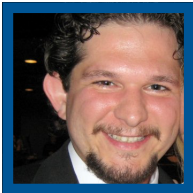


YP MISSION

Engage young professionals to influence positive change by promoting homeownership throughout our community in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Omaha.

Note from the **YP President**



Welcome to our first newsletter! In case you are reading this and not a member (yet, you will be by the end), I will start with a little background. We are the Omaha Habitat Young Professionals group. The vision of our group is simple. We want to eliminate poverty housing in the Omaha area.

We work toward that vision by engaging young professionals to influence positive change by promoting home ownership throughout our community in partnership with Habitat Omaha. If that is a mission and vision that you can get behind then you are reading the right newsletter.

I have been with the Habitat YP group since its formation in 2008 and it has been quite a ride. There are many experiences that I've had due to this group. I will never forget attending my first home dedication and seeing a Habitat partner become a Habitat homeowner. There are so many things I've learned due to this group including progress is not always in a straight line. There were fun times and there were difficult times. There was a lot of hard work, but working hard towards a common goal is a great way to get to know people and I have made many new friends.

In 2011, though, it seemed like things started to really click. Don't get me wrong, we still had our challenges, but there was so much accomplished. Our year started out with our first fundraising concert, Band Build. The bands were great, but the eight inches of snow that fell during the event was not! Our volleyball tournament fundraiser brought in great participation, but we missed our fundraising goal on the corporate donors and have decided not to repeat it in 2012. We also began our transition of taking over the established Brew-Ha-Ha fall fundraiser. We were able to help feed breakfast to the construction workers at the Builders' Blitz event in June. There were also build days, member social events and outreach that all took place successfully. We increased membership in 2011 and we are moving towards making sure every member has a role and knows how they contribute to the overall success of the group.

With so many things to choose from, I would say the planning and strategy that went into 2011 will be our greatest accomplishment. It was truly a transformational year. This is a different group than it was at the beginning of the year. We have always had passion, but have sometimes lacked clear direction. In just a year, I feel

like we moved from a group that met each month to plan events to a group that has purpose and vision. We now have a framework to follow. One which I absolutely believe we will accomplish: We will make an impact on poverty housing in the Omaha area. We will be raising \$100,000 each year and partnering with a family on a Habitat YP home. We will grow our membership. We will reach more people. I would like to give a **HUGE** thanks to all of our members who helped us make such progress in 2011 because I know that time is precious and there are so many other ways you could be spending it.

We have set out some big goals we hope to accomplish going forward, but I know that our group is more than up to the challenge. 2012 is going to be a great year. Don't underestimate the contribution you can make. Your way of helping doesn't have to take up every minute of your free time or raise thousands of dollars (though those things are good too). Do you know business owners who would like to sponsor events? Do you enjoy talking to groups about what Habitat does? Are you a public relations or graphic design expert? Can you put up tables and direct people at events? It takes people with all kinds of talents and skills in order to make the group stronger and help us reach our goals. It takes people like you.

I'm hoping that 2012 will be a year of action for our group. We have a path; now we need to walk it. We have a great core of members that are already on the path. If you'd like to join us here is how you start: Show up! Maybe you haven't been to a meeting in a while or you have only existed on our email list and never been to a meeting. Maybe you showed up and weren't told how you could fit in or maybe you can't make it every month and wonder if that's ok. Call me! Email me! Don't miss out on the opportunities that we all have had. The pay may not be great, but the payback is incredible. Whether it is the experience of giving someone something that will truly change their life, the opportunity to practice leadership skills, or the chance to make new friends, all of our members take something away from our group as well as add to it.

Contact me to find out how you can start making a difference today!

Sincerely,

Kevin Fustos
President / Habitat Young Professionals
p. 402.657.0685

January **General Meeting Hot Topics**

WED, JANUARY 4, 2012 / 7:00PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH /70TH & CASS

In Attendance: Mindy Stetson, Matt Scott, Karyn Droessler, Josie Cooper, Matt Guzallis, Megan Dressen, Julie Richt, and Kevin Fustos.

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Fustos at 7:10.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Chuck Cooper, President of The Crane Trust

Topic: Non-profit fundraising

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report: Kevin

- YP Summit – Feb. 29th for \$99 - Advised to attend
- Full 2012 Google calendar is posted with events, meetings, etc.

Vice President's Report: Matt

- [See Band Build Update](#)

Treasurer's Report: Mindy

- 2012 Membership Dues: \$25/ need updated contact information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy: Kevin

- Arranging guest speakers for each meeting.
- Possible Speakers: Kathy Katt: Fundraising timeline and advice, Michelle Jennings: Mission and Vision overall, David Klitz: ReStore, Brew Haha Chairs, PR Professional, Amanda from Habitat, etc.

Membership: Matt S.

- "Membership Packets" assembly during our meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 17th at Starbucks on 114th and Dodge.
- o **ACTION ITEM:** Need all Committee Chairs to send Matt a paragraph of their committee description for the Membership Packets by WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11TH
- Friendraiser in May (tentatively Thursday, May 17th)
- 3 Group Socials throughout the year and 1 Potluck dinner

Fundraising: Karyn

- Corporate Sponsorship Timeline: Ask in March and October – timing with budgeting season and only once a year for an annual donation vs. a single event donation.
- **Overall goal to raise \$100k in order to fund a YPG House Build.** Would love to get more Corporate Sponsors to contribute to this goal as well.

• **Band Build Update:**

- o 5 bands are booked
- o 100 poster prints donated and will distribute next week

- NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP!

- o Need Volunteers for Band Build - contact Matt G. to sign up!
- o Raffle prizes throughout event – need help selling them.
- o Ticket prices: \$10 ahead of time and \$12 day of at the door.
- o Press releases next week and ads in The Reader and Shout.
- Will work with Habitat office to get tool belts and stickers like we had at Brew Haha 2011 to sell raffle tickets or instead use green/blue glow sticks - Kathy is going to see if we can get them donated.
- o Food will be sponsored by HyVee / \$5 for a pork sandwich w/ chips.
- o "LIKE" band's Facebook pages.
- o Matt and Kevin are going to be the speakers.
- o 4 Corporate Sponsors this year for Band Build!
- o Expected expenses: \$350-\$500 total!
- o Need to complete Band Gifts – Hammers as well.

PR: Josie

- Monthly newsletter is going to be implemented in January
- Implementing Corporate Communication as well
- o Send them additional letters, Thank You's, Holiday Cards throughout the year to stay in front of corporations we want to partner with us.

Habitat Update from Kathy:

- o Growing the Omaha office: ReStore bid for their 2nd location – potentially on 108th and Maple.
- o Ruby Tuesday is doing a "Give Back" fundraiser for Habitat Omaha and Sarpy / Dates are January 23rd, 24th, and 25th / 20% of all sales (including alcohol) will be sent to Habitat / This includes lunch and dinner meals / Goal would be to raise \$3k total between the 3 days
- **ACTION ITEM:** PR look into First Giving and how YPG can use it in 2012 as a fundraising effort.
- o Habitat has now signed up to accept donations via Text Messages. This is close to being finalized and it will be used in 2012. You have to have a smartphone in order to donate.

Devotion for February: Karyn

BRING YOUR \$25 2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES & JOIN US IN FEBRUARY!

WED, FEBRUARY 1, 2012 / 7:00PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH /70TH & CASS

February **General Meeting Speaker**

Kathy Katt will be speaking about the "Sphere of Influence."

Fundraising is all about relationships and who you know. Everybody, including you, has an extensive "Sphere of Influence". You often don't realize your fundraising reach until you sit down, think about it, make a list and establish personal goals. I'll walk you through a simple exercise that will help you create your personal fundraising roadmap and put you on the road to success!

Upcoming Events

**BAND BUILD / SATURDAY, JAN. 28, 2012 / 7:30PM
THE WAITING ROOM LOUNGE / 6212 MAPLE ST.**

A Concert to Benefit Habitat for Humanity of Omaha. Come support Habitat while seeing a great lineup of local music talent!!

THIS YEAR'S BAND BUILD WILL FEATURE:

- Rock Paper Dynamite - Gus & Call - Great American Desert - Pancho & the Contraband - O'Connell's Bridge

In addition to these great bands, there will be an opportunity to learn more about Habitat Omaha and the YP group. All ticket sales will benefit Habitat Omaha. Also raffle tickets, food and habitat merchandise will be available to benefit Habitat as well.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 day of show
Purchase advanced tickets at:
www.onepercentproductions.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

Prudential Ambassador Real Estate, Floor Fashions and Standard Iron Works



*Look for the
Band Build
poster hanging
up around town!*



Upcoming Meetings

Every month, four committees meet to discuss their individual groups responsibilities to advocacy, membership, fundraising and PR. These meetings are casual and allow members a chance to network, grab a beverage and make a difference.

JANUARY

17th / 5:30pm / Advocacy
17th / 7:00pm / Membership
19th / 6:30 pm / Fundraising & PR
25th / 7:00pm / Executive

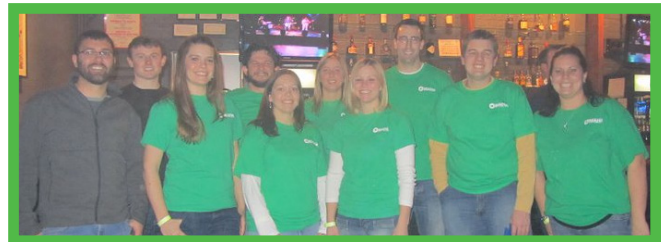


YP Member of the Month



Matt Guzallis

Matt is employed at Creighton University Medical Center as a Pharmacist. He went to North Platte High School and went to UNL for Biological Science, then graduated from Creighton in 2006. Matt married his wife, Emily, in June 2011. He looks forward to going to visit his friend in Spain this year. He enjoys volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and has been apart of the YP group for 2 years. He also enjoys playing guitar and hiking as well as watching his favorite sports team, the Creighton Bluejays. For the last two years, Matt has led the planning behind the Band Build event. The Habitat YP Group would like to thank Matt for his dedication and tireless work within our group and helping us achieve our goals. >Photo: Band Build 2011



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Megan Campbell / Advocacy Chair
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Matt Scott / Membership Chair
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Karyn Droessler / Fundraiser Chair
karyndroessler@gmail.com

Josie Cooper / PR Chair
jmcooper627@gmail.com