



New York State

news bulletin

February 2009

Spring Conference April 25, 2009

Our Spring Conference will be held at Davis College in Johnson City on Saturday, April 25.

Some of the sessions include:

- Construction Safety
- HFHI's Brush with Kindness program
- Addressing Mortgage Delinquencies
- Online Volunteer Scheduling
- Participating in HFH-NYS Grant Programs
- and much, much more.

Mark your calendars. Program and registration materials will be available in March.

Please note that the Davis College facilities are not handicap accessible. We apologize to those of our community which this will exclude. We are actively seeking an alternate venue for our next conference.

CALLING ALL POSTCARDS!!!

At our Fall Conference we distributed postcards calling on Governor Patterson to:

- Baseline the 2008-2009 investment in housing at \$400 million
- Establish a true affordable housing trust fund
- Commit the housing trust fund to the lowest income New Yorkers

We need you to return these postcards IMMEDIATELY. A press conference has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 where we will be presenting these postcards to Governor Patterson or someone from his staff.

Be sure that your voice is included by returning your postcards today.

Postcards must be received by Thursday, March 6 in order to be included.

Seeking Family Partner Stories

For over a year now, Habitat for Humanity NYC has been fighting for better policies to protect low-income consumers from predatory "fringe" banking practices. These practices typically target and impact low-income communities of color, and can have a disastrous affect on a family's financial well-being. Such practices include refund anticipation loans (RAL's) and the rent-to-own industry (Rent A Center and Aaron's Rents).

If you happen to know of any family partners that have had a negative experience with either of these practices and are willing to share their story, please have them contact Paige Bellenbaum at Habitat- NYC: 212-991-4000 x312, or pbellenbaum@habitatnyc.org.

It is still not too late to participate in Advocacy in Albany—our annual training and action event. If you are interested, please contact HFH-NYS immediately. Affiliate scholarships are available. Let's all make a difference.

Making affordable housing a matter of conscience and action...



Is Your Affiliate Ready for VISTA?

AmeriCorp*VISTA is a program of the Federal Government which provides a full time volunteer to your affiliate for one year. These volunteers are assigned to develop a new program for your affiliate or to significantly enhance an existing program.

Examples of successful proposals include the development of:

- Volunteer Recruitment Program
- ReStore Marketing Plan
- Grant Applications
- Campus Chapter Partnership

For more information on the VISTA program, contact Mary Vivona at mvivona@habitatnys.org or 607.748.4138.

Could Your Affiliate Use a Summer VISTA?

As a result of the Economic Stimulus Package, there may be 8 week VISTA positions available for this summer. If your affiliate is interested having summer VISTAs, please contact us so we can include your interest in our proposal.

NSP Update

HFH-NYS submitted an application for Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to be used to rehabilitate 50 foreclosed and abandoned homes. Ten affiliates participated in the application process.

Watch for an announcement about the award. It is anticipated that affiliates will be able to apply to HFH-NYS for use of the funds on a project by project basis. Priority will be given to affiliates who were included in the application however HFH-NYS expects to be able to offer funds to additional interested affiliates.

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