



WORKING FILMS

***Working Films announces the first Green Habitat Award recipients
~ Awards Still Available ~***

In an effort to support Habitat initiatives toward affordable and sustainable homes, Working Films and BLUE VINYL are giving away as many as twenty \$1000 awards to Habitat for Humanity affiliates with the best ideas about how they will move to build "greener" and PVC-free homes.

- **Ruston, Louisiana Habitat for Humanity in Affiliation with Louisiana Tech University School of Architecture 5 year program**

Louisiana Tech University's School of Architecture's fifth-year students are working to take on the largest project in the program's history in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity. The students are designing and building a 1300 square foot, PVC-free home for a local family in Ruston, LA. The family consists of a single mother and her four children, and they currently live in a small house where all the children share one bed. The new home will mean a drastic change in the family's quality of living.

The students' mission through the construction of this house is to give the client a better quality of living by providing a sustainable and environmentally friendly home that is both innovative and responsive to the city of Ruston. They also want to provide Habitat for Humanity with a new precedent in building design and construction. Finally they hope to extend their education of architecture and craft as well as strengthen the relationship between the community and the Louisiana Tech University School of Architecture.

- **Portland Habitat for Humanity**

Portland Habitat for Humanity is committed to becoming a more sustainable and green builder. Their goals are to have less of an impact on the environment; to build homes that are healthy – mentally, physically, and spiritually; to create great and safe places to raise families; to consume less and cleaner energy; and to be more financially responsible in the long run and the initial building process.

Portland Habitat for Humanity has identified 15 lots in the New Columbia Project serving the 30%-60% median income families that qualify for their program. They plan to build these houses without using any vinyl siding (which they have used exclusively for the last few years). They are also considering laminate or a linseed oil type flooring to replace vinyl.

The Portland Chapter is encouraged through this Working Films opportunity to do promotional activities with others (such as the Oregon Toxics Alliance) to help educate board, staff and others on achieving more green and sustainable Habitat homes. Construction teams, board members and other volunteers involved in this project will all be invited to watch BLUE VINYL. Then, with the approval of the Board of Directors, they plan to co-sponsor an event featuring a screening as part of a dynamic and informative presentation on PVC-free green building products.

- **Benton County Habitat for Humanity (Oregon)**

Benton County Habitat for Humanity has included green building in its strategic plan for 2005 – 2010. They are working to become increasingly environmentally responsible by incorporating sustainable design into their building projects.

They want to focus on materials education so they can integrate green building options into an upcoming 21 site “Hilltop Village Project”. Their goals include: increasing valuation, reducing operational costs for our partner Habitat families, enhancing health and safety, improving quality of life and minimizing strain on local resources. The new construction supervisors’ team is in the process of restructuring and evaluating materials criteria to find a suitable substitute for vinyl flooring and siding.

An Oregon Toxics Alliance presentation on the *Vinyl Out of Oregon* project jump started their green building initiative. They are interested in helping disperse information about alternatives to vinyl to donors, volunteers board members and other organizations, as well as featuring alternative products in their newsletter which is dispersed to 7,000 residents of Benton County.

- **Oregon Toxics Alliance (OTA), Vinyl Out of Oregon Campaign**

Oregon Toxics Alliance has taken a leading role to address threats to the environment caused by cumulative exposures to toxic contamination. Their *Vinyl Out of Oregon* (VOO) project provides the strategy and public education necessary to phase out vinyl use by substituting safe and cost-effective alternative products.

The mini-grant from Working Films is enabling OTA staff to plan educational outreach programs with Oregon chapters of Habitat for Humanity, pursue communication with Habitat staff and board members, and travel to more than a dozen offices of Habitat affiliates around the state to introduce BLUE VINYL as an educational tool, and provide material sourcing suggestions.

OTA’s plan of action includes:

- Host presentations and panels on vinyl-free alternative building materials with coalition partners at conferences, workshops and fundraising events;
- Co-host events showcasing the award-winning documentary, BLUE VINYL, with partners from Oregon Habitat for Humanity affiliates including: Portland, Willamette West, Albany, Corvallis, Sisters, Newport, Eugene-Springfield and others.

~ Apply Now ~

Application on-line:

www.workingfilms.org/downloads/habitatawardapplication.pdf

Submissions and questions to: Molly Ramey, Working Films, 602 South Fifth Avenue, Wilmington NC 28401, (910) 342-9000 or by e-mail: mramey@workingfilms.org. Deadline is open.