



## 2007 HFH HIGHLIGHTS HFH MBA YU!

### Leaving an Impression through Fundraising

The following Youth United affiliate ... selected for their ability to go beyond the aspect of basic fundraising... have proven through their astounding actions that fundraising is not just about raising funds but about bringing people together to make a difference in their community.

### Millstone Basin Affiliate , New Jersey

Habitat for Humanity Millstone Basin Area Youth United can rightfully call themselves one of the forefathers of Youth United, establishing the program in 2002. During the past five years this group has done an astounding job developing successful fundraisers in their community. More than sixty-five youth in the West Windsor area are working diligently to raise money to build the third Basin Area Youth United house. Young participants are encouraged to learn about the "gift of giving", while developing meaningful friendships.

Keeping true to the Youth United root, Basin Area Youth United (BAYU) uplifts the original Youth United motto, "Raise Awareness, Raise Funds, Raise the Roof," turning each component of the slogan into an actual step. BAYU leadership makes sure to teach local Youth United members that it's crucial to first share the ministry of Habitat with others, and then develop efforts to raise funds. If people understand what Habitat is trying to accomplish they are more likely to give. With five years of experience Basin Area Youth United recognizes that fundraisers can bring together people within a community, build awareness, and be fun at the same time.

### Advice from Millstone Basin Area Youth United "Raise Awareness, Raise Funds, Raise the Roof"

According to Jeanne McCarthy, Basin Area Youth United Advisor, "it's essential for our youth to understand the importance of raising awareness while fundraising on behalf of Habitat." "Raise Awareness, Raise Funds, Raise the Roof" brings to light the essential steps it takes to build a Habitat house. This process helps everyone within the community become involved with Youth United. Whether it's advocating, fundraising or a building on the house, youth and individuals within the community are able to pick where they would best contribute towards a Youth United house. For the first six months McCarthy and her group worked on educating their local community about Habitat and poverty housing. Jeanne feels, "the best fundraising ideas are youth generated," thus she encourages her youth to develop their own fundraising ideas. Once a member has developed a fundraising idea, the next step is filling out a project sheet that helps the member identify the different dynamics of their fundraiser and what leadership skills they would like to develop. Jeanne is proud to say that through this cycle of awareness, funding, and building the youth in Millstone Basin Area are empowered to help eliminate poverty housing.