Varied events raise funds for Holy Cross Habitat for Humanity

By Maureen Kavanaugh

Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built over 100,000 houses in more than 60 countries, including some 30,000 houses in the United States. Holy Cross has contributed greatly to the efforts of this non-profit, non-denominational Christian housing organization. This year, HC Habitat for Humanity, the official chapter of the College, sent 226 students away on Spring Break to sites throughout the East, the most students from any college across the US and a record for Holy Cross.

Endless fundraising events make the significant involvement of HC students possible. In the past, HC Habitat has done drives, and most recently, last Tuesday, March 27, faculty and staff contended with students on the basketball court for bragging rights in the Habitat Benefit Basketball Game. Dean Peterson, one of the participants in the basketball game, believes that the students had “a couple of ‘ringers’ on their team along with a little luck or maybe ‘divine intervention,’” as their uniform shirts stated, “God is on our side.” Students defeated the faculty/staff team 63-33, but the real victory lies in the $200 that was raised by the event. Dean Peterson thinks that “all of Holy Cross should be extremely proud of the students involved in organizing Habitat and of the many students that have chosen to contribute to this important national effort.”

As a testament to this noteworthy participation, Holy Cross Habitat chair, Katie Boland, received news this week of a $15,000 grant from Habitat for Humanity International Headquarters in America, Georgia, that will be used to sponsor a house on Grove Street right here in Worcester. Boland says that “we have been working all year on this” and HC Habitat will begin work on the house October 5 of this year with Habitat founder, Millard Fuller. Holy Cross students will be responsible for raising the $65,000 that is needed to build the house through fundraising and will help with family selection and construction along with the Greater Worcester Habitat for Humanity.

Participation by Holy Cross students in Habitat for Humanity extends outside of the United States as well, with Habitat International: Greater Village Trips. This June, Holy Cross is sending 12 students to Kigumo, Africa, which is two-and-half hours outside of Nairobi. In order to make this trip a reality, each student must raise $3700 on his or her own, which mainly involves writing individual letters to family, friends, and businesses. In addition, Habitat International students have sponsored various fundraising events throughout the year. Back in February, students held the “Crush” drive whereby students purchased Crush soda to send to a special someone on Valentine’s Day. In addition, on Saturday, March 24, the Holy Cross A Cappella Fest took place in the Hogan Ballroom. Three Holy Cross a cappella groups performed at the concert, “Off the Record,” “Fools on the Hill,” and “The Delilahs,” as well as one professional group, “Five O’Clock Shadow.” All proceeds from this concert went to Habitat International. The most recent fundraising event was the annual Date Auction, always a huge success, which was held on Tuesday, March 27. A large crowd gathered in Crossroads to see fellow classmates being auctioned off, at times for exceptional bids offered by some students. Two groups of students engaged in a heated bidding debate over sophomores Andrew Simons and Dave Kasouf, who were sold at a Holy Cross record of $475. With these three fundraising events, Habitat students have made approximately $5,000, which will be equally divided among the twelve students.

All of these numerous fundraising efforts from both HC Habitat for Humanity and Habitat International enable Holy Cross students to contribute to Habitat’s greater goal of eliminating poverty housing, with each house being a manifestation of Holy Cross’ mission to serve others.

Habitat for Humanity International

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HC holds first Unity Week

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