



News To Come Home To...

Habitat For Humanity

Cape May County, NJ

www.habitatcapemay.com

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Shawn Lockyear New Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity Cape May County welcomes Shawn Lockyear as its new Executive Director. Shawn brings to HFH over 20 years of business management and marketing experience in both for-profit and non-profit operations. She was Director of Catalogue Operations for the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, in San Francisco; Vice President and General Manager of (successively) two major divisions of Warner Music in both California and New York; and Vice President of Marketing & Brand Management for American Girl in Wisconsin for 5 years! She got a little tired of working to sell *things*, however, and wanted instead to work towards ideals. The Jersey shore and a more rural lifestyle called her. Seven years ago she brought her marketing skills to Wildwood where she started her own consulting business. (Shawn confesses to still rooting for the Green Bay Packers, although she has become an avid Phillies fan.)

Shawn is also passionate about the environment. She is a founding member and president of Friends of the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. In the Friends' short tenure of less than a year they helped secure \$2 million in funding for land acquisition for the Refuge for 2010. They also began a program to staff the visitor center at Two Mile beach which had never been opened in 20

years, due to budget cuts. They're also building a butterfly garden at Two Mile. Shawn happily tackled the job of building a web site (her first) for Friends—check it out: www.friendsofcapemayrefuge.org.

Shawn brings the same Go Get 'em energy to Habitat, where she immediately convened planning strategy sessions with the Board. A major goal is to involve more members of the local community in Habitat's important mission. "It's marketing, after all," Shawn says, "which I know all about!" Her ideas include increased outreach and fundraising possibilities right on our web site and improving communication via the newsletter.

Shawn's family includes her partner Maria Kellett, who is Director of Major Gifts at Atlantic Cape Community College, three very spoiled Devon Rex cats, and six nieces and nephews who love having aunts who live at the beach.



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Christina Amey Joins Board

Christina Amey filled out a volunteer enrollment application on the HabitatCape-May.com website, and in the blink of an eye she was asked to serve on the Building Committee. In two blinks she was elected to the Board. A successful architect focusing on green design who now runs her business from home in Ocean City to accommodate a young son, Christina understands the psychological need for home. For the first 5 years of her life she and her parents lived with her grandmother in a row house in Camden. The change to their own abode in a small town was something she never forgot. They spent summers in Wildwood, resident at a campground most of the time.

Christina received a Bachelor of Architecture from Drexel University thirteen years ago and for a time worked for big entities, boards of directors of hospitals and casinos. But it was designing a space in which families live and function, in “the best building possible within the client’s budget,” that appealed to her. “Letting people share in ownership of the creative process makes it far more likely that the house will succeed,



that the family will be happy there,” Christina explains. And while not all families can hire their own architect, “I don’t think that just because some people are poor they should miss out on the happiness of having their own home.” Hence her wish to be of service to Habitat for Humanity.

Christina returned to Cape May County several years ago, when she met and married Nelson Amey, a land surveyor. Their little boy Nathan was born three years ago. In her spare time she is now Volunteers Coordinator for the Cape May HFH affiliate and is developing a schedule where volunteers will know when they are needed and for what, in a predictable annual pattern.



Thanks for making Cars for Homes such a success! This affiliate receives proceeds from the sale of any vehicle (car, boat, lawnmower, whether it runs or not) donated from this area. We received a check for \$1500 last month! Go to www.habitat.org/CarsforHomes to learn more.

Family Promise Arrives



Part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Family Promise is a non-profit organization that brings together the faith community, with assistance from public agencies and charitable endeavors, to bring stability and hope to families suddenly faced with homelessness.

It used to be that homeless families in this county were split up, sent to other counties for housing, or lodged in unsavory motels where your next-door neighbor was apt to be dealing drugs. Now, congregations comprising some 1,000 volunteers keep the families intact (they even allow pets), give meals, and provide clean beds on church or synagogue premises. Each morning, families



are transported to a day center in Rio Grande where they can shower, children are readied for school, and parents do laundry while keeping an eye on the preschool set. Case Manager Kathleen O'Neill tutors adults in job-hunting, money management, and many other things—while families get their bearings. It is an effective hand up. Most families find jobs and housing within 6 weeks, their confidence and self-esteem back on track. Rejoices Laurie Johnson, Director of the Cape May County Family Promise affiliate: “...it’s been three months, five families, seven children, four love birds, two parakeets and one greyhound ago that we opened our doors to those in need ...”



Habitat for Humanity Cape May County is very proud to have helped. HFH is at the joyous end of a continuum that culminates in homeownership, while Family Promise is dealing with families in crisis at the other end who just had the rug pulled out from under them. We are dedicated to the same thing. Our own Construction Supervisor Phil Pattison and his crew built the shower facilities in the day center; we donated \$9,000 in materials. Admin. V.P. Joann Ireland was very helpful during their start-up phase. Ralph Cooper, communications maven and Chair of HFH’s Public Relations Committee, procured the domain name www.FamilyPromiseCMC.org for them and designed a handsome web site. They have already published their first quarterly newsletter there. Ralph promises a Twitter account and blog capability as well. Learn more about Family Promise on their web site.





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Volunteers Make it Work!

The HFH Cape May County affiliate set up amidst the happy Harvest Festival crowd in Middle Township on October 25th, and signed up new volunteers having all sorts of talents and expertise. Their greatest gift is generosity.

Generous also has been Middle Township, which donated a lot for our next house. Mitchell Nichols is clearing the site while we get busy with permits. Our V.P. for Site Selection, Will Haryslak, has already secured the donation of carpets and pads for the house from Avalon Carpet. By late Winter we hope the house is on site and we're ready to finish—exterior siding installed, interior dry-walled, light fixtures and heavy appliances installed, deck and exterior stairs constructed. Even if you're not a carpenter, there are a number of things you can do. Make sandwiches for the crew, for instance. We appreciate everything.



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