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Hamden, Connecticut

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## General

### "Sleeping Giant Build" Building Better Lives

BY SHALA J. LATORRACA ◊ SEP 03, 2010

The Hamden Journal recently had the opportunity at a Hamden Chamber of Commerce event to speak with Mike Healy and Don Deloge of The Sleeping Giant Build and to hear about their joys and challenges in making a difference in people's lives through the building of Habitat for Humanity homes. Here is what they had to say.



The 2010 West Rock Challenge was held on Sunday, August 15, at West Rock Ridge State Park in Hamden. The event consisted of two separate trail races. A nine-mile run took the runners to the top of West Rock, and a five-kilometer run went around Lake Wintergreen. The race was sponsored by Amity Bike and the Woodbridge

Running Club with all of the proceeds benefiting Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven – Sleeping Giant Build.

The Sleeping Giant Build (SGB) was formed in mid-2007 with the goal of sponsoring houses for Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven, thereby assisting in its effort to eliminate poverty housing in the greater New Haven area. SGB originally consisted of congregations and businesses from Hamden and North Haven. Congregations and businesses from New Haven and the Amity region have since joined.

SGB has completed two houses thus far. The first, dedicated in November 2008, is located at 75 Hallock Street, New Haven. A second house at 40 Edgecomb Street, Hamden, was dedicated in April 2010. Sleeping Giant Build III is currently under construction at 80 Sylvan Avenue in the Hill section of New Haven and is expected to be completed in the fall.



As a Habitat sponsor, The Sleeping Giant Build is required to raise \$50,000 for each house, as well as to provide volunteers to assist in its construction. SGB volunteers work alongside other Habitat volunteers and partner families under the direction of skilled Habitat supervisors. The money is raised by soliciting "premier sponsors," primarily businesses and religious congregations, each of whom are asked to pledge \$3,000 toward construction costs. Funds are also raised through events, such as the West Rock Challenge and the Amity Cares/Sleeping Giant Build Concert held at Amity High School in the spring. In addition, "in kind" donations (e.g. insulation, bathroom

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fixtures, skilled labor) help lower construction costs. Current premier sponsors include: A-1 Toyota, Church of St. Rita, Korean Church of New Haven, Spring Glen Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, Stephens Private Client Group, and Trinity Church on the Green.

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It is important to note that Habitat houses are not given away. Partner families purchase their homes from Habitat and are also required to perform 400 hours of "sweat equity" as Habitat volunteers.

Groups or individuals interested in assisting Sleeping Giant Build in its effort to provide quality, low cost housing can find further information on its website at [www.sleepinggiantbuild.org](http://www.sleepinggiantbuild.org).

*Photo 1: Participants in West Rock Challenge 5K Race on August 15*

*Photo 2: Teens from Hamden and New Haven Working at House on Hallock Street*

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