

Art show benefits HFHGW



Southbury artist Richard Martin Miller-Murphy's third annual Spring Show of oil paintings and limited

edition giclee prints will run from May 20 through June 30 at the artist's studio, The Gallery at Riverbrook, 151 West Gilbert Road, in Southbury.

All proceeds from the show will benefit the first building project for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Waterbury.

The 40-plus original works include landscapes, city views, nudes, and impressionist interpretations. Selected works are also available in a limited edition of fine art giclee prints.

His style is influenced by landscape and impressionist masters Camille Pissarro and Paul Cezanne along with contemporary artists Philippe Vassuer, Elizabeth Estivalet, Peter Cameron, and Robert Cardinal.

Visit www.riverbrook.com for more information, directions to the gallery, gallery hours, and to view Mr. Martin's work.



**Habitat
for Humanity**[®]
of GREATER WATERBURY,
Inc.

Special Issue

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Be a part of the miracle.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF GREATER WATERBURY, INC., (HFHGW) is as much about faith in God and faith in each other as it is about building homes. Make a commitment to volunteer your time and talents to Habitat, and you'll soon discover that it isn't possible to complete a big task like building a home without that faith. Make a commitment to Habitat, and you'll be a part of that miracle.

We need you. We can't succeed without you and your commitment to eradicating homelessness and substandard housing in the Greater Waterbury Area.

So far this year, we have raised \$35,000, so we're half way to having enough funds for the first build. We have cleared the building site, begun the permit process with the City of Waterbury, and enlisted the services of several professionals to get the process underway. Now we need volunteers to help with the hard work of building a house with the family who will buy it and call it home.

If you're ready to be a part of this miracle, then join us.

*--Bud Behlman
President, Board of Directors*

Thank You...

...for supporting HFHGW's gala wine tasting and art auction fund-raiser on April 8 at the Chase School in Waterbury.

HFHGW raised about \$16,500 toward its first build in Waterbury.

We are especially grateful to our Platinum sponsors for helping to make the event possible: The Greater Waterbury Board of REALTORS, Inc., Coldwell Banker Realty 2000, People's Bank, and to William Pitt Sotheby's International Real Estate.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Waterbury · 501(c)(3) Not for Profit Corporation

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Exploding Persistent Myths about Habitat for Humanity

Myth: Habitat for Humanity gives houses away to poor people.

Fact: Habitat for Humanity International offers a homeownership opportunity to families unable to obtain conventional house financing—generally, those whose income is 30 to 50 percent of the area’s median income. In most cases, prospective Habitat homeowner families make a \$500 down payment and contribute 300 to 500 hours of “sweat equity” on the construction of their home or someone else’s home. Because Habitat houses are built using donations of land, material and labor, mortgage payments are kept affordable.

Myth: Habitat houses reduce property values in a neighborhood.

Fact: Low-cost housing studies in the United States and Canada show affordable housing has no adverse effect on other neighborhood property values. In fact, Habitat houses have increased property values and local government tax income.

Myth: Only African Americans get Habitat for Humanity homes.

Fact: Habitat builds houses in partnership with those in need—regardless of race, religion or any other difference—who meet three criteria: need; ability to repay the no-interest, no-profit mortgage; and a willingness to partner with Habitat. According to the latest available statistics (through 1997), 33 percent of Habitat homeowners are Anglo; 67 percent are people of color.

Myth: Habitat for Humanity International dictates policy and practices for every local Habitat organization.

Fact: Habitat operates through locally governed affiliates with a strong emphasis on grassroots organizations and local autonomy. Habitat affiliates are independent, nonprofit organizations that operate within specific service areas in a covenant relationship with Habitat for Humanity International.

Myth: Habitat homeowners are on welfare.

Fact: While some Habitat homeowners receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), many more are working people. Typically their annual income is less than half the local median income in their community.

Myth: You have to be Christian to become a Habitat homeowner.

Fact: Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization. However, homeowners are chosen without regard to race, religion or ethnic group, in keeping with U.S. law and with Habitat’s abiding belief that God’s love extends to everyone. Habitat also welcomes volunteers from all faiths, or no faith, who actively embrace Habitat’s goal of eliminating poverty housing from the world.

Myth: Habitat for Humanity is an arm of the government.

Fact: Habitat is an ecumenical Christian housing organization. It is neither



an arm of the government nor an arm of any church or denomination. It does not accept government funds for the construction of new houses or for the renovation or repair of existing houses. Habitat does accept government assistance for the acquisition of land or houses in need of rehabilitation. Habitat also accepts government help for streets, utilities and administrative expenses, as long as the funds carry no obligations that would limit Habitat’s ability to proclaim its Christian witness.

Myth: Habitat for Humanity was founded by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Fact: Habitat was started in 1976 in Americus, Ga., by Millard Fuller along with his wife Linda. President Carter and his wife Rosalynn (whose home is eight miles from Americus, in Plains, Ga.), have been longtime Habitat supporters and volunteers who help bring national attention to the organization’s house-building work. Each year, they lead the Jimmy Carter Work Project to help build houses and raise awareness of the need for affordable housing.

(Source: Habitat PartnerNet)



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