

Building a Home with Faith, Hope and Love

By: *Whittney Burgess,
Public Relations Intern*

As a single father trying to raise a child, Benny Gallagher knew he would do 'whatever it takes' to provide the best life for his daughter Reachel. Benny knew that by moving out of his poor neighborhood in Florida filled with drugs and abuse was the only way for him to see his daughter graduate from high school.

Benny's life revolves around Reachel and he would do anything in order to provide for her. "I want my daughter to have her dreams; then I will have mine," said Benny.

Benny sold most of his belongings, packed what was left in his car, and drove to Spokane with Reachel. Although this move was initially hard on both of them, it has only now made their relationship stronger. Benny expressed, "God takes the bad out to make the better." Benny

and Reachel bonded as they traveled through Washington D.C., Rushmore, Yellowstone, until they reached their final destination of Spokane.

The Gallagher's are living with Benny's sister in Spokane and attending Life Center Church. As these relationships have grown with the most important people in his life, he also regained a relationship with his brother whom he hasn't spoken with in over five years. The relationship he has with his daughter, sister, brother, and his supportive church, has made him realize exactly where he needs to be.

With this kind of support behind him, Benny decided to apply for a Habitat home. Although reluctant at first, the Gallagher's decided to attend the meetings and put the full effort



into getting a home. With the help of
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"Raise the Roof" Benefit for Another Home!

Building a house doesn't get more fun! The 13th Annual "Raise the Roof" Benefit will be held Sat., October 11th at Northern Quest Casino Pavilion.

The evening features silent and live auctions, offering an array of packages, including a trip to Hawaii, Mazatlan, golf getaways, special wine tastings, one-of-a-kind dinner party experiences and unique home and yard packages. The Silent Auction promises something for everyone—art, entertainment, home decor, sports packages, weekend

escapes, and other fine indulgences. Visit our website for a peek at some of our exciting Live Auction packages: www.habitat-spokane.org.

The event begins at 5 p.m. with the silent auction, dinner at 7 p.m., followed by an exciting Live Auction. Your support will help us reach our goal of building another decent, affordable home for a family in need.

Tickets are available for \$50 per person before October 1st and \$60 thereafter. Tickets may be purchased

online at www.habitat-spokane.org or by calling Courtney at 509-534-2552, ext. 14.

Special thanks to our **Underwriting Sponsor**, Sterling Savings Bank! **Thank you, Silent Auction Sponsors**, Foster Pepper, Itron, and Spokane Association of Realtors; **Table Sponsors**, AmericanWest Bank, Avista, Cannon Power Transmission, Greenstone Homes & Neighborhoods, Liberty Closing & Escrow, and SRM Development; and **Media Sponsors**, The Inlander and KXLY.

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends of Habitat,

We've all heard sayings about how one person can make a difference and how one pebble dropped in a pond can send out ripples that will travel for a long way. I'd like each of you to consider the impact of your involvement with Habitat.

Since this affiliate was formed in 1987, Habitat-Spokane has built homes for 190 families. That's 190 families who were able to leave uncertainty and instability behind and move

into a decent, affordable home. That translates to hundreds of children who don't have to change schools every time they move and whose learning will improve because of this stable environment.

Your generosity has helped fuel

our annual Blitz Build. The Blitz Build brings volunteers, donors and businesses together for a fast-paced build every year in June. Twenty-eight homes have been built in this high energy method. That translates to more families living in a community of support and camaraderie that

makes a neighborhood.

Your impact is not just local, but global as well. The 10% tithed from this affiliate helps Habitat

International build in more than 90 countries around the world. As of last year, 277 homes were built with Habitat-Spokane contributions in places like Armenia, Brazil, Poland, Nepal, Romania, Guatemala and Mongolia (see article on page 3). All

"Your impact is not just local, but global as well."



of this is truly the result of a generosity of spirit in our community.

These remarkable results are all because you — one person — who decided to give of your time or treasure and started the ripple that made its way around the world.

Thank you for your generous giving and the impact you have made on God's people everywhere.

— Beth Brasch, 2008 Board Chair

"Gallagher Family" Continued from page 1

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane and Life Center Church, his dream of owning a home is becoming a reality as they became a candidate family. "Everyone has given us a dream that we thought we'd never have," said Benny.

Benny and Reachel told their personal story on stage in front of the members of the Life Center Church, making their way into the church's heart. The members were so touched by the Gallaghers' that they donated \$65,000 in one day for the building of the Gallagher's home. Life Center Church has been a huge support for the Gallagher family and the Church is excited to help Benny and Reachel build their new home. The Gallaghers are currently working on their sweat equity hours by working at the Habitat store, community dis-

plays, and helping build homes for many other people just like them.

Through this process, the Gallaghers have enjoyed building relationships with their church members, Habitat staff and other Habitat homeowners. The Gallaghers are hoping to move into their home sometime this winter. Reachel has already picked out the colors for her bedroom and can't wait to decorate it.

"I just want to say thank you for everyone's help—even the people I don't know. Without them none of this could be possible," said Benny.

"Everyone has given us a dream that we thought we'd never have."

Benny's 'whatever it takes' attitude has helped encourage his family to move forward. Benny's will to provide for his daughter is truly honorable. Reachel is now a senior at Ferris High School and works in the daycare at Life Center Church and the North East Community

Center. These experiences have given her hopes of one day working with children and opening her own daycare.

Benny has made a new life, a new way, and a new home for his family. And, he keeps his faith, hope and love alive by telling his daughter, "Never go back, always go forward."

Teacher puts Stock into Homeownership

Success in school can be attributed to many factors, but the most basic is decent, affordable housing. For so many low-income families in our community, this is simply not possible without Habitat for Humanity.

“As a teacher, I’ve watched families double and even triple up in order to put a roof over their heads,” said Carol Ellis, a Reading Recovery teacher at a local elementary school. “I’ve also seen families move out of rentals every three months because housing was not affordable. And I’ve witnessed the negative affects on children’s learning because of band-aids applied to living situations.”

When one of Carol’s students moved because his family was getting a Habitat home, Carol took notice.

“I was so happy someone I knew and taught was getting a Habitat

home,” said Carol. “This student always did their homework—the parents valued education and wanted the best benefit from education.”

Carol recognized the value of a decent, affordable home through Habitat and decided to put stock into homeownership—literally. She knew the best investment for her hard-earned stock was Habitat for Humanity.

“If a family puts in the time and effort, lays the foundation, they are also

interested in a foundation for their children,” said Carol. “We need 10 times as many Habitat homes!”

“I support the methods of Habitat because so much time, local talent and elbow grease are given.” Habitat brings the community together to build with the families—through volunteerism and financial support.

“If a family puts in the time and effort, lays the foundation, they are also interested in a foundation for their children.”



Habitat donor Carol Ellis with her grandbaby

Carol’s gift of stock to Habitat-Spokane allowed her to make a considerably larger donation than she could have made with cash, and she was able to avoid capital gains on her appreciated stock.

In these difficult economic times, donations of stock could be the best financial move you could make. And, gifts of stock are very easy to implement! For transfer instructions, please contact Courtney Susemihl, Development Director, 509-534-2552.

Please consult your financial advisor to find out if a charitable gift of stock is the right option for you.

Global Change Begins at Home

The need for decent, affordable shelter is a universal challenge.

Of the 1.9 billion children in the developing world, some 640 million are without adequate shelter. What we do in the Inland Northwest can have a profound affect on the lives of families in developing countries.

As part of our commitment to eliminating poverty housing, Habitat-Spokane is dedicated to contributing 10% of undesignated contributions received to high need areas around the globe. These “tithe” monies are 100 percent designated toward global building in countries such as

Guatemala, Romania and Armenia.

When you make a donation to Habitat-Spokane—unless you specify otherwise—your donation will also directly help support home building in developing countries.

“The impact of each donation to Habitat-Spokane has a tremendous effect on families locally and around the world,” said Courtney Susemihl, Development Director.

Habitat-Spokane has fully funded over 277 homes in developing countries in addition to the 190 homes built in Spokane. Home building in

high need areas around the globe is a fraction of what each home costs here. The current average cost to build a Habitat home outside the United States is \$4,200.

“We have such an amazing opportunity to help our poorest communities around the world,” said Susemihl. “Global change can really begin at home—with a donation to Habitat-Spokane.”

Please consider the global impact of your gift to Habitat-Spokane today and into the future. Thank you!



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Mission Statement

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane is an ecumenical non-profit Christian ministry, dedicated to bringing the community together to build decent, affordable homes for all God's people in need.

Habitat serves people without regard to race, color, sex, ethnic origin, handicap, creed or religion.

Calendar:

13th Annual "Raise the Roof" Benefit

Sat., October 11th

Northern Quest Casino Pavilion

Tickets: \$50 per person before Oct 1st (\$60 thereafter)

Purchase tickets online at www.habitat-spokane.org or call Courtney at 509-534-2552, ext. 14.

Interested in Owning a Habitat Home?

Family Information Meetings held each month at 6 p.m.

- ♦ 1st Thursday at Habitat office (732 N Napa Street)

Must attend Family Information meeting to receive an application.

For more information, please call Jesse at 509-534-2552, ext. 18.

Habitat At Work with You

There are many ways to support Habitat home building at work!

Workplace Giving

Please remember Habitat for Humanity-Spokane on your United Way or CFC pledge form! You have options, **please write in "Habitat for Humanity-Spokane"** on your pledge form and help build homes while you're at work!

Matching Gift from Your Employer

Find out if your employer has a matching gift program. Then, when you make a gift to Habitat-Spokane, just include your company's form with your gift. It's an easy way to double your support!

Organize a Build Day

Organize a team building day on the Habitat jobsite with your employer! Businesses of all types and sizes have found the Habitat Build Days a fun way to get involved in the community and provide their employees

some a great team building experiences.

Sponsor a Special Build Day

Get your business the recognition you deserve for community involvement! Become a sponsor for the Blitz Build (June), Women's Build Day (May), or other special days. Call Dennis Reed, Community Relations Director, at 509-534-2552, ext. 16.

Spread the Word!

You never know who may need a Habitat home. In fact, several major employers in our community employ Habitat homeowners. Make sure your Human Resources department has information about our program available for employees in need. You can help change a co-worker's life by spreading the word about Habitat for Humanity!

Bring your work community together with Habitat for Humanity!