

OUR 20TH YEAR!



# HABITAT HAPPENINGS



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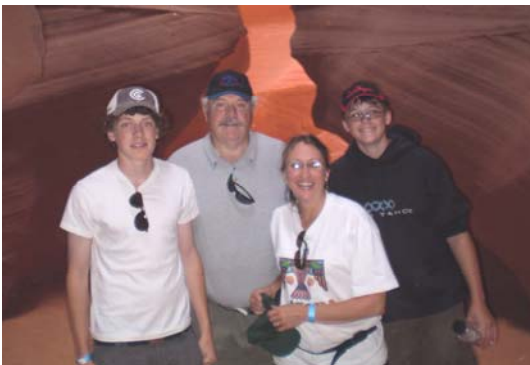
## HFHOC Hosts Inaugural Richard Couch Memorial Golf Tournament

By Jeanne Miller, President

Most of us feel satisfaction from volunteering, but some people have a really good time at it! I'm speaking of the 60 golfers who gathered on September 27 to play at HFHOC's first Richard Couch Memorial Golf Tournament. The weather wasn't lovely but a good time was had by most. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors, nearly everyone took home a gift or a prize and everyone received a goody bag that was filled with an interesting variety of items.

Richard Couch, a SUNY Oneonta employee and avid golfer, approached us last winter with his wish to organize and promote a golf tournament for our benefit. Sadly, Rich passed away suddenly in June, just a few days before the tournament was to be held originally. Throughout the summer, our determined and hardworking tournament committee pressed on with the planning and we all owe great appreciation to them – Emily Ernsberger, Tom Norris, Loraine Tyler, Bruce Ward, and Steve Walsh. The tournament earned \$3,400 for our affiliate – an excellent result for a first-year venture. A portion of our proceeds will be donated to Rich's family.

Inside this newsletter you'll find pictures taken at the tournament and more information about the participants, donors, and sponsors. On behalf of the board of directors and all of our partner families, I want to say how pleased we are that we have another way that volunteers can contribute to the success of Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County.



Richard, shown with wife Nancy and sons



Richard, Mitchel and Martin Couch

### *A message from Nancy Couch*

*I cannot express how much the efforts of the Habitat for Humanity community have meant to me. By continuing with the golf tournament as a fundraiser for Habitat, I feel that your actions extended his life by allowing Richard's dream to run its course.*

*I realize and gratefully acknowledge the incredible undertaking that Emily Ernsberger and Tom Norris took on, along with the others who served on the committee. I know that organizing a golf tournament was a completely new task for them and very time consuming to undertake. Especially since, as I understand it, no one who worked on the committee was a golfer.*

*I deeply appreciate that Habitat chose to continue what Richard started. My sincere hope is that the tournament created a substantial financial gain for Habitat. I know that was Richard's desire.*

**THE RICHARD COUCH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT THANKS OUR SPONSORS:**

Amish Barn Company  
 AO Fox Memorial Hospital  
 APC/Hegeman: EAP and Counseling Services  
 Athens Famous Gyro  
 Baseball Hall of Fame  
 Bassett Hospital  
 Bella Michael's  
 Benson Agency  
 Bettiol Chiropractic & Alternative Therapies  
 Brian's Small Engine Service  
 Brooks' House of BBQ  
 Casey's Barber Shop  
 Cindy Gibson Hairstyles  
 Colonial Plumbing  
 Cottage Day Spa  
 Daddy Al's General Store  
 Dundee Brook Contracting Services  
 Etlz Chiropractic Center  
 Elena's Sweet Indulgence  
 Empire Toyota

First Choice Cleaners  
 Gordon B. Roberts Agency  
 Hartwick College  
 Holiday Inn  
 Home Depot  
 Jeanne Miller  
 John Mitchell Real Estate  
 Johnson Control  
 Lucy Bernier, Esq.  
 Mane Street Cutters  
 Mark Sheppard, Massage Therapist  
 Mary Ann Dowdell  
 Munson's Hardware  
 NBT Bank  
 Oneonta Country Club  
 Oneonta Laser Derm  
 Oneonta Shirt Company  
 OnMark Marketing Club  
 Orpheus Theatre  
 Otsego Auto Crushers  
 Otsego Automotive  
 Peachin and Associates, LLP

Pickett Building Materials  
 Pie in the Sky  
 Powell Company  
 Price Chopper  
 Prolifiq Sign Studio  
 Ridgeway Associates  
 River Valley New Holland  
 Ruffino's Pizzeria  
 Serbay Plumbing  
 ServiceMaster/Burch Family Enterprises  
 Sidney Federal Credit Union  
 Smith Cooperstown, Inc.  
 SUNY Oneonta Marketing Club  
 SUNY Oneonta  
 Tavarone Chiropractic  
 The Hair Designers, Arden Fleischer  
 Tractor Supply Company  
 Uniform Stitches  
 Vic's Service Station  
 Wilber National Bank



*Taking a shot at the \$15K Hole-in-One.*  
 Photo by Tom Hegeman



*Happy diners after the tournament.*  
 Photo by Amy Weeks

**THE RICHARD COUCH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT CONGRATULATES OUR WINNERS:****Lowest Net**

1<sup>st</sup> – Ryder Team: Peter Shea, Thomas Ryder, Todd Foreman, Reginald Searles  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maniscalco Team: Steve Maniscalco, Rick Serafin, Rita Szczesh, Carol Arnold  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Wachovia Team: Paul Adamo, Frank Burden, John Brooks, Dick Pavlacka

**Lowest Gross**

1<sup>st</sup> – Burke Team: Matt Burke, Meyers, Dageri, Harder  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ritchko Team: Kevin Ritchko, Jim Balentine, Cary Brunswick, Nick Lambros  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Miller Team: Dick Miller, Bruce Carroll, Tim Carroll, Neil Foote

**Closest to the Pin:**

Kevin Ritchko

**Straightest Drive:**

Neil Foote

**Longest Drive Men's:**

Brian Jester

**Longest Drive Women's:**

Tracie Ranieri

## What's happening? The latest news from HFHOC

The Family Motor Coach Association Care-a-Van arrived on August 16. In the next two weeks, they worked nine hours a day, five days a week to build two houses in Milford. On the last day of their visit our construction supervisor, Jon Edgington, made everyone laugh and cry with his original reading.

### *First Letter of Jon to the Care-a-Vanners*



*You are a special people. Unlike those Corinthians who have wealth and look only to their own comfort, you beat yourselves for the benefit of others. At a time in life when some of this may be physically painful, you endure the work to help our supervisor, for sharing God's*



Care-a-Van crew at the Milford site with future homeowner Lisa Foster.

*tyrannical the sake of love to others.*

*I thank God for putting that desire in you. Again, thank you. You have put us miles ahead of where we would be otherwise, and you have done careful and neat work. I only wish I could have gotten to know you better. You folks are an inspiration.*



Author Jon Edgington, standing at left, with the Care-a-Vanners at our farewell ice-cream social. Future homeowner Beth Scully and her two children are seated in the first row, with CAV co-leader Deann Harrington.

**What's happening? The latest news from HFHOC**

*More Golf Tournament Photos - maybe you're in one!*



**At the sign-in table, tournament co-chair Emily Ernsberger (standing, back) supervises check-in workers.**



**Chris Potter and Kirsten Wolfe register a contestant.**



**Brittany Schmitz and David Heaphy of the SUNY Oneonta HFH campus chapter chat with tournament co-chair Tom Norris.**



**Golf committee members Bruce Ward and Mary Ann Dowdell prior to the dinner.**



***Thanks again for your support - see you next year!***

## Ain't too Proud to Beg

Really, we ain't. This is a list of stuff that we sure wish we had. If you are of a mind to donate any of these things, we'd be proud to take it. And remember, your donations are tax-deductible and we can supply you with a receipt. *Call our office at 432-7874 and Trish will gladly talk with you about how you can help.*



### Cents-i-ble giving:

We're always grateful to receive ca\$h, in any amount. You should find a remittance envelope in this issue. Thanks so much for your continued generosity!



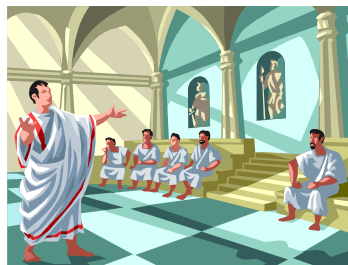
**Food and Shelter:** We urgently need refreshments for our laborers. **Lunches, morning snacks, and cases of bottled water, juice, iced tea, lemonade, and sports beverages would be terrific.**



A gift of **LAND** – we need building lots all around Otsego County. Donations are great, but if you have some land you'd like to sell, we may buy it if the location and price are right.



We need people to volunteer behind the scenes on our family, fundraising, public relations, and volunteer committees. And people for our Board of Directors. For a relatively small donation of your time, you will receive a world of fun and friendship in return.



We would like a person who has the experience and contacts to promote us to local and county governments.



**And if you have specific building skills to bring to the site (and maybe a desire to teach or lead a small crew) – wow!**



## What's happening? The latest news from HFHOC



*We've been busy this summer, fundraising, promoting, and building houses! On July 1, Jason and Ruthellen Buddenhagen became the owners of a brand new home on Morse Street in Oneonta. The house is the 25<sup>th</sup> built by HFHOC since 1989. The closing was conducted by Ellen Leary Coccoma, Esq., of Hinman, Howard & Kattell.*



*On July 26, longtime supporters Emery and Nancy Herman once again allowed Hall of Fame Day visitors to park on their lawn, in exchange for a contribution to HFHOC. This year, it was a family affair, with children and grandchildren participating. Shown above is grandson Miles Herman, age 13, visiting from his summer home in Ithaca.*



*Nancy said: "We had about 18 cars parking for the induction ceremonies and contributions to Habitat came rolling in! We raised over \$200. Here is Emery's daughter Mary Wilusz and her 9 year old daughter Abbey, visiting from Portland, OR."*



*On July 25, HFHOC staffed a booth at the inaugural Milford Days carnival, which looks to become an annual event. Sue Melchior and Carol Hanlon, of our Family Selection Committee, provided information and sold baked goods.*



*On August 1, the hardworking building crew in Milford broke for lunch, prepared and delivered by HFHOC President Jeanne Miller. Shown in front is Melody Stiles. She and her husband Matt, show left in blue, are our newest partner family. Also shown, L-R are volunteers Bill O'Dea, Joe Carnicelli, and Jim Swofford, and construction supervisor Jon Edgington. Photos by Jeanne Miller*



*Joe Carnicelli and Emery Herman demonstrate the importance of protective, yet fashionable headgear on hot, sunny days!*



## On the Level

By Marie Hegeman, Editor

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A few months ago, I got a surprising email from Ed. We met in first grade, went through 12 years of school together, and once out of high school never saw each other again. Not even reunions, since my class doesn't have them. But what do you know, a little browsing through Facebook and almost 40 years later, we're friends again.

Ed and his wife live in Florida now. They were coming up to our hometown of Schenectady for his dad's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, so in August we met with our spouses for dinner. The evening was a lot of fun: some reminiscing, but mostly catching up with what we've been doing with our lives. The four of us hit it off beautifully; we hated to leave, and I was astonished by how easily the years in between melted away.

Before these social-networking sites, I would never have considered trying to find old friends just to say hi. Life goes on, and it would have seemed such an intrusion into someone's life. Even now, I'm not especially interested in finding friends I've lost touch with through my adult years. But the growing-up years...the first-grade-through-high-school friends, it's like a treasure hunt. I'm finding lots of old friends, and we're picking up where we left off.

And what's the first thing we talk about? Where we lived. The neighborhood. None of us lives there anymore, but every single one of us, when we get the chance, goes back with spouses and kids to show them how we started out. *You were on Webster-Pleasant-Crane Street, right? Did you see the church is a Hindu temple now? Remember the Orchard Street-Fifth Avenue-Tenth Avenue playgrounds? Steve's-Rose's-Hank's-Fitzner's corner stores?*

And we laugh, write and call back and forth, saying, "Oh wow, does that ever take me back." Because we might have forgotten some of the details, but a reminder brings us right back. Forty years later and then some, but the old neighborhood is still our home.

All of this is relevant to what we do here at Habitat. Another example of the importance of home, certainly. But also, the importance of how people communicate in this changing world. Facebook lets us find old friends, for sure. But now, it will also let us keep up with each other in our shared enthusiasm for Habitat.

In October we launched our Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County Facebook page. We'll leave notes about what we're doing, and we hope you'll leave notes too. Encouragement is always welcome, of course. But we also want you to be honest when you think we could do something better, and we hope you'll use the page to get acquainted with each other. If you're reading this, you're part of our community, whether you live in Otsego County's "neighborhood" or not.



**All you have to do is look up *Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County*, and you can keep up with us every day!**

Want proof? Guess who became our first Facebook fan, after we launched the page? My wonderful long-lost friend, Deb Bird. We met in first grade, were friends and classmates until the end of eighth grade, and then she moved away. Thanks to Classmates we found each other a few weeks ago, and have been e-ing and phoning ever since. So now she's HFHOC's fan, as well as my friend, *again* – and what a wonderful gift to have back in my life.

I hope you'll look us up, become our fan, and find some new and old friends too. We'll always be happy to hear from you, and when you're with us, you'll always know you're home.



## Awl About Us

**Habitat for Humanity International** was founded on Christian principles as a housing partnership that welcomes everyone, regardless of religion, to work toward our goal of a world without poverty housing. The Otsego County affiliate was founded in 1989. Since then, we have built 25 houses in Otsego County, and contributed to HFHI so that everyone in the world can someday own a simple, decent, affordable home.

We build on Thursdays and Saturdays, and everyone is welcome to help. Don't worry if you don't have skills; bring a willingness to learn and we'll teach you. **Our construction supervisor is Jon Edgington.**

OR, you can volunteer with one of the many committees that work behind the scenes.

Our Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Elm Park UM Church, Chestnut Street in Oneonta, at 7pm. Stop by and learn more about what we're doing! Our officers and directors are:

President: Jeanne Miller  
 Vice-President: Karen Joest  
 Secretary: Kirsten Wolfe  
 Treasurer: Peggy Fowler  
 Assistant Treasurer: Emery Herman

Board members: Barbara Dauria, Emily Ernsberger, Janie Forrest-Glotzer, Marie Hegeman, Bill O'Dea, Norm Tiffany, Alton Van Cleef, Bruce Ward, and Cecilia Zapata.

**Our office manager is Trish Dukes.**

HABITAT HAPPENINGS is the official newsletter of Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County. It is published in March, July, and November. It is edited by Marie Hegeman, with production assistance from Barbara Dauria at TouchstoneGraphics.com. Thanks to their combined generosity, this newsletter is produced at minimal cost.



May you always have enough.

*In This Issue...*



*A visit from Care-A-Van! And many thanks to Susquehanna Trail Campground, for their years of hospitality and generosity to our visitors.*