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July

- 14 4 PM Frank Meyer Retirement, Four Winds Cellars, Vallecito
- 20 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas

August

- 17 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas
- 27 4PM Habitat Hoedown, Murphys Park, Murphys, CA

September

- 21 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas
- TBA NorCal Affiliates Meeting, Sacramento

October

- TBA Habitat Bridge Tournament
- 19 6 PM Regular Board Meeting @ Senior Center, San Andreas

2016 Hoedown for Habitat is Happening Soon!

Habitat is gearing up for our 12th Annual Hoedown for Habitat to be held at Murphys Park on Saturday, August 27th. The Hoedown always provides great food, great entertainment and a great time for adults and children alike.

The Hoedown begins at 4 PM when the Habitat Saloon starts selling wine, beer, soft drinks and water to our thirsty guests. At 5 PM the Habitat Chuck Wagon begins serving our traditional barbeque dinner with all the fixings. For musical entertainment and dancing, we are happy to welcome back Crystal Image, one of the most popular bands in the Mother Lode. We are also fortunate to have the Fiddle Gang, a group of youngsters that will bowl you over with their unique instrumental and vocal talents.

You will be able to participate in a raffle and silent auction featuring a range of attractive items including overnight resort stays, dinners **at Calaveras' finest restaurants and unique gift baskets.** And of course, many of our auction and raffle items will include fine wines donated by our wonderful local vintners.



Crystal Image Band LIVE at the Hoedown!

We expect a full house so get your tickets early. Adult tickets are \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door. Children ages 6-12 tickets are \$7 in advance or \$14 at the door. Children under 6 get in free. You can get advance tickets by calling the Habitat office at 754-5331, contacting any Board member or by going to <http://www.habitatcalaveras.org/events.html>. You can also buy tickets at the Habitat ReStore or take a **chance and buy at the event (they cost more there, and past years' often sold out prior to the event).**

This is Habitat one big fundraiser of the year and profits stay here in Calaveras to help fund our construction and repair projects for local residents in need of help. Join us for a good time and to support our great cause.

Advisory Board

Steve Airola
Attorney at Law

Bob Bach
County Superintendent
of Schools (Ret.)

Bob Dean

Thomas C. Meuser
Chairman
El Dorado Savings Bank

Roger Pitto
President – Sierra Engineering

Board of Directors

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Delma ‘Del’ Harris

Rob Jarvi

Todd Peterson

Myron Kelso

Staff

Nathan Renfree
Executive Director

Frank Meyer
Affiliate Manager

Dave Magann
Construction Coordinator

Chris Lang
ReStore Manager

Antonio Ponce
ReStore Donations

Recently I went on a road trip with a friend, visiting National Parks, monuments and fascinating museums and seeing some of the most beautiful countryside imaginable. Regardless of the beauty of my surroundings or the fun of new experiences, at a certain point I just wanted to be **HOME**, in my familiar surroundings, even though being home meant a return to responsibilities, problems, chores, etc. That yearning to be in your own space, in your own “comfort zone”, is a powerful emotion, shared by rich and poor alike.

What if the only place you had to call home was sub-standard, in need of repairs, unsafe or crowded and you had no hope of living anywhere better, much less owning your own home? Or what if the home you had worked so hard to afford was in dire need of repairs – and you couldn’t afford the repairs or needed help to get the work done? That is what those of us involved in Habitat for Humanity are called to do – to help provide safe, affordable housing to those who ordinarily could not afford it. In the process of doing that, we are building a stronger community by encouraging families to invest in their future, put down firm roots and create their own “comfort zone”.

Speaking of travel, the Habitat for Humanity Calaveras Board of Directors found itself at a momentous crossroads this spring when our Affiliate Manager Frank Meyer announced his impending retirement! He has been the driving force and “FACE” of Habitat for Humanity Calaveras for 15 years, and the prospect of replacing him was daunting. The Board made the decision to take the opportunity to propel our organization FORWARD by hiring a **full-time** Executive Director with the intent to increase our building capacity. In simple terms, we want to do more for our community! After an exhaustive search and the aid of some talented volunteers, Barbara Olivier and Jamie Leigh, we found just the man for the job. We hope you will join us in welcoming **Nathan Renfree** to our affiliate and that you will do whatever you can to support his efforts to travel new paths to serve our community. Your first opportunity to meet Nathan and to help our affiliate in its quest to serve more families is to attend **Hoedown for Habitat 2016** on August 27 from 4 to 8 PM in Murphys Park. Please come with an appetite for food and fun and a willingness to part with some serious cash – it is a **FUNDRAISER**, after all!

We will be saying **THANK YOU** and farewell to Frank Meyer at a **RETIREMENT PARTY** on July 14 from 5pm to 8 at Four Winds Cellars in Vallecito. If you would like to join us for the celebration, please contact me at alicew@habitatcalaveras.org. We look forward to this opportunity to thank Frank for his amazing service to our affiliate and to our community!

Newsletter © 2016 by Habitat for Humanity Calaveras

Your tax-deductible donation of a car, boat or RV will help to build simple, decent, and affordable homes for local families in need.

Call (209) 754-5331 to arrange your tax deductible donation

I hope to see you all soon!

Alice Williams

*For the latest info on HfHC, please visit our website at www.habitatcalaveras.org where you can visit **Shop for Habitat**, at our on-line mall with over 300 businesses.*



Donate your vehicle to help build homes.
Call: 1-877-277-4344 or [Click Here!](#)

Meet our new Executive Director, Nathan Renfree

Right now, as I am typing this article, my 4-year-old son is scrambling on my back in hopes of a piggyback ride. My rambunctious 2-year-old daughter is chasing around our 4-year-old foster daughter with a hose in the backyard, and my 12-year-old son is shooting hoops in the front, all while my incredible wife is juggling between a load of wash, watering her garden, and picking up the trail of forgotten toys that follows the kids wherever they go. By all accounts it's a normal day in our household, but as I reflect now on the life being lived in this house it amazes me just how much it means to us having the roof of our humble, yet sturdy, home over our heads. The home is the hub of everything. It's not just a place to eat and sleep and store our things - it's where we convene together as a family to share our lives. From the security of our home our kids go to and return from school every day. It's that central place that so many other facets of our lives center around - work, school, play, and togetherness. And the unfortunate truth is that without a decent affordable place to call home so many of those other areas of our lives suffer too.



In my early twenties I worked with a non-profit building homes for the impoverished in Mexico (often alongside other Habitat for Humanity International groups). Seeing the transformation in the lives of those who went from living in a ramshackle dirt-floor house to a sturdy stuccoed home with a solid roof and concrete foundation was nothing short of miraculous. Having such a home allowed families to focus their attention on things like finding better jobs, sending their kids to school, or just saving money for the future – something many families could finally do for the first time. This type of transformation and access to opportunities for families is universal, and it starts and centers in the home that a family can truly afford and call their own.

Building a stronger community is important to me. Before coming on board with HfHC I've worked as a teacher in both Amador and Calaveras Counties. I've been a den leader in my son's Cub Scout group and a soccer coach for the past several years. I've had the opportunities to meet and work with people from all walks of life, and time and again it was easy to connect the struggles or successes of families and individuals to their home lives, and those home lives were often interrupted or challenged due to inadequate housing. I have long held the belief that from a stable, decent home come greater opportunities for change, improvement, and upward mobility. The research proves it and I have witnessed it.

Habitat for Humanity Calaveras has done some amazing things since its inception, and I'm thrilled to get involved during such an exciting time of growth and change. As the new Executive Director I am looking forward to building on the wonderful things HfHC has accomplished and in working with this community toward the goal of making sure everyone has decent affordable housing. Habitat for Humanity Calaveras has plans to grow. We want to build more houses, provide assistance to more families whose homes need repairs through our Critical Home Repair and A Brush with Kindness programs. We want to help those families devastated by the Butte Fire. And we want to get the communities in which we work, build, and serve better involved and connected to us through opportunities like volunteering, sponsoring, educational programs, or joining our Board of Directors. Our retiring Affiliate Manager, Frank Meyer, is leaving behind some big shoes to fill, and I will work hard to fill those shoes and help expand this program alongside the hard working and devoted members of our Board of Directors and members of this community who believe and support this ministry.

Continued on page 5

Individuals

Mariam Angullia	Kenneth Merricks
James and Arleen Bailey	Peter and Karri Michell
Scott and Cheryl Brim	Bob and Rose Mulvany
Beth Carr	Elizabeth and Richard Nelson
Karen Chandonnet	Sylvia Padrini
Paula and James Christensen	Dillon and Francesca Pradini
Sandra Churchill	Kathy Ramsay
John & Shirley Denison	Seibert, Holger and Martina
Irine Dibowitz	Linda Foster Strangio
Peggy Dodge	Ben and Kandra Tobin
Julie Eggert	

Vickie and Roy Ellis
 Anne and Michael Flock
 Robert Giusti
 Maureen and Gerry Harvey
 Corin Hobbs
 Barbara Korte
 Pat Lamont
 Cynthia Landavazo
 Kathleen and Alan Luce
 Barbara Marchini-Ellis

HopeBuilders

Floy Goulart
 Kathy and Mike Heffernan
 Sally Murphy
 Bill Price and Candace Diamond
 Roberta (and Reed) Severson
 Jocey Stickney
 Alice Williams

Churches, Businesses and Organizations

Calaveras County Deputy Sheriff's Assn
 First Congregational Church Murphys
 Knights of Columbus ML Council #10661
 Save Mart Supermarkets

Hoedown Sponsors
 (committed as of 6/30)

Central State Credit Union
 Inter-Mountain Truss Company
 Mark Twain Medical Center
 Pacific Gas and Electric Co.
 Sender's Market

In Memory of
 Ray Schelegle

News from the ReStore

My crew and I are grateful to have also been blessed with the freedom to conceive and execute many new ideas that honor and support the vision, standards, spirit, and hard work of our store's founding Mothers and Fathers (as well as the many generous volunteer hearts and hands) that helped create and nurture the ReStore that my crew and I have inherited.

Entering the year we have been working on numerous fronts to improve our business operations, merchandise quality and flow, in-store culture, and public brand perception. From our significant retail footprint change, to our new donation receipt/processing depot, to the acquisition of the tools and expertise to adequately test and "bless" our mechanical merchandise, to improving our donation retrieval and transportation practices, to establishing and practicing customer based standards for customer service, to our near obsessive insistence upon facility cleanliness, facility safety, and facility organization; we have been well received by our very grateful and supportive Calaveras community.

In addition to having become a "must do" stop on the itinerary of our weekend Highway 49 Thrift and Antique store junket shoppers, we plan to evolve into a fun and curious cross between Mr Margorium's Wonder Emporium and Cheers in Boston. We want to be the place that has something of intrigue for everyone, as well as being the place where everybody knows your name. The nature of our inventory is like that of Forrest Gump's box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get.

To receive, one must also be able to provide. Currently, we are piloting an idea that we hope to market to our area high schools. By providing a supervised volunteer/mentoring opportunity to students interested in becoming better prepared to enter the work world. We currently have a bright, motivated young lady who has volunteered for this summer. And like the majority of teens in this county, she needs an opportunity to acquire and practice useful skills (i.e. cashiering, marketing, merchandising, customer service and business computer skills) in a safe environment. Ultimately, in exchange, we will provide documented participation, proofs of skills acquired, and help her to create a resume, resume cover letter, and references for entry into the world of work.

By exploring this idea and others, we would like to think that we could bring broader inclusion and participation (both young and mature) to our cause and to our badly needed volunteer pool and non-cost staff. Constructive exposure and new blood are always good. And, with that being said, we at the Calaveras ReStore are very pleased to welcome Nathan Renfree as the latest "Hip Cat" at the "Tat".

Chris Lang, ReStore Manager



Meet the New Executive Director (cont. from page 3)

I am grateful to the Lord for leading me here to this position as the new Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Calaveras and to the staff and Board of Directors for giving me this opportunity to jump on board with them in the effort to give a hand up to those in need of a decent affordable home. The home is the beating heart of the family – that all so important necessity that pulsates life into every other part of our lives. It's not just a basic necessity, but a right everyone deserves. Thank you to all of you who help support the Habitat for Humanity Calaveras work through your volunteerism, donations, prayers, and everything in between. I can't wait to work with all of you in the near future, but right now, I have a piggy-back ride to give, two kids to dry off, a basketball game to play, and some toys to help pick up!

God bless,
Nathaniel Renfree

Home Repair Doings

Our home preservation programs continues to be active in 2016. We have completed a total of seven projects so far this year. We currently have two active projects in Mokelumne Hill and Copperopolis. We have completed a total of five projects since January, four in Valley Springs and one in Burson. Projects range from porch and deck repair, water heater replacement, roof repair/replacement and HVAC replacement. The homeowners are low income, generally elderly with fixed incomes and/or individuals with limited mobility.

The Home Repair programs are designed to provide needed interior and exterior repairs for homeowners, so that they may maintain a safe, decent, and affordable place to live. Our range of work has included interior and exterior painting, window replacement, minor roof and deck repair and retrofitting for disabled clients. We have expanded our program to do HVAC and major roof projects as well as pump/septic services in partnership with certified and approved professionals.

The work is provided by volunteers using donated materials whenever possible. Homeowners are encouraged to participate in the repair work with sweat equity or, if physically unable, support it in other ways.

To qualify, applicants must own the home they live in, meet income eligibility, and agree to reimburse Habitat Calaveras for the cost of materials and/or cost of contracted people when required. This can be done as a single payment or by paying off a no-interest loan with affordable monthly payments. Monies received from partner families are placed in a revolving Home Repair fund to assist others in need. We look forward to reaching out to additional folks throughout our community who need our assistance by offering a hand up, not a hand out.



Before



After



Silvia Padrini (far left) and four of her Bay Area friends spent a day in May as part of our Women Build Program to help make repairs on the home of an elderly homeowner in Copperopolis, under the guidance of Construction Supervisor Erik Cable. Not only did the women work a full day, they rallied family and friends in the Bay Area to donate more than \$2,000 in donations. With friends like this, we are unstoppable!



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If your mailing label alerts you that this will your Last Issue, it's because our records show no contact with you for more than 2 years. Please contact our office (754-5331) to continue receiving the Newsletter, or consider a donation to help cover the cost of its production.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please fill out this form, and make check payable to **Habitat for Humanity Calaveras**, and mail to P.O. Box 1834, San Andreas, CA 95249. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Charge my credit card:

This time only, for \$ _____

Once a month in the amount of \$ _____

VISA Mastercard Discover Exp. Date ↓

Card # _____ | _____

Signature: _____

I would like to volunteer. Please send me information.

I would like a speaker to make a presentation to my church/club/business/organization.

I am interested in donating or supplying property for building sites or a ReStore.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization dedicated to building modest affordable homes—volunteers hand in hand with families that need a better place to live. Please give generously so that your tax deductible donation to Habitat for Humanity Calaveras will help another local family achieve the dream of home ownership. Thank you so much!

I no longer wish to receive this newsletter. Please remove my name from your mailing list.