

NEW EXECUTIVE FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY*Continued from Page 1*

hoods Before joining Habitat, Oberle was the Executive Director of the Center for Community Safety which she has led since its founding in 2001. Prior to starting the center, she was project coordinator of a local Justice Department initiative that brought community partners together with law enforcement to work on neighborhood crime and safety issues. She is also a former newspaper editor and public affairs consultant.

She had this to say about Habitat for Humanity: "Habitat for Humanity is one of the most admired organizations in our community. It is an honor to lead such an important part of our collective lives, and carry on the strong legacy of leadership provided by previous executive directors, current staff and many dedicated volunteers. I am overwhelmed at the commitment and passion of our staff and our wide variety of volunteers and the many, many ways they help us.

"When you have been in a community for a long time, you may think you know everything about an organization. But since starting as Executive Director, I have been amazed at what there is to learn about Habitat and its many facets. The work of Habitat involves almost every sector of this community, and I plan to reach out, listen, and glean your ideas and insights.

"Already I feel a certain kinship with Habitat, since I volunteered in the early years of BirdFest and helped financially when Knollwood Baptist Church built a house. I also frequently shopped in the Habitat ReStore. These experiences are just part of what makes Habitat special. In the weeks and months ahead, while immersed in construction plans, meeting families, building partnerships, and exploring fund-raising opportunities, I will enthusiastically embrace these new experiences and challenges. I have now participated in wall builds, house dedications, house closings and my first blitz. And there's still so much more to learn. Together, I believe we will create the strongest and best Habitat affiliate in the country.

"Here is why I am excited to begin my work at Habitat. At my last job, I have learned much about the power of working across lines that often divide us on the important issue of safe and stable neighborhoods. Habitat has demonstrated that creating affordable housing and encouraging homeownership is fundamental to neighborhood safety and stability. It is exciting to think about expanding on what has already been done and build even more effective partnerships.

"As a member of the ECHO Council, I gained a deep appreciation for, and understanding of, what is meant by social capital. Any way you look at it, Habitat is all about social capital, and will continue being the model for building social capital in our community.

"And finally, continuing to follow a spiritual direction is absolutely essential at this stage of my life, and Habitat is a gift of God's grace.

As I continue to learn about Habitat and its many facets, I will, with God's grace, do everything in my power to help realize the mission of Habitat; to eliminate substandard housing. Grace is indeed what is extended through Habitat, regardless of religious affiliation or beliefs: grace to families, to each other, and the greater community. This is the essence of Habitat's mission, and I am honored and humbled to be part of it."

Ms. Oberle is a native of Knoxville, Tenn, and a graduate of Carson-Newman College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1999, she received the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety from the U.S. Department of Justice. She received the Rev. Joseph T. McMillan Community Service Award from the Winston-Salem NAACP in 2005 and was also named a Woman of Vision from the YWCA. She is a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Racial Healing, the Salvation Army Advisory Board and Reynolda Rotary Club.

Coming Eventz Online Guide

Coming Eventz (www.comingeventz.com), an online Entertainment Guide for events held in Winston-Salem and the Triad-Piedmont has opened. The Coming Eventz website and monthly email issues are designed to keep the community informed of local and regional events, major concerts, sporting events, promotional parties, trips and networking affairs of particular interest to the African American Community. The website lists a community calendar, a list of sporting schedules from the North Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities, trips and outings, meeting dates for organizations, an art exhibition and gallery listing, and a bulletin board to post announcements.

An Online Ticket Sales outlet is also available. Groups may sell tickets online for events. There is also an Online Event Boutique - Items for special events, such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, accessories, etc. and African American artwork will be available for purchase. If you have items that you would like to sell that fit this category, please contact us about renting space in our online event boutique! And for pennies a day, you can advertise your business on this site, 24 hours a day!

Groups may post events on the website free of charge. You may email press releases and announcements to charry@eleganteventz.net. To sign up for the newsletter please go to the website, www.comingeventz.com and stay tuned to the website for the latest and greatest events to come to a venue near you. For more information, please call 788-1665.

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