sales were the highest month ever. Contributing to this phenomenal performance was a generous cabinet donation by International Kitchen Supply.

Thanks to Jack Ackerman we have sold three cars since the beginning of the year. Please encourage anyone looking to get rid of a boat or car to consider donating it to Habitat. Jack will give it great curb appeal and everyone wins. We make money and the donor receives a tax deduction. Great job Jack!!!!

South Carolina HFH Affiliate Meeting and Legislative Day

I recently had the opportunity to attend a meeting with most of the South Carolina HFH affiliates. The topics that we covered included new mortgage regulations and requirements by the government and HFHI, SCANPO opportunities (South Carolina Association of Non Profits) and disaster recovery support which was mostly based on the recent flooding in Columbia, Charleston and Georgetown. The Georgetown participants were very appreciative of our donation which funded floor replacement for all six homes that they rehabilitated. The following is a brief summary of some of the things I learned from other affiliates:

- There are 35 HFH affiliates in South Carolina
- 30 are active (meaning they are building houses)
- There are only 3 all volunteer affiliates in the state
- We are by far the largest and most successful all volunteer affiliate
- The largest affiliate is Greenville (they currently build 10 houses per year)
- Anderson is celebrating their 30th anniversary and have built 50 homes (we are having our 30th and will build our 100th home this year)
- Land cost is a huge issue for a few affiliates (paying 10 times what we do for a lot)

The biggest take away from the day was the tremendous respect and admiration the other affiliates have for our all volunteer model. At some point in the day I was asked to present our "story" at an upcoming affiliate meeting, to speak to the Board of Directors at another affiliate and to have an Executive Director of another affiliate come spend the day with us. Sharing how we do things at OCHFH would not be difficult. However attempting to replicate our culture would be almost impossible for an outsider to appreciate and comprehend.

The second portion of our meeting was a luncheon we held for our State Senators and Representatives to thank them for their support in passing the bill that exempted all SC HFH Affiliates from paying sales tax on construction materials used to build, rehabilitate, or repair a

home for the benefit of an individual or family in need. We also asked for their support for a bill that was being introduced that day that would add South Carolina HFH to the state's income tax return as an eligible organization to receive refund donations. Last year the total donated through the refund option exceeded \$800,000.

I also had the opportunity to have lunch with Thomas Alexander and a brief meeting with Bill Sandifer III and invited both to our 30th Anniversary celebration in June (more on that later)

Construction Update (By Mike Stevenson)

It was brutally cold this morning on site, 25 degrees! No sun and it only seemed to get colder - that wonderful damp, bone chilling cold! We finished just as the freezing rain started.

Work has been progressing at a rather good pace on Butler School Road. Our first house, #400, is currently receiving its final interior coat of paint. The interior doors were installed and all of the trim work around the doors and windows is complete. Interior electrical (sockets and wall switches) and kitchen cabinets will be next.

At #402, the sheet rock and mud work is done and all of the trim work around the doors and windows is complete. Interior painting will begin shortly. Across the street at #403, both the exterior and interior walls are up, the front deck is complete and roof trusses will go up this coming Monday. At #405, the foundation is in and the sill plates are down.

BIG NEWS!!!! As of this writing, WORK HAS BEGUN ON OUR 100TH HOUSE, NUMBER #406! The property was being graded today. The foundation will follow.

This is a great time to visit Butler School Road to see five different houses in various stages of construction, especially for volunteers who have not had the opportunity to visit one of our construction sites. We build on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturday. Volunteers can email me for directions.

New Homeowners

We have a dedication date for our most recent homeowners, Lucas and Naomi White. It is scheduled for March 13th at 2:00 PM. Their address is 327 Pump House Road in Westminster. Ann Miller will be communicating further details as we get closer to the 13th.

Board of Directors News

There have been several requests from our volunteers to provide the 2016 Board of Directors list along with their current responsibilities. I have included e-mail addresses in case you have suggestions for me, any of the board members or the leaders of our committees.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Barron, Barbara	First Vice President	barbarabarron401@bellsouth.net
Cushing, Ken	Site Selection Manager*	cushing2005@charter.net
Cushing, Laurie	MAL; Store Manager	LaurieC03@charter.net
Dubose, Bob	MAL	dbdubose@bellsouth.net
Harris, Amanda	Public Awareness	amanda.leslie@gmail.com
Hubbard, John	Social Coordinator	johnjubbard@hotmail.com
Karpick, Carolyn	MAL	ckarpick@nctv.com
Koch, Wes	Mortgage Closing Coord.	wes1koch@gmail.com
Lehman, Jack	Treasurer	relehman@sprintmail.com
Lewis, Frank	President	lewis48@bellsouth.net
Madden, Dottie	MAL	lemdjm@bellsouth.net
Mendonca, Terri	MAL:Landscaping Chair	miketerrimendonca@gmail.com
McGrey, Barb	Donations Coordinator	miller1253@bellsouth.net
Miller, Ann	Family Partners Chair	Barb213@bellsouth.net
Rundlett, Frances	Family Selection Chair	Frundlet@bellsouth.net
Scott, Yvonne	Church Liaison	yscott8@gmail.com
Staggers, Linda S.	Secretary	staggers49@gmail.com
Stevenson, Mike	Past President	msteve997@gmail.com

MAL= Member at large
orange: Non-Voting
Member

*Ken is also a past president

30th Anniversary Celebration

Date: Saturday June 11th
Location: Resale Store
Time: 4:00 PM to 7:00PM

We are still working on all of the details but I wanted to publish the date so that you could reserve time on your calendar for this special occasion. In the meantime I would like the names of everyone that has been a OCHFH volunteer for the most recent 10 consecutive years (or greater). Depending on the response we plan to recognize these folks on Jun 11th. Please forward the names to your respective committee chair or volunteer coordinator.

Thanks for making a difference!

Frank