



New York State

news bulletin

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Issue 5

Advocacy In Albany

March 11-17

You Can Help!

HFH Campus Chapters from NYS will be framing two homes for victims of the June 2006 flood during this week long event.

We are asking the NYS affiliates to assist this effort where they are able.

If you have a vendor which supports your affiliate with building material donations, please ask them if they could **add two more for the flood victims**.

Donations have already been made for the framing lumber and kitchen cabinets. Please contact HFH-NYS if the friends of your affiliate can help or for additional information.

We rallied for Katrina victims, now let's rally for NY.

We Don't Pay Retail!

As a NYS non-profit, Habitat affiliates are entitled to participate in *all* purchasing contracts negotiated by the NYS Office of General Services (OGS). This can represent significant savings to your affiliate. Although you may not be in the market for a truck this month, **DO NOT** purchase any vehicle before you check the prices NYS has negotiated for itself (and your affiliate).

But this benefit doesn't just apply to major purchases. Two of the vendors NYS contracts with are Staples and Home Depot. These contracts represent discounts different from any purchasing arrangement you might currently have with these vendors. (cont. p. 2)

A representative from OGS will be presenting this program at our Spring Conference.

Homeowner Tax Breaks

You all know about the **Star Exemption** available to NYS homeowners against their school taxes. Your affiliate should already be supplying the forms for your new homeowners to apply for this exemption.

Did you know that there is a *real estate tax* exemption available to NYS wartime **Veterans**? Information on veteran eligibility can be found at:

<http://www.veterans.state.ny.us/benefits.htm>. Additional reductions are made for a "service related" disability.

Refer any Veteran homeowners to the local tax assessor for assistance obtaining this exemption.

Spring Conference

Our State-wide Spring conference is scheduled for March 10th in Albany.

Mark your calendars and plan to spend the day learning and sharing with other NYS Habitat affiliates.

Conference offerings and registration materials will be available in early February.

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We Don't Pay Retail *cont.*

The Staples contract with NYS provides for discounted pricing on a large portion of their merchandise. This program is **internet** based. Merchandise is usually delivered the next day. There is no shipping charge for orders over \$30.

Staples has also graciously dedicated 1% of all purchases made through this program to be donated to HFH-NYS.

Home Depot provides the contract for *maintenance supplies* to NYS. Lumber and drywall are not covered, but bathroom fixtures, cabinets, plumbing supplies are. A catalog is available with items and pricing for this contract.

The Home Depot contract provides for free delivery on orders over \$50. Your purchase of non-contract items (e.g. lumber, drywall) will be delivered for free with contract items.

For more information on these purchasing opportunities, contact HFH-NYS or attend the March Conference to speak with the OGS representative and pick up your application forms.

Notes, Updates, & Reminders

The HFH-NYS board is holding their *annual meeting* March 9. One of their tasks will be to elect new board members. If you know of someone who would be an asset to our board, please submit their name and contact information before February 5 to info@HabitatNYS.org.

Our joint application to the Federal Home Loan Bank in April *has been deferred*. Changes in FHLB policies have presented some new opportunities which HFH-NYS will be discussing with FHLB in the near future. Plans for how we can best participate in their funding will be made after that meeting.

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Flower City HFH

Les Scheinfeld, Treasurer

Suffolk County HFH

David Woodruff, Secretary

Thousand Island HFH

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