



**Pikes Peak  
Habitat  
for Humanity®**

# Coming Home

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## Giver's Heart

By Andy Petersen, Development Director

The recent Waldo Canyon fire has once again highlighted the generosity of the Pikes Peak region. People want to help those that are in distress. Over the years, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHfH) has been the beneficiary of this good will.

One example of that kindness has been Thrivent Financial, the financial arm of the Lutheran Church. They have been a corporate sponsor for PPHfH since 2006. This partnership has helped us build 7 homes, significantly impacting each homeowner.

*Part of the fun is being out there and meeting with the homeowners.*

Because of the awareness Thrivent brought to local Lutheran churches, many individuals found out about Habitat, including Art and Laurel Thorstensen. "I knew nothing about



Long time donors, Art and Laurel Thorstensen, found out about Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity through Thrivent Financial.

Habitat until Thrivent got us involved," said Laurel.

The Thorstensens first volunteered to build with Thrivent one weekend and enjoyed it so much they asked if they could come back again. Both Art and Laurel helped build every weekend during the winter of that first year and have been regulars ever since. Laurel says, "Part of the fun is being out there (building) and meeting with the homeowners."

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# Giver's Heart

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They also know that these homes would not get built without the gifts of individual donors and corporate sponsors. Laurel, a Lutheran minister and member of the PPHfH Board of Directors, has given both time and resources for six years. With the completion of each home, Laurel says it brings a reward: "The dedication of a Habitat home is my payday!"

*The dedication of a Habitat home is my payday!*

Both Art and Laurel shared their heart and passion with a word of caution for potential donors and volunteers, as they found out through Thrivent Financial. "Be careful when giving to Habitat. It's a matter of the heart and it's contagious."

We hope so.

*Please go to [PikesPeakHabitat.org](http://PikesPeakHabitat.org) and on the "Give" tab you will see our 2012 Contributors, Corporate Sponsors and Give Online.*



## Cyclists Pedal for Habitat

By Laura Williams-Parrish, Development Associate

Imagine spending the summer cycling across the United States -- and building houses! Students and young adults from across the country are doing just that with Bike & Build. This unique program organizes cycling trips for young adults,

raising funds and awareness for affordable housing across America. Two cycling teams came through Colorado Springs this summer to help Pikes Peak Habitat work on houses in our Woodmen Vistas development.

The first team began in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and is on their way to San Diego, California, a trip of 70 days and 3,565 miles! On their stop in Colorado Springs June 24- 27, they worked on the foundation for one home. The second team started in Charleston, South Carolina and will finish in Santa Cruz, California for a trip of 81 days and 4,150 miles. Arriving on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and leaving on July 11<sup>th</sup>, their challenge here was to complete a Habitat house in a week!

On July 5<sup>th</sup> everyone joined in celebration with a ground blessing for the home built by the second team for the Backman family. Afterwards the Pikes Peak Habitat Board of Directors hosted a "thank you" potluck dinner for the cyclists. Bike & Build groups have made a tremendous difference in making affordable housing available to deserving families. For more information, check out their website:

**[www.bikeandbuild.org](http://www.bikeandbuild.org)**.

# Visit the 2012 Parade of Homes

By Andy Petersen, Development Director

For the second year in a row, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity will have a home in this year's Parade of Homes Tour!

A two-story house in Woodmen Vistas will be on display. We hope to exemplify what affordable housing can be: the "American Dream". Local designers will be using furnishings from our ReStore to decorate the interior of the Habitat House. Original artwork will again be provided by local artist, Eric Fetsch, with proceeds of sales benefiting Pikes Peak Habitat. Make sure to stop by and take a look at their creative style!

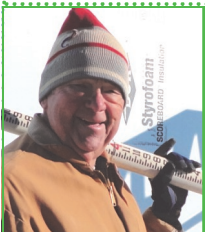


Currently under construction, this five-bedroom, two-bath house will be E-Star Certified, making it energy-efficient while saving utility costs for the family of six. This home is sponsored by the **ReStore**. Please see Happenings at Habitat (pg. 4) for details.

## Exceptional Habitat Volunteers Recognized

### George Hammond

By Lindsey Desmarais, Volunteer Manager



George Hammond was recently awarded as the 2012 Adult Service Award Recipient at the Center for Nonprofit Excellence's Pikes Peak Volunteer Day Luncheon. George is Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's most senior volunteer having served several days each week for the past nineteen years.

To celebrate retirement, George started volunteering for Pikes Peak Habitat in January 1993. George enjoys working with his hands and building and he hoped Habitat could put him to work. Well, we did! George has served as the Building Committee Chair, on the Board of Directors, as the Construction Supervisor for five years, and now serves as the lead for the regular volunteers each week. He has also represented Habitat in the media. George's most memorable moments throughout his journey are meeting the founders of Habitat for Humanity, Millard and Linda Fuller, and attending the homeowners' dedications. What makes all of his hard work worthwhile is seeing the sheer joy of the homeowners receiving the keys to their new home. After volunteering each week and taking part in building 121 homes, George is still having so much fun! Being a part of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, "is such a joy every minute, has been full of great friendships, I have met wonderful people, and it has been a great community to be a part of."

Congratulations, George! We are grateful to have you as a part of our family and we are excited to see the community honor your hard work, compassion and dedication to serving others.

### Laraine Saldivar Gillespie

By Laura Williams-Parrish, Development Associate



Pikes Peak Habitat is truly blessed to have so many extraordinary people driving its mission. One of those remarkable individuals is Laraine Saldivar Gillespie, recently named Pikes Peak United Way's *Volunteer of the Year*. This award, presented June 12<sup>th</sup> at United Way's 2012 Community Celebration Luncheon, exemplifies Laraine's desire to give back to our community.

A Habitat Board of Directors member since July 2010, Laraine is currently taking the lead as our Board President. In addition to her numerous roles with other nonprofit organizations, she has served as Chair of Women Build since 2008. Women Build is a project of Habitat that encourages women to get involved with the mission of Habitat by funding and constructing homes for families in need of affordable housing. Under Laraine's leadership, this group has built two houses in as many years. In November of 2011, she spent a week in Haiti -- "a life-changing experience" -- with Habitat's Jimmy Carter Work Project to help build 100 houses in Léogâne (the epicenter of the 2010 earthquake). Her passion is sincere and her energy seems endless.

In May of this year, Laraine received her Master's degree in Human Resources Development, and last month, she took on a new role as Development Officer with Community Partnership for Child Development. We know that her heart has much to give and we're thankful for all that she gives to Habitat.



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#### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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## Happenings at Habitat:

- **Parade of Homes**

Mark your calendars for this year's Parade of Homes Tour, August 3-19, 2012 and check out the Pikes Peak Habitat house located at 7655 Crestone Peak Trail in our Woodmen Vistas development. It will be open 10am – 6pm every day. Please call us at 719.475.7800 for directions.

- **The Home Depot Build**

September 26th will be a big day for Habitat. The Home Depot Foundation is bringing 400 volunteers to help us break ground in our Country Living development by building six homes — in one day!

- **Future Builds**

We anticipate the need for affordable housing will continue to grow. One way to ensure your legacy in our region is to include Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity in your estate plan. When you evaluate your will, we ask for three things:

1. Make sure your family needs are taken care of.
2. Please remember to include the following in your estate plan:  
Name: **Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, Inc.**  
IRS Designation: **501(c)(3)**  
Tax ID Number: **35-1640064**
3. Please call and tell us.

For questions, please contact Andy Petersen, Development Director at 719.475.4800 ext 204 or [andy@pikespeakhabitat.org](mailto:andy@pikespeakhabitat.org). We would enjoy hearing from you!