

Partner Families

Quarterly Newsletter — Fall 2010



A NOTE FROM THE FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER

Dear Partner Families -

Do you know a family who qualifies for our homeownership program? If so, please share our upcoming Family Information Meeting schedule with them (below, right.) The Family Selection Committee will choose homebuyers for two new homes in Renton and a resale/buyback in Newcastle. Attendance at a Family Information Meeting is mandatory for all interested applicants. Thanks for spreading the word!

New classes and training programs are being scheduled for all Habitat homebuyers and existing homeowners. An important workshop on child safety will be conducted by "P.E.A.C.E. of Mind" at the Habitat office in Redmond, starting at 6:30 p.m., November 11. I hope you will join us.

The Issaquah Highlands community welcomed four new homeowners into Magnolia Village last week. The Reyes, Talton, Thao-Mua, and Aguirre families are Habitat for Humanity of East King County's newest homeowners. Congratulations!

A community celebration was held in Koinonia Ridge in Snoqualmie two weeks ago, complete with live band and a plethora of food. Read more about the festivities on page 2.

A couple days ago a friend of mine suggested "30 Days of Thanks." Instead of waiting until Thanksgiving day to say what I am thankful for, I am taking the opportunity to declare at least one thing I am grateful for every day in November. For example, today (Day 4), I am grateful for hope. Hope keeps me going when times are tough. What are you thankful for? Learn more about "30 Days of Thanks" at www.30daysofthanks.com.

With winter around the corner, be sure to complete your seasonal maintenance items (furnace, pipes, etc.) As always, if you have questions, give me a call or send me an e-mail.

Best,

Emily Fortman



Emily Fortman
Family Services Manager
425-869-6007, ext. 237
efortman@habitatekc.org



Sarah Botzek
AmeriCorps
Family Services Associate
425-869-6007, ext. 245
sarahb@habitatekc.org

New Saturday Start Time at Issaquah Highlands



We are moving our start time for construction on Saturdays from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at the Issaquah Highlands worksite. You should arrive at 9:15 a.m. to sign in and complete the safety briefing with volunteers. This later start time is only for Saturdays, not for the weekdays.

Family Information Meetings

Four Family Information Meetings are scheduled for November. We will be selecting families for two new homes in Renton (3-bedroom & 6-bedroom) and a previously-owned home in Newcastle (2-bedroom). Please pass along this information to anyone who may be interested.

Meeting Schedule:

November 10th at 7 p.m. at the Redmond library, 15990 NE 85th St., Redmond

November 13th at 12 p.m. at the Issaquah library, 10 W. Sunset Way, Issaquah

November 16th at 7 p.m. at the Fall City library, 33415 SE 42nd Pl., Fall City

November 17th at 6 p.m. at the Fairwood library, 17009 140th Ave SE, Renton



Koinonia Ridge Community Celebration

Partner Families, volunteers, Habitat staff, and AmeriCorps members celebrated the completion of the 50th home and the ongoing partnership with homeowners at Koinonia Ridge in Snoqualmie on October 23. There was a delicious potluck meal and entertaining live music at the community center. The celebration was a wonderful way to recognize the friendships and partnerships created over the past 10 years of home building in Koinonia Ridge.

Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

Your schedule is about to get very busy. With the holidays in full swing... and a big to do list, it is easy to forget to talk about safety with our family.

Here are some simple, quick and easy tips to help keep the conversation going and to give you and your family a little "PEACE of Mind" during this crazy holiday season.

- When preparing to go shopping remind your children to stay with their buddy.
- Make sure your kids know what your plan is if they get separated from you (find a mom with kids, find a cash register person or just start yelling "DAD!").
- Expecting visitors? Talk to you kids about who is coming and how they feel about the potential onslaught of kisses and hugs from well meaning family and friends.
- Sitting idle in Holiday traffic? Play the "What if" game with your kids.

Tell your children they are special and have the right to be safe!

Energy Savings for You!

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is a leader in promoting energy efficiency in the Pacific Northwest. They have a goal to lower the amount of energy used in this area over the next five years. As part of this goal, they are offering to replace your light bulbs and shower fixtures with Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) and Low Flow shower fixtures at **no cost**.

Benefits to existing homeowners:

- CFL replacement bulbs for their light fixtures at no cost.
 - Energy-saving: these bulbs use 75% less energy and produce 90% less heat than incandescent bulbs
 - Long lasting: CFLs last as much as ten times longer
 - Lighting accounts for as much as 20% of the family's energy bill
- Low flow showerheads (maximum of two per house)
 - One of the simplest ways to save both water and energy is to install water-efficient products. An energy-saving showerhead limits the amount of water flow from the showerhead, thereby reducing the amount of water used and decreasing the amount of energy needed to heat the water.
 - Low flow showerheads save money without compromising on comfort and hot water (where conventional tanks are in place) will last longer.

Habitat volunteers and AmeriCorps members would install the Low Flow shower fixtures for you. You would be responsible for installing the CFLs in your home. This program is free for you and will help you save money on your energy bills. It's a win-win! Please call or email Emily or Sarah if you're interested in participating in this program.



Pumpkin Goopy Butter Cake

Recipe Courtesy Paula Deen

Serves: 6-8**Ingredients****Cake:**

1 (18 1/4-ounce) package yellow cake mix
 1 egg
 8 tablespoons butter, melted

Filling:

1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
 1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin
 3 eggs
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 8 tablespoons butter, melted
 1 (16-ounce) box powdered sugar
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 1 teaspoon nutmeg



* Sarah has made this recipe and it turned out great! :)

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Combine the cake mix, egg, and butter and mix well with an electric mixer.

Pat the mixture into the bottom of a lightly greased 13 by 9-inch baking pan.

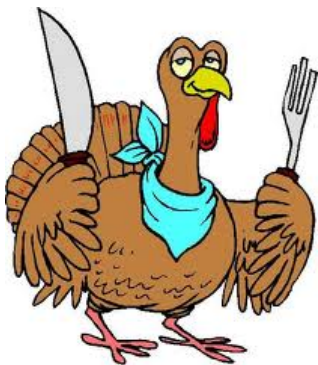
To make the filling: In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese and pumpkin until smooth.

Add the eggs, vanilla, and butter, and beat together.

Next, add the powdered sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and mix well.

Spread pumpkin mixture over cake batter and bake for 40 to 50 minutes. Make sure not to over bake as the center should be a little gooeey.

Serve with fresh whipped cream.

**Thanksgiving Fun Facts**

- The first Thanksgiving was celebrated way back during the Plymouth Pilgrims in the fall of 1621. This celebration lasted for three days and included food and games.
- In 1789, when George Washington was the president, he proclaimed the first National Day of Thanksgiving.
- On October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln announced Thanksgiving to be national holiday.
- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 45 million turkeys are cooked and eaten in the United States at Thanksgiving. That number represents one sixth of all the turkeys sold in the U.S. each year!
- The cranberry got its name because the pale pink blossoms on the plant resembled a crane's head and neck. The name cranberry stuck, eventually becoming cranberry.
- The average person consumes 4,500 calories on Thanksgiving Day. (Now that's a lot of turkey!)
- There are three places in the United States named after the holiday's traditional main course — Turkey, Texas; Turkey Creek, La.; and Turkey, N.C. There are also nine townships around the country named "Turkey," with three in Kansas.
- Fossil evidence shows that turkeys roamed the Americas 10 million years ago.

Welcome these New Families to the Neighborhood

They moved into their new homes on Magnolia Street in Issaquah Highlands the end of October.



Aguirre Family... Olivia Aguirre is a single mom to daughter Cyndi, who is currently a senior at Issaquah High School. Olivia emigrated from Mexico to create a more stable life for herself and her future family. She settled in the Northwest, making the Eastside her home for the last 20 years.

For four years, Olivia has had a stable job, working in her company as a bookkeeper clerk. Her hard work paid off and this year, she was promoted in her current position as a tax analyst. Still, she dreams of going back to school one day to study psychology. Cyndi has inherited her mother's work ethic and has been working as a barista at a local coffee shop while going to school full time. She hopes to go to college next year.



Reyes Family... Dolores "Lola" Reyes is a single mom to sons Patrick (19) and Kyree (9). The family has lived on the Eastside for decades and has extended family nearby.

For the past five years, Lola has supported her family as a social service provider. While she enjoys the work, she has other career goals. Lola is working toward her master's degree in adult education, which she hopes to parlay into an instructor position at a local college. She would also like to write and publish while working in the non-profit and social justice sectors. Lola's eldest son, Patrick, takes classes at Bellevue College and recently published his first book of poetry.

Talton Family... Mikel and Alissa Talton recently moved from Virginia to East King County, although they are not new to Washington, having been born in Bellevue and Tacoma, respectively. The Talton family includes three children: Mikayla (14), Hayleigh (5), and Isaiah (2). Extended family members live in the area and provide important familial support.

At the beginning of 2009, Mikel was deployed overseas with the U.S. Navy. He has been with the military for five years and has also works for an auto parts chain. His future career goals include positions in commercial diving and underwater welding, as well as retiring in the reserves. Alissa has been working as a waitress and childcare provider for the past few months. Her main goals, present and future, are to take care of her family.



Thao Family... Barr Thao and Tina Mua have set down roots in East King County for the past ten years where they are raising their children, Faith (6), Anthony (4), and James (1). Extended family also lives in the area and the families often get together. Like many Northwest families, the Thao family enjoys outdoor activities including fishing, camping, swimming, and going to parks.

For the past two years, Barr has worked as a case manager for the Asian Counseling and Referral Services where his main duties include counseling those with mental health issues. In the future, Barr would like to go back to school and earn a degree in social work, to expand his skills in his current professional arena. Tina, working in tandem with her husband in taking care of their family, is a homemaker. She works very hard to create an environment that is both comfortable and loving.





16315 NE 87th St, Suite B-5
Redmond, WA 98052
425-869-6007
www.habitatekc.org

UPCOMING HOMEOWNER CLASSES

NOVEMBER

P.E.A.C.E of Mind

Nov. 11th at 6:30-8 p.m.
at Redmond Office
This class focuses on child safety.

DECEMBER

Sustainable Building Seminar

Dec. 7th at 6:30-8:30 p.m.
at Redmond Office
This class focuses on building
sustainably in order to save resources.

All Partner Families are invited to homeowner classes.
Please RSVP to Emily or Sarah at **425-869-6007**.