



Save the Date!

Energy Efficiency Symposium

January 22, 2010
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Habitat on the Hill

February 24-26, 2010
Washington, D.C.

[*Registration is now open](#)

Take the Habitat message to Capitol Hill, which will help you build capacity back home.

HFH-NYS Spring Conference

March 6, 2010
Broome Community College

Advocacy in Albany

March 13-17, 2010

Summer VISTA Positions

If your affiliate is interested in having a summer AmeriCorps VISTA member to support your construction or work on a project, contact HFH-NYS by January 15th 2010.

Program Extended!

Assets for Independence matches \$4 for each \$1 a family saves toward their closing costs. This can assist in fully funding escrow accounts and larger down payments.

Call Mary Vivona to enroll your partner families in this important program.

Congress Extends Homebuyer's Tax Credit

Congress has voted to extend and expand the \$8000 homebuyer's tax credit created last year. This credit continues to provide tax relief to Habitat partner families around the country.

The bill extends the \$8,000 credit for first-time homebuyers who enter sales contracts by April 30, 2010, and close within 60 days. Individuals may claim the credit for purchases in 2010 on their 2009 tax returns. The measure also adds a \$6,500 credit for current homeowners who have lived in their homes for five consecutive years.

Please Contact HFH-NYS with any questions.

Federal Housing Trust Fund Update

The Federal Housing Trust fund allocation formula has been released and NYS is positioned to receive \$111,600,000. 10% of that is set aside for affordable homeownership for Extremely and Very Low Income households (<50% AMI). This means that Habitat across the state could have access to these funds in the amount of \$11,600,000 because we are the major builder serving families in this income category.

HFH-NYS Will continue to monitor the progress of these HTF dollars as they move to the states and keep you informed about ways in which these funds can assist in your local programs.

Thank you to each of you who contacted your federal representatives and assisted in assuring that the national HTF contained a provision for home ownership. Your voice made a difference.

Ask Governor Patterson to Support a Housing Trust Fund for NYS

NYS needs a housing trust fund as well. This fund will allow federal HTF dollars to be used more flexibly to meet a broader range of housing needs.

Join our Hammer & Pen campaign! These cards will be delivered to Gov. Patterson's office after our March press conference.

Call HFH-NYS to request postcards for your affiliate. Engage your volunteers on the worksite. Talk with your community. Make a difference in New York's affordable housing policy!

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**AHC 2010
Grant Applications
Available Now**

Applications for the next round of Affordable Housing Corporation funding are now available on www.habitatnys.org and are due by the end of January. Contact Mary Vivona, Director of Grant Programs at HFH-NYS.

**Funding Opportunity with
St. Pauly's Textile**

St. Pauly Textile is a Western New York company dedicated to helping local non-profit organizations with their fundraising. They do so by setting up a clothing shed at your affiliate for the collection of usable clothing, and then compensate your affiliate for the clothing collected.

Flower City Habitat (Rochester) has made over \$57,000 over the course of the past five years working with St. Pauly. They now host five sheds with their faith partners. Genesee County Habitat and SE Steuben County Habitat currently host clothing drop off sheds as well. Steuben's shed is located at their ReStore

St. Pauly is a local family owned, Western New York Based Company and is a member of the Better Business Bureau. St. Pauly collects useable clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, blankets and drapes.

Visit <http://www.St-Pauly.com> to learn more about obtaining a shed.

**Energy Efficiency and
Sustainability Symposium**

During HFH-NYS Fall Conference attending affiliates began a dialogue about energy efficiency and sustainable construction. We received good feedback and a high level of interest among affiliates. In response to affiliate requests HFH-NYS will be presenting an energy efficiency and sustainability symposium in Endicott, NY on January 22, 2010. This symposium will provide technical assistance on specific topics that pertain to building energy efficient and sustainable homes.

The topics to be discussed will range from "the house as a system" to "proper training of volunteers and partner families". These topics will be presented by local experts, company representatives, and people from within the Habitat for Humanity community. We look forward to seeing you at the symposium and if you have any questions please feel free to contact us.



SE Steuben County HFH clothing shed