

## HABITAT WELCOMES THE BURNS FAMILY TO SHEPHERD'S GROVE

Long ago, in 2001, Aaron and Trisha met for the first time in high school. Now, 10 years later, they are married, the parents of three children, and in the process of building their own home at Shepherd's Grove in Tumwater.



*The Burns Family*

Today, the Burns family lives in a small, two bedroom apartment and they're bursting at the seams. As the kids get older, it's important that the boys have a room separate from their sister. So, mom and dad are working hard on their dream of homeownership. They were the last family chosen to build a Habitat home at Shepherd's Grove and they have attacked their sweat equity hours from the "get go!" They've put in extra hours early in

the process so as not to get caught short-handed in the future. They are also thrilled to have the kids from the Newmarket/CYS Youthbuild working on their home too!

When asked to describe themselves as a couple Aaron immediately claimed, "she's the boss", whereupon Trisha smiled and nodded in agreement. Trisha is currently working as an assistant manager for the apartment complex where they live. Aaron is a student and will soon be receiving his Bachelor's degree from SPSCC in network administration and desktop support. He's looking forward to working after graduation, hopefully with a state agency.

Since the beginning of their relationship, Trisha and Aaron have been movie buffs, going to movies of all kinds on a regular basis. Often on weekends, they'll lay out a blanket on the floor of their living room and they and the kids will eat popcorn while watching a favorite movie.

The kids are quite individual in their interests, with Aiden, age 5, being a sports fan and computer "techie" like his dad, Makayla, age 3, taking part in dancing and little Emry, age 1, who right now just loves to watch and learn from his big brother and sister.

Your donations have helped build their house and we are happy to welcome them to our Habitat family!

### Visit the ReStore!

Help reduce waste in the landfills & support the ReStore by utilizing our recycled building materials.

Open Monday through Sunday  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Join our Carpenter's Club and be a tool for change.

Sign up to give monthly donations to help provide stable & reliable funding towards eliminating substandard housing in Thurston County. By contributing \$10 a month, you can ensure that Habitat will continue to serve families in need of decent shelter. To become a member please contact Shannon Michlitsch, Development Manager or visit [spshabitat.org/Donate](http://spshabitat.org/Donate).

## 5th ANNUAL BLUEPRINTS & BOWTIES A SUCCESS!

With close to 200 guests in attendance on Friday, September 30, our annual Blueprints & Bowties fundraising dinner and auction raised enough money to build a Habitat House in Thurston County! A big "shout out" to Jerry Farmer – an amazing auctioneer – who donated his skills and humor ensuring everyone in attendance had an entertaining and wonderful evening.

We are grateful to presenting sponsor Anchor Bank and all our volunteers and sponsors who made this event a success.

It is because of our community's amazing support that all auction proceeds will go directly to support our mission of building decent, affordable homes in partnership



*Auction guests bidding on live items*

with low-income families in need. We are all inspired by your generosity, hard work and dedication that made it possible for us to build another Habitat home for a family in need. Thank you.

## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: MEET MARY JO

Mary Jo Cebell has been a committed volunteer with Habitat for 5 years – and in that time has become an expert on stairs! But it's the story of how she came to be a Habitat volunteer that truly shows what a generous person Mary Jo is.

For her 40th birthday, Mary Jo finally got to do what she had been wanting to do for years: volunteer at a Habitat build site. As a busy mother of two boys and a para-educator in the Olympia School District, she was never able to carve out much time for herself. But in 2006 she worked on her first Habitat home build and loved the experience! Several years later, she was in a position to become involved on a regular basis, and SPS Habitat has been fortu-



*Special hugs for Mary Jo!*

nate to see her most Saturdays. Habitat's Construction Manager Len says Mary Jo has become the go-to person for stairs. "She took an interest, learned how to do it, and

now she's better than anyone else on site. She is a terrific volunteer."

In all her years of volunteering Mary Jo has been both challenged and rewarded. She has learned a lot and has met many people. She talks about the faithfulness of so many of the volunteers and the great lunches provided by the groups who are on-site on Wednesdays and Saturdays. But mostly she is thrilled to be working on something that is so important to her own heart: stability for families and consistency of life for kids.

Thank you Mary Jo for all the lives you've changed over the years!



## The Gingerbread Cottages are Coming!

You are invited to enter the 2011 Gingerbread Holiday Cottages Competition sponsored by Timberland Bank. Join us for a great kickoff to the holidays!

**When?** Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 26-27, 12-5p.m.

**Where?** The Olympia Ballroom above the Urban Onion in downtown Olympia.

Please visit [spshabitat.org](http://spshabitat.org) for details.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

In the next few weeks we will be closing on a 4.86 acre parcel in Lacey off College on 37th Avenue. We plan on building thirty-two single household units; houses, cottages and bungalows. We think the bungalows will be great for seniors, and we're crafting our program requirements to help meet the housing needs for this vital part of our community. These new bungalows are being designed this semester by students from SPSCC Advanced CAD Class.

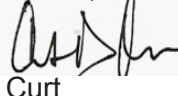


*Curt sharing the Habitat story at our 2011 Habitat auction*

Our ReStore is getting it done as well. By the time you read this, we will have surpassed a million dollars in gross sales over the past two years. It's this kind of successful business operation that lets us put your money into a house and not my salary. If that's got you feeling good, here's the bonus: during that time we've also diverted 970 tons from the landfill. Yep, you heard it here first.

I want to take this opportunity to also say goodbye to a valuable staff member. For the last four years, Partnership Coordinator Susan Newman has single-handedly managed the Partnership process, whereby phone calls become interviews, and interviews become people, and people become partners, and houses are built and the mission is thus served. In October, Ms. Newman retired and, as usual, I had no say in the matter. But I do say this: I will miss Susan's sophisticated thinking in my mind, her compassion in my heart and her friendship whenever I walk by her office.

Peace,



Curt