

Take A Hike For Humanity: 14 Years of Success



Mount Monadnock view - Photo Courtesy of Marie Lopez Gallery

Hikers can register at www.takeahikeforhumanity.org and set up a webpage to email to relatives, friends, neighbors, and kind-hearted co-workers to make online pledges.

by Mary Brown

The cause and trails are the same for the 14th Take A Hike For Humanity, but online registration and personalized web pages for fundraising pledges are new features. The hikes at Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey, New Hampshire and Blue Hills

Reservation in Milton, Massachusetts will be Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and May 31, rain or shine. There will be a silent auction both days at both locations.

Since Take A Hike For Humanity is a major fundraising event for affiliates in Nashua, Manchester and Monadnock, and several in Massachusetts, hikers are encouraged to set pledge goals more than quadrupling the minimum \$50 donation. That's the wish of Ron Dyer, founder of the hike, who is leading the fundraising exercise this year. Ron is Executive Director of Greater Manchester Habitat for Humanity.

Ron thinks that a bigger goal will help a hiker push beyond the minimum \$50.

It's like hiking Monadnock: if a person sets a minimum goal of hiking around for an hour, the hiker won't get to the top to see the beautiful views. But if the hiker's goal is to enjoy those views, that person is likely to push to the summit.

The success of this fundraising event is more than people hiking some of the 125 miles of trails at Blue Hills, or making a rigorous climb up Monadnock. The success is collecting money for decent, affordable housing. Let's be 'partners' with people in need. Sign-up today.

Mary Brown is a member of the Public Relations Committee. She runs, bikes, travels and dreams about another Global Village trip.

Largest Property Acquisition in Affiliate's History

by Amber Chesbrough

The affiliate has purchased land in Milford on Tonella Road. The original heads-up for the lot was made to Eric Moore, Building Committee Chairman, via a local garage owner. It was the single most expensive property acquisition ever made

by the affiliate at \$105,000. The purchase and sales agreement was made in July of 2008. The former owner requested that the transfer be delayed until 2009 to allow for the installation of water and sewer lines across the property. Closing for the property was held in January and the af-

filiate is now the owner of the land.

If the board approves the Tonella Road project, construction will begin in spring of 2010. Construction is being delayed for a year to allow Habitat to start construction on the Ridge Street project. Following board

Continued Next Page

Current Volunteer Needs

- ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER (5 TO 10 HOURS PER WEEK)
- NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR (20 TO 40 HOURS PER QUARTER)
- DATABASE ENTRY (3 TO 5 HOURS A WEEK)
- CONSTRUCTION TEAM LEADERS (HOURS VARY)
- FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (HOURS VARY BASED ON AMOUNT OF PROJECTS PLANNED)
- 2010 TAKE A HIKE FOR HUMANITY AFFILIATE COORDINATOR (HOURS VARY BASED ON ABILITY TO BUILD A TEAM FOR THE EFFORT)

Inside this issue:

- MILLARD FULLER: 1935-2009 **2**
- BUILDING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER NEEDS **2**
- FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT **3**

Largest Property Acquisition in Affiliate's History (continued)



Tonella Road in Milford (land on right). Photo Courtesy of GNHFH President Jerry Harrow.

approval, applications will begin to be accepted for the Tonella Road project.

The construction of a duplex is planned for the Milford lot, allowing two hard-working local families to become homeowners, and enabling them to have a simple, decent home of their own. Since the site is approved for a duplex, the property cost can be divided between the two partner families. Habitat partner

families purchase the houses from Habitat at no-profit, with no interest. Donations, volunteer labor, and a no-interest on the mortgage enable families to become homeowners for about the cost of renting. Typically, selected families will have a 30-year, no-interest mortgage including taxes and insurance that does not exceed \$1000 per month. Mortgage payments are then "recycled" into future homes and projects.

This new purchase presents Habitat with yet another opportunity to help the community and make a difference in people's lives. "It just feels good to help people in need," said Jerry Harrow, President of the affiliate, in response to the Tonella Road project.

Amber Chesbrough, a member of the Public Relations Committee, is the owner and president of Bolla Soaps (www.BollaSoaps.com) and is currently pursuing academic work in Business Administration at Southern New Hampshire University.

"FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS SAID: 'I DON'T THINK IT'S AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT MILLARD FULLER HAS LITERALLY REVOLUTIONIZED THE CONCEPT OF PHILANTHROPY'"

Millard Fuller: 1935-2009

by Sam Purushotham

"I see life as both a gift and a responsibility. My responsibility is to use what God has given me to help his people in need". So said Millard Fuller, the founder and former President of Habitat for Humanity. Former President Clinton, who awarded the Medal of Freedom to Mr. Fuller, has said "I

don't think it's an exaggeration to say that Millard Fuller has literally revolutionized the concept of philanthropy".

The United States and the world lost a great servant of God when Millard Fuller died unexpectedly earlier this year. He was born in Alabama in 1935 and received undergraduate and law degrees from the Uni-

versity of Alabama. He married Linda Caldwell in 1959. After serving in a law firm and holding other business jobs. He became a millionaire at age 29. But as the business prospered his health, integrity and marriage suffered.

These setbacks prompted Fuller to re-evaluate his values and direction. His soul

Continued Next Page

Building Committee in Urgent Need of Volunteers



The Ridge Street lot as seen from over the fence on its top side - Photo Courtesy of Marie Matthews

The Building Committee needs help with materials, planning, and volunteers who can manage small projects while homes are being built elsewhere. Chairman Eric Moore said: "There are also other logistical items that we need help with: chasing permits, coordinating with the other trades, such as plumbers and electricians. We

need more trailer-space for storage. Materials are overflowing so we need additional storage space that is accessible year-round and is large enough to spread stuff out... the trailer is so full that it is hard to see exactly what we have. Possibly, we could have someone manage a mini-store to cycle stuff in and out of. Some Habitat affiliates run stores where they take donated materials

for re-use, or re-sale if not usable in a Habitat home. It would be useful to have a warehouse and an opportunity to develop this... to organize these materials." Those interested in volunteering to help meet these urgent needs are encouraged to contact Eric at 603.883.0295. You can also reach Eric directly by email at eric.moore@nashabitat.org.

Millard Fuller: 1935-2009 (continued)

searching led to reconciliation with his wife and to a renewal of his Christian commitment. The Fullers decided to sell all their possessions, give the money to the poor and begin searching for a new focus. This search led them to Koinonia Farm, where people were looking for practical ways to apply Christ's teachings. Along with a few friends the Fullers embarked on a project for low income housing. In 1973 Fuller became the Church of

Christ's director of development in Zaire, where he initiated a housing project for low-income families. It was there that he and his wife Linda were inspired to launch, in 1976, what would become a worldwide low income housing venture, namely "Habitat for Humanity". For the next 29 years the Fullers devoted their energies to the expansion of Habitat for Humanity throughout the world, with a philosophy that Fuller called

the "economics of Jesus". In keeping with a passage from the bible (Exodus 22:25) it was shaped into a non-profit no interest organization. Fuller received many achievement awards and more than 50 honorary doctorate degrees for his outstanding leadership toward meeting the goal of eliminating poverty housing worldwide.

In January of 2005, Millard and Linda

"THE FULLERS
DECIDED TO SELL
ALL THEIR
POSSESSIONS,
GIVE THE MONEY
TO THE POOR
AND BEGIN
SEARCHING FOR
A NEW FOCUS"

Continued Next Page

From the Desk of President Jerry Harrow

The reverberations of our declining economy have highlighted for many people the fragility of house and home, and of job and career; even here in the relatively affluent Nashua area. Economists say the crisis is primarily the result of a collapse of the housing bubble fuelled by low interest rates, easy credit, and just plain greed.

Throughout those years of excess, however, access to affordable housing remained a challenge for many. While headlines often highlight the foreclosures and evictions, less attention is paid to the quiet, but ongoing struggle of working families to find affordable places to live and raise their families. It is simply not edgy enough or visible enough to pique our interests, and overcome the din of our daily lives.

At Habitat for Humanity we observe first-hand the bene-

fits when a neighborhood is populated with homeowners, regardless of their income level. Homeowners are more invested in their community, and are more likely to volunteer in civic and political activities. There is also a strong correlation between owner-occupied homes and reduced levels of crime.

We also sometimes observe the knee-jerk NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) response to affordable or workforce housing initiatives. Some folks simply do not connect the fact that those people in our community who work in our schools, collect our trash, serve us in restaurants, maintain our public buildings, and care for our children are the very same people in need of affordable housing. These are fine, upstanding members of our community that just happen to have jobs that pay below-average salaries.

The state of the housing mar-

ket and the economy has been a dual-edged sword for us. It has caused a drop in donations, but it has also reduced the pressure on land prices, enabling us to acquire three properties for construction over the next few years.

If you believe, as I do, that everyone deserves a simple decent place to live, I encourage you to get more deeply involved with Habitat for Humanity. Volunteering costs little or nothing but your time, yet the reward is a deep sense of satisfaction, and a healthier community. It all starts with an email to volunteer-ing@nashahabitat.org.

Blessings to you and yours,



"THE STATE OF THE
HOUSING MARKET
AND ECONOMY
HAS BEEN A DUAL-
EDGED SWORD
FOR US. IT HAS
CAUSED A DROP IN
DONATIONS, BUT IT
HAS ALSO
REDUCED THE
PRESSURE ON LAND
PRICES"

Greater Nashua
Habitat for Humanity
PO Box 159
Nashua, New Hampshire 03061
Phone: 603.883.0295
Fax: 603.881.9894
E-mail: office@nashahabitat.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
Paid
Nashua, NH
Permit No. 256

Millard Fuller: 1935-2009 (continued)



Millard Fuller - Photo
Courtesy of The Atlanta
Journal Constitution's
Joey Ivansco

Fuller were fired from the organization they founded. Rather than dwelling on the end of a career, Fuller, his wife and a few of his like-minded friends founded the Fuller Center for Housing, without wasting any time. This organization provides a vehicle for him to continue striving towards the goal of eliminating poverty housing. This ministry will raise money for housing efforts around the world and thus continue the remarkable work in the quest to make decent shelter available to all God's people.

I had the great pleasure of meeting the Fullers about ten years ago in Massachusetts, when he was the featured speaker at an Annual meet-

ing of the United Methodist Foundation of the New England conference. In my conversation with him I noted a sense of humility along with a sense of passion for the work the work he was doing. During that time he took the time to inquire as to what I was doing and my connection with the United Methodist church, in his effort to deflect the attention from him to me.

He had a gentle but powerful smile that said a lot about his character. He will be sorely missed.

Sam Purushotham is a member of the Board of Directors at Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity. He is also a member of the Public Relations Committee.

Fuller's Take A Hike For Humanity Visit in 1999

"He showed up as a matter of luck"... One year the Hike coincided with the graduation at Keene State College and "Fuller was invited to speak there that morning; when people realized this they contacted Habitat International to see if he could speak to the Hike group before or after his graduation speech. He agreed and he spoke at 8.30 in the morning" recalls Ron Dyer, Director of the Take A Hike For Humanity effort.

"Millard was a very exuberant, energetic and outgoing speaker - he would become friends with anyone there - he related the Hike to an experience in Africa and he did a little chant he learned there from a local tribe... The thing he strived to transmit was enthusiasm for the cause."