



# Habitat happenings

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(707) 422-1948 / [www.solanonapahabitat.org](http://www.solanonapahabitat.org)

## WINTER 2012



*Jean Hamilton & her grandchildren*

### Donations and Volunteers Needed for Fairfield Building Project

In December 2010 Solano Napa Habitat qualified Jean Hamilton as a future Habitat homeowner. Jean, a Fairfield resident since 1958, 30-year educator, veteran, widow and sole provider for three beautiful grandchildren, Melanie (14), Bobby (13), and Courtney (11) needs a home.

Jean and her grandchildren currently reside in a tiny but tidy two-bedroom apartment in downtown Fairfield as they await construction to begin on their new Habitat house. Within their cramped quarters, the love and bond shared between Jean and the children is strong. Family photos, daily schedule reminders and verses of scripture posted on just about every wall are a testament to Jean's courageous efforts to provide much needed stability for three kids as they navigate their years of adolescence.

As a graduate from Armijo High School in 1968, Jean followed in the footsteps of her Air Force father and served in the Army overseas. She has worked as an educator for over 30 years and is drawn to working with children with special needs. She enjoys the chal-

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### New Beginnings Napa County - Napa Home Rehabilitation and Repair

In 2002, Solano Habitat for Humanity became Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity. A few years later, the Affiliate worked with a local church in the city of Napa to rehab the home of a local parishioner. While we've always wanted to expand our home building and renovations in the county, the lack of financial resources have made that difficult. All that is about to change.

With the infusion of a Bank of America grant noted in this newsletter, along with a \$15,000 Gasser Foundation grant, we now have funding to help low income residents. Beginning with projects that assist the elderly and disabled who live in their homes, our efforts will focus on renovations that address building code violations, and eliminate trip hazards and potential falls with improvements such as the installation of grab bars in showers and entry ramps.

We hope to expand beyond this initial effort by partnering with the cities, the County and other non-profit groups such as Calistoga Affordable Housing, to build and/or improve the homes for other low income residents. Ultimately, we'd like to acquire property so we can do traditional builds which is the Habitat model. Volunteers and contributions are always welcome. Signups and donations can be made via our website: [www.solanonapahabitat.org](http://www.solanonapahabitat.org). 🏠

*Mission Statement: We bring people together to build decent, affordable homes and empower families through home ownership.*

enges and celebrating the milestones of children who other institutions may have given up on. In a time when most are preparing for retirement years, Jean is going stronger than ever.

Between her part time job as a substitute teacher, serving as a regular volunteer for SNHfH and juggling after school programs, Boy Scouts and youth group activities Jean has little time to spare. Her inner strength, which she attributes to her unyielding faith, gives her the courage and energy to face the day-to-day challenges of providing a grounded and loving home-life for her grandkids. A long time member

of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church in Fairfield, Jean also attends two other local churches in order for the kids to have regular visits with their parents.

Jean is a prolific writer and has published two books. She is a gifted poet with a flair for capturing the moment at hand. Her grandchildren, with great pride, love to show off "grandma's" talent and are thrilled to point out each of their names in her 2000 published children's book, *Look, Look...an Alphabet Book*. Despite her hectic schedule, Jean still finds time to develop new children's stories and jot down lines of poetic verse in rare but precious moments of peace and solitude.

Jean's deep commitment to her family and talent for bringing such love and comfort to so many of those close to her is inspirational. Providing Jean and her grandkids a home in 2012 is a top priority for SNHfH.

Your donation to support our efforts helps keep Jean and her family

together and rooted in their community.

For more information about how you can help Jean and her grandchildren please call (707) 422-1948. 

### Your Support Makes a Difference

707-422-1948  
[www.solanonapahabitat.org](http://www.solanonapahabitat.org)

## Bank of America Grant

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc. has awarded Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity a \$65,000 grant for low-income housing projects in Napa. The Foundation is dedicated to providing support to organizations like Habitat, which improve the quality of life in communities served by Bank of America. This community reinvestment program is helping us launch our project to rehabilitate homes for the disabled and elderly to eliminate trip hazards and address building code issues. SNHfH wishes to thank the generosity of Bank of America for supporting our efforts to

provide safe, affordable housing for low income families. 



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## A Message From Our President Roddy Feldman

As we begin the new year, the Board of Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity is hard at work on a number of projects. As noted in this newsletter, we are engaged in partnerships with Bank of America and The Gasser Foundation on home repair projects for seniors and the disabled in Napa County. We have received a warm welcome and look forward to more home building projects in that part of our service area. In addition, we are actively fundraising so we can build two new homes at Habitat Corner in Fair-

field so Jean Hamilton and her family can finally have a place of their own. Other families are waiting in the wings for a new home, too. We are planning to move our offices later this year to space that is centrally located in Solano County on Fulton Drive and currently are renovating the space. We couldn't do this important work without the help of dedicated staff and volunteers. Please join us in 2012 as a volunteer, donor and/or community supporter! Visit our website at [www.solanonapahabitat.org](http://www.solanonapahabitat.org) to find out how. 

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