



RV
Care-A-
Vanners

RV Care-A-Vanners Update January 2012

Dear Care-A-Vanners,

Happy New Year! For us it truly is a new year because we are "turning over the reins" to the new RV Desk team. It hardly seems that nearly three years have passed since we took on the responsibility of coordinating the Care-A-Vanners.

Our only condition was that we be allowed to coordinate on the road from our RV. Habitat agreed and we thank them for that, but we did also spend many months parked in Americus, giving us the opportunity to attend morning devotions and make many friends among the Global Village staff. We will miss these extended stays in Americus, but we promise to visit when we are in the area and to keep in touch through the myriad of options available through 21st century technology.

Our biggest project was the online registration program. Our sincere thanks go to Byron Douglas, Phoebe Smith and Patrick Newberry for bringing that project to completion. It has considerably streamlined the process on our end and we hope that you find helpful the increased information at your fingertips and the ability to register with only a few mouse clicks (after the first time, of course).

All paper forms have been replaced by online equivalents. This has not only eliminated postage costs, but in the case of evaluations has improved timeliness and allowed us to concentrate on content more than logistics.

The RV Desk has evolved from an office in Americus to a team of Care-A-Vanner volunteers, each handling a specific portion of the overall job. Thank you to Mary Vandeveld, Joyce Rush and Lu Tillotson for lightening our load for the past year and welcome aboard to Brenda Sawyer and Frank Peccia. We know we are leaving the RV Desk in good hands.

Our heartfelt thanks to David Minich, our mentor, advocate and ally, and the Global Village, Information Technology and Communications staff for supporting the Care-A-Vanner program. We couldn't do it without you.

Finally, thanks each and every Care-A-Vanner and affiliate reading this newsletter. Your kind words of support and encouragement have truly been appreciated. But most of all, thank you for your part in providing a hand up to our partner families – the reason we are all volunteering in the first place. We look forward to the opportunity to build with many of you whom we've had the pleasure of "meeting" by phone or email.

See you down the road!

In Partnership,



Mary (and Tony) Campbell

Team Leader Corner January 2012

Our transition at the RV CAV Desk is going well. Lu Tillotson is processing our online registrations. Joyce Rush is mentoring our new Care-A-Vanners. I am busy recruiting new affiliates as well as a host of new endeavors, including disaster response. Mary Campbell is continuing to help me with my many newfound responsibilities. Tony Campbell is going to stay on at the Desk doing our financial reports. Remember last month Mary and Tony talked about donating to the RV CAV? Eventually, we would like to have enough money in our account that we could sponsor a Care-A-Vanner house. Please prayerfully consider a donation to the RV CAV. It is simple; you can just click on <https://www.habitat.org/cd/giving/one/donate.aspx?link=406> and make your donation online.

This month, we have added several new members to our RV CAV desk team. Brenda Sawyer joins us as the team leader coordinator replacing me. Brenda has been an RV Care-A-Vanner for three years and has participated in three Global Village trips and led two Global Builder trips with the Fuller Center as well as regular Care-A-Vanner builds. She knows firsthand the value of team leaders. Her email address is habitatbrenda@hotmail.com. Please unblock this address so Brenda doesn't end up in your spam file!

Frank Peccia has agreed to write a monthly safety column for us. I am thrilled about this because I am very concerned about the safety of all our Care-A-Vanners. I strongly encourage all of you to read it faithfully.

I want to say a special thanks to our December team leaders: Ron and Jean Gratz, Warren Hopper, Mark Cotter and Randy and Pam Warner. Without these folks, our builds would not run as smoothly. It is the team leaders who really make our builds such a success, so be sure to thank your team leaders. They are doing a great job for us.

We have a special need for a team leader in Sebring, FL March 25 through April 8. We have some eager builders signed up, but they are all new to the RV Care-A-Vanner Program. So if you are in the area and can lead this build, please contact Brenda.

If you would like to lead any build, please contact Brenda. She will happily sign you up. Her email is habitatbrenda@hotmail.com, or you can contact her by phone at 207-582-5816.

In partnership,
Mary Vandeveld

Roster updates

Please make corrections by hand or bold on the latest roster and fax it to 1-229-410-7490, or scan and email it to rvinfodesk@habitat.org. For minor updates, leaders can report corrections by calling 229-410-7534 or emailing them to rvinfodesk@habitat.org.

Safety Corner

Welcome to the first Care-A-Vanner safety corner of the monthly update. Because we are not regular weekly volunteers at the sites we travel to, we don't have the benefit of knowing the jobsite safety

level of the affiliates we volunteer for in our travels. A recent article from the Habitat International loss prevention manager states the following:

Safety has been and continues to be a major focus among Habitat for Humanity affiliates nationwide. However, an emerging issue among all nonprofit organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, is how to safely utilize older volunteers (in particular, the over-60 population).

I hate to admit that I'm over 60 or that my reflexes are not what they used to be even 10 years ago. The reality is that knowing how to work safely on the job site is much more critical at our age. Here are some ways to improve your job site safety:

When volunteering:

- Make sure you are comfortable doing a task assigned or ask how you can modify the task to bring back your comfort level.
- If you are asked to complete a task involving heights (i.e. roofs, scaffolds, etc.) make sure the equipment is in good condition and suitable for the job and you are very comfortable with the height, lay of the ground, equipment, skills required to perform the task and your prior experience doing the task.
- Make sure you take regular breaks whether the group stops or not. Use two hours as a benchmark for regular breaks.

In the following months I will try to bring forward safety information that will be helpful to CAV specifically. If you have any questions or have a particular safety concern you would like addressed in this newsletter you may contact me at Diana@allensweather.com. As a fellow CAV volunteer assisting the RV CAV desk, I will try to provide you the best information we have available.

Frank Peccia,
Keizer, Oregon

Monthly Care-A-Vanner trivia: Do you know?

How many families worldwide did HFHI serve in fiscal year 2011?
(Answer at the bottom of the update)

Habitat World

Don't miss the debut of the new [Habitat World online](#). In the December/January issue, take a look back at 35 years of building houses and hope around the world and experience a multimedia-rich presentation about the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree and its annual journey with Habitat that inspired the new children's book, [The Carpenter's Gift](#). Subscribe today at www.habitat.org/hwemail to be sure you receive updates starting in January when more online content is added.

Habitat on the Hill

Want a chance to be an advocate for Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity International's advocacy and legislative conference being held Feb. 8-10, 2012 in the heart of Washington, D.C. promises networking opportunities, advocacy skills training and an effective way for affiliates and Habitat supporters to take their advocacy knowledge to Capitol Hill and back home again.

If you are interested, you may get more info and register at: www.habitat.org/habitatonthehill.

Special Fund Raising Project

Cruise aboard the Carnival Glory to Canada and New England and help benefit Habitat for Humanity International at the same time.

Join fellow Care-A-Vanners on the Glory, leaving New York on September 29th, 2012 as we visit the following ports of call:



- Boston, Massachusetts
- Portland, Maine
- Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada
- Fun day at sea
- Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- Fun day at sea
- New York, New York

We'll return on October 6, 2012 after a glorious week seeing wonderful sites at the above stops as well as the beautiful fall colors in the New England area.

For every cabin booked, Carnival will donate \$70 to the Care-A-Vanner program – what a fun way to help out Habitat for Humanity!

Fares start at \$592 per person (government taxes and fees included.) Just \$50 deposit per person will hold your cabin; second payment of \$200 per person due Thursday, April 12 with final payment due Monday, July 2nd.

For more information, contact Yvette Carr at Burns World Travel, 912-754-5573 or email her at ycarr@burnsworldtravel.com. Yvette has locked in several cabins at some fabulous rates – inside, ocean view and balcony cabins all available – contact her to book yours today!

Upcoming builds

We add new builds whenever an affiliate schedules one. We try to update the [Build List](#) on Fridays, so that you can check over the weekend to see if any new ones have been added. Builds are now sorted by date when the list comes up. You can sort by State by clicking the link at the top of the list. Go to the build list for the complete list of upcoming builds.

Donate to RV Care-A-Vanners

All donations are appreciated

The RV Care-A-Vanner program receives donations from RV clubs and associations, individual RV Care-A-Vanner volunteers, their friends and families. These funds directly support the RV Care-A-Vanner program. With your donations, we can continue organizing, coordinating and sending teams of RV volunteers to build houses for families in need and someday building an RV Care-A-Vanner sponsored house.

How to donate to the RV Care-A-Vanner program:

Donate online.

<https://www.habitat.org/cd/giving/one/donate.aspx?link=406>

Donate by check.

Make checks payable to Habitat for Humanity International.

1. Write "Project Code 1108007" on the memo line of the check.
2. Mail your check to:

RV Care-A-Vanners
Habitat for Humanity International
121 Habitat Street
Americus, GA 31709-3498

Your support for the RV Care-A-Vanner program is sincerely appreciated.

Welcome to our new Care-A-Vanners

Paul Bazzetta, Larry and Rose Buschman, Brian and Joan DuMoulin, Jim and Lidia Eberhart, Pish Hinton, Ted and Donna Leach, Mary Lloyd McDonald, Charlie and Colleen Miller, Alan Schroepfer, Larry Workman and Janice Mt. Pleasant, James and Karen Smith.

My apologies if I have included a seasoned Care-A-Vanner or if this is a duplication. Habitat for Humanity is grateful for the work that you do!

Report Care-A-Vanner hours

To help us keep track of total volunteer hours contributed, as well as partner families served, please report these stats from your drop-in or ongoing builds as well to the rvinfodesk@habitat.org.

Donate your RV, trailer, car or boat and help Habitat build homes

Looking for new ways to give? Call Cars for Home, Habitat's vehicle donation program, toll-free at 1-877-277-4344 to donate cars, trucks, boats and RVs.

Contact us

For questions, cancellations and concerns; the most efficient way to reach us is by emailing rvinfodesk@habitat.org. You can also call 1-800-HABITAT, ext. 7534, or 1-229-410-7534 (direct) for assistance.

To help us find you in the database, please include your name (and your spouse's name, if applicable) and ZIP code in all communications.

Because we coordinate from the road, please allow 48 hours for a response. If you cannot reach Mary and need more immediate assistance, please call the Habitat for Humanity International Volunteer Mobilization desk at 1-800-HABITAT, ext. 7530, or 229-410-7530.

Need more information about online registration?

The RV Care-A-Vanner Yahoo e-group provides step-by-step instructions for first-time users, plus a place to post other Care-A-Vanner-related questions. To join, send an email with a blank subject line and body to rv-care-a-vanners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. For more details or to [join this group](#), visit the group online.



Online registration dos and don'ts:

Do explore the build list, but don't click on "register" unless you want to sign up for that build. Unfortunately, you cannot obtain a user ID and password separate from your first online sign-up.

Do remember your password; if you forget it, click on "forgot password" and follow the instructions. It works best if you copy and paste the computer generated password and then change it to one you will remember.

There is no process to "change" your user ID (which is your email address); you can only re-register as you did the first time. If your user ID email becomes invalid you must create a new user ID and password and re-enter your contact information **in conjunction with signing up for a build.**

You can receive these email updates at multiple email addresses (click on "email list" at habitat.org/rv), not just the one you use as your user ID. [You can subscribe to the update here](#) and **unsubscribe** on the bottom of the update.

Registration, step-by-step instructions:

Beginning Oct. 15, 2010, there is a new way to register for Care-A-Vanner builds.

Care-A-Vanners may simply choose a build from the [build list](#) and register for that build with four clicks of the mouse. The Care-A-Vanner coordinator will respond by email to confirm assignment to the build.

The build list contains much more detailed information about the build: project description, parking location, type of work, exact parking cost, and detailed hookup information, distance to job site and team leader's name, as well as the number of spaces available. If a build is full, you can still register online for the waitlist.

A user login and password is created the first time you register for a build. Clicking on "Create User ID" leads to a screen asking for your name and email address (your email address becomes your User ID). An email is immediately sent to that address (to make sure you are you). A link in this email enables you to create a password and security question, (be sure to remember these for future use) then returns you to the registration page for the build you have chosen. This is where you will provide your contact information and rig size/type (we all have to do this – one time only – for the new system, even long-time Care-A-Vanners). Before leaving this screen, experienced Care-A-Vanners can check a box to volunteer as team leader for the build.

There is also a link for the [emergency contact information and waiver form](#), which you can type online and print out in advance of the build. Finally, you click on register (or register for waitlist, if the build is full). To register for a second build takes only four mouse-clicks!

For future signups, just select "build listing" from <http://www.habitat.org/rv>, log in and sign up for a build with four mouse-clicks. Your contact information will be pre-filled so you can verify it and make any necessary corrections.

Application versus assignment: you will receive two emails for each build for which you register (only one if registering for the waitlist). Upon registering you will see on the screen "application received" and immediately receive an email stating the same (be sure to check your spam folder if you don't see it in your inbox - it will be from webmaster@habitat.org). The RV Care-A-Vanner coordinator must then review/update your contact information and actually assign you to the build. The second email (which you should receive within 48 hours) confirms this.

Waitlist: if a build is full, click on it as usual, then click on "register for waitlist." You will be contacted if there is a cancellation.

Ongoing builds: the procedure for ongoing builds is unchanged. Use the contact information provided at http://www.habitat.org/rv/ongoing_builds.aspx to get in touch with the affiliate and make your own arrangements.

As always, the RV Care-A-Vanner coordinator is available for questions or additional information at rvinfodesk@habitat.org or 1-800-HABITAT, ext. 7534 or 229-410-7534 (direct). In addition, a Yahoo e-group has been set up for sharing common questions and answers that may be beyond our knowledge (such as problems with specific browsers, unique situations, etc.) To join this e-group, send an email with a blank subject and blank body to: [rv-care-a-vanners-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:rv-care-a-vanners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or go to <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/rv-care-a-vanners> and click join this group.

Monthly Care-A-Vanner trivia answer: Do you know?

Answer: 81,399. This is up from 75,000 in 2010 despite the worldwide economic downturn. If you want more information, please check out the [2011 Annual Report](#).