This Week: Syracuse Habitat for Humanity
Lending a hand up, not a hand out for over 30 years

Program Committee

In the past 30 years, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity (SHFH) has built or renovated almost 70 non-profit houses that have been sold to selected families through interest-free mortgages.

An affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit ecumenical agency whose mission is to eliminate substandard housing in the world, the Syracuse chapter was incorporated in 1984 and their first house was completed in 1986. Since then, they have built over 60 new homes and have contributed an estimated $25.5 million in cumulative direct economic impact in the Central New York region. In 2000, SHFH made a commitment the City's Near Westside and since then has built 32 homes there and focused on eliminating substandard housing and restoring the quality of life for this community.

Habitat for Humanity International has built more than 800,000 houses in more than 100 countries, with more than 100,000 of those having been constructed in the United States.

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, SHFH homes are sold to partner families at no profit and are financed with no interest, 30-year loans. To ensure commitment, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity requires homeowners to invest 300 volunteer “sweat equity hours” in labor, as well as provide a $1,000.00 down payment.

Executive Director, Suzanne Williams earned her undergraduate degrees from Central City Business School, Onondaga Community College and Syracuse University.

The Rotary Foundation's Centennial

rotary.org | January 15

Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Ray Klinginsmith asked district governors in training at the International Assembly to lead the celebration of the Foundation’s centennial year, 2016–17.

"You are the primary contacts between the Foundation and our 34,000 Rotary clubs in the world. The success of the centennial celebration is largely in your hands," said Klinginsmith at a 19 January general session. "Catch the spirit and spread the word about the importance of celebrating our success."
Williams was exchange student from page 1

cuse University’s University College where she majored in business and computer technology. She also has a C.F.R.E. from the Indiana University Fundraising School at the Center for Philanthropy.

Suzanne joined Syracuse Habitat for Humanity, to serve as the Executive Director in 2000. Since she started serving Syracuse Habitat has assisted over 80 families realize their dream of homeownership through fund-raising and community outreach. Since its inception in 1984, the affiliate has renovated or built over 80 homes: the first 15 homes were built and or renovated in the first 15 years. The remaining homes were built or renovated over 15.4 year period since Suzanne became executive director.

Prior to joining SHFH, Suzanne worked in the insurance and banking business for 25 years. Her insurance industry experience includes nine years as Office Manager at Northwestern Mutual, a multi million dollar agency. She also worked as a debt counselor and business development director for Consumer Credit Counseling for three years.

The Face of Habitat for Humanity: Jimmy Carter

The Carters gave HFHI national visibility

Habitat for Humanity International was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller. Today, Habitat for Humanity is a true world leader in addressing the issues of poverty housing. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter became involved with Habitat for Humanity in 1984 and has since become its highest profile proponent. He has been involved in fund-raising and publicity as well as actual homebuilding, taking part in the annual Jimmy Carter Work Project "blitz build". His personal involvement in Habitat’s ministry brought the organization national visibility and sparked interest in Habitat’s work across the nation. HFHI experienced a dramatic increase in the number of new affiliates around the country.

During Home Builders Blitz 2008, more than 1,000 building industry professionals in 110 Habitat for Humanity affiliates built 263 new homes across the United States. This was the second national Home Builders Blitz program, which was begun on the local level in 2002 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Since then, the professional homebuilders industry has supported Habitat by building more than 800 homes.

Tom Gipson, a Habitat volunteer and professional homebuilder who started the Home Builder’s Blitz program, was named the "Ultimate Volunteer" in a 2009 contest by ABC’s "The View".

In 2008, Habitat for Humanity celebrated the 25th annual building project with the Carters and renamed it to include Mrs. Carter. The Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project focused on supporting the Gulf Coast community seeking to rebuild after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Despite periodic downpours, volunteers got most of the work done during one week in June to finish building and fixing 60 houses and frame 48 more.

In November 2009, volunteers joined Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter in the Mekong River region of Southeast Asia. Houses were built in the countries of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Yunnan Province in China. The week-long project served nearly 166 families It also began a five-year Habitat for Humanity initiative to work with 50,000 families across the five countries. 
2016-17 Presidential Theme
‘Rotary Serving Humanity’

rotary.org | January 19, 2016

Rotary’s founder, Paul Harris, believed that serving humanity is “the most worthwhile thing a person can do,” RI President-elect John F. Germ said, and that being a part of Rotary is a “great opportunity” to make that happen.

Germ unveiled the 2016-17 presidential theme, Rotary Serving Humanity, to incoming district governors on 18 January at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

“I believe everyone recognizes the opportunity to serve Rotary for what it truly is: not a small opportunity, but a great one; an opportunity of a lifetime to change the world for the better, forever through Rotary’s service to humanity,” said Germ.

After a historic year in which transmission of the wild poliovirus was stopped in Nigeria and all of Africa, Germ said we are closer than ever to ending polio.

“We are at a crossroads in Rotary,” he added. “We are looking ahead at a year that may one day be known as the greatest year in Rotary’s history: the year that sees the world’s last case of polio.”

“We need to be sure that we are recognized for that success, and leverage that success into more partnerships, greater growth, and even more ambitious service in the decades to come,” said Germ.

Germ, a member of the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA, encouraged attendees to return to their clubs and communities and spread the word about Rotary’s role in the fight for a polio-free world.

“People who want to do good will see that Rotary is a place where they can change the world. Every Rotary club needs to be ready to give them that opportunity,” Germ said.

Enhancing Rotary’s image isn’t the only way to boost membership. “We need clubs that are flexible, so our service will be more attractive to younger members, recent retirees, and working people.”

He added: “We need more willing hands, more caring hearts, and more bright minds to move our work forward.”

P&C Honor Roll

As of February 3, the following 39 Syracuse Rotarians have given $9,695 to the P&C Campaign.

Thank you for your support!

Baldwin, Dennis
Bertram, John
Charters, Alex
Clapper, Ryan
Decker, Frank
Delmonico, Joseph
De Silva, David
Dwyer, Kim
Falcone, Alfred
Galimi, Marylin
George, Michael
Gladziszewski, James
Iltsch, Steven
Karon, Stephen
Kosoff, Allen
Leach, Ray
Lee, Vernon
Lewien, John
Marsellus, John
Marty, Frederick
Masci, Michael
Morrow, Dan
Morrow, Jim
Nash, James
O’Shea, Tom
Pickett, Robert
Platt, H. Thomas
Sargent, Robert.
Schumm, Harold
Seiffert, Peter
Sherburne, Robert
Smith, Douglas
Spadafora, Patrick
Strait, Bradley
Thompson, Mary Lou
Visconti, Kevin
Wall-Bollinger, Sara
Weiss, Volker
Wilson, Gary

96% of $10,000 goal but 30% short in participation

Centennial kick off in Korea

From page 1

Since the Foundation was established in 1917, it has spent more than $3 billion on programs and projects to improve the lives of millions worldwide, said Klinginsmith.

The centennial celebration officially kicks off in May at the Rotary Convention in Korea and culminates at the 2017 convention in Atlanta.

Bill Proctor, incoming governor of District 7080 in Ontario, Canada, believes the centennial year is an opportunity to "refocus and reeducate" members on the importance the Foundation’s work.

"We have so many accomplishments to celebrate," said Proctor. "We need to use the momentum of the celebration to strengthen the Foundation’s future.”
400 Elementary Kids Visit Inspiration Hall Thursday

Our 78 Second Graders from LeMoyne Elementary sat front-and-center

Jim Morrow

By 10AM on Thursday, over 400 elementary school kids had settled into their seats at Inspiration Hall, the former St. Peter’s Church on James Street, to "Meet the Orchestra". Students from five schools, including Syracuse Rotary's sponsored LeMoyne Elementary and one from as far away as Moravia, attended a concert designed to introduce young children to the orchestra and the instrument families within. It was all about the kids and the kids loved it!

Orchestra conductor, Heather Buchman, narrated the show by showcasing each instrument section starting with percussion and then moved on to brass, woodwinds, and finally, strings. Each section performed recognizable excerpts from compositions by Copland, Sousa, Tchaikovsky, Bizet, and Grieg with the entire orchestra concluding the concert with John Williams' "Theme from Star Wars", which sounded awesome in the former church.

It was a sight to watch children in this age group become captivated by the rich, deep sound of a professional orchestra on stage in front of them with the acoustics of the small venue enhancing their experience.

Thank you to Symphoria's Executive Director, Catherine Underhill, for her part in executing an excellent program. Another concert, open to the public, is scheduled for Saturday, February 6 at 10:30am. Visit: http://experiencesymphoria.org/concert/meet-the-orchestra/