



WINDOWS ON WORLD SHELTERS



Transforming River Haven

By Kristen Pope

In a remarkable display of civic cooperation, over 200 volunteers created a village in a day for the residents of the River Haven transitional housing community in Ventura, California. As part of the United Way Day of Caring, these volunteers made it possible for World Shelters and the Turning Point Foundation to quickly assemble 19 U-Domes. Many other volunteers worked for two weeks beforehand to clear and grade the site, build platforms and train team leaders. The incredible teamwork of the day inspired those who worked on the project. Armand Mullin, WS Designer exclaimed, "It was really amazing to see the collaboration of all the different groups and to see how individuals can come together to achieve a common goal."

Turning Point Foundation Executive Director Clyde Reynolds is very pleased with the new shelters at River Haven because "First of all we are providing them with a more decent living environment, both individually and as a group." The River Haven community provides a transitional home to 25 individuals. Living in a stable, sanitary environment without violence, drugs, or alcohol helps residents focus on finding work and stabilizing their lives. Reynolds added, "The domes are clearly more spacious...and are a tremendous improvement over the tents they were living in."

We were fortunate to have the professional filmmaking crew from DocuCinema capturing the day's events for their upcoming documentary called SHELTER. Filmmaker Lee Schneider noted, "Putting one of World Shelter's U-Domes together looks complicated – it's something like wrestling with really big origami- but it can be done by volunteers with little or no training. It's one way you can get a village standing in a day."

World Shelters appreciates the opportunity to be of service to the residents of River Haven, the Turning

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Our Community "Dome-Raising"

By Tina Mackenzie and Ellen LeBel

In the spirit of an old fashioned barn-raising, community members joined the Humboldt All-Faith Partnership and World Shelters to erect five U-Domes on the HAFP's Night Shelter property just north of Arcata. A group of 30 energetic and capable volunteers ranging in age from 8 to 80 gathered on Saturday October 24, a dedicated national day of volunteer service known as "Make A Difference Day." The volunteers included local families, HSU students, HAFP volunteers, and seniors from the community who worked together with an experienced WS team to make the domes ready for use by the end of the day. Their success was supported by the volunteers who constructed the platforms two weeks earlier. Now these new U-Dome 120's will enable the Night Shelter to continue to provide housing during the planned renovation and expansion of their facility.

The HAFP, a non-profit organization comprised of several local faith communities, and World Shelters received financial support for this project from donors and a generous grant from the Vera P. Viator Trust, a fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation. The installation of the shelters is a positive step toward demonstrating the endurance and versatility of the domes as a humane alternative for housing for those in need of temporary or transitional shelter. The project demonstrates how the U-Domes can be used to meet the mandate of California Senate Bill 2, which requires every county in California to set aside parcels zoned for emergency shelter by right. Already existing social service programs that serve homeless persons may consider these shelters a solution to providing temporary and transitional housing.

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Volunteers assemble shelters.

River Haven (continued from page 1)

Point Foundation, and the City of Ventura. World Shelters Executive Director Bruce LeBel believes this project demonstrates an important model for reducing homelessness. "River Haven is a stunning example of a public-private partnership focused on meeting a pressing humanitarian need for shelter that exists in each of our communities. In addition to the humanitarian imperative, it simply makes economic sense for communities to provide shelter with dignity for persons unsheltered".



"Dome-Raising" (continued from page 1)

We applaud the dedication, talent, hands-on work, and generous donations of many individuals and organizations that have made this important local project a reality. Remember to visit our website for follow-up reports and read media links on this and other WS projects for sheltering unsheltered persons.

World Shelters Honored

World Shelters has been selected as a member of Green America's Green Business Network™ and is now listed in the National Green Pages. Businesses included in the Green Business Network "operate in ways that solve, rather than cause, both environmental and social problems." WS will continue to operate in a manner that helps to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society.



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

World Shelters is celebrating our anniversary as a non-profit organization. We've spent five busy years making shelters and rebuilding communities, facing challenges and persevering. WS works hard to design shelters for a variety of uses that meet the highest standards for durability, safety and cost-effectiveness. Our projects with River Haven and the Arcata Night Shelter set an example for working with other community programs housing families and individuals. Our innovative shelters for disaster relief and transitional uses meet criteria set by international agencies.

Now I invite you to "join hands in sheltering" with your financial support. Join hands with hundreds of volunteers who have assembled our shelters. Join hands with people needing shelter now. Know that your donation makes a tangible difference for more and more people who lack basic shelter in the US and abroad.

We warmly thank you.
Bruce LeBel



To make a tax-deductible contribution

- Send a check in the enclosed envelope
- Use PayPal at www.worldshelters.org/donate

World Shelters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization,
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At Home in Her U-Dome

World Shelters sells U-Domes for personal use and applies a percentage of the cost to support our humanitarian projects. Here is the story of one of our supporters who lives in her U-Dome.

In July 2008, Caren needed a transitional home while she was clearing land and building a cabin on her 10-acre property in eastern Humboldt County. She contacted World Shelters and soon purchased and assembled her U-Dome.

Caren lives completely off grid, with solar-generated electricity and an on-demand water heater that lets her take a bath in her tub. She recycles gray

water for irrigating her garden and fruit trees, heats her home with a small woodstove and uses an outhouse.

After a year of living in her U-Dome, we visited her to see how well it was meeting her needs. "I could not have asked for a better situation," she said. "The dome was affordable and provided me with comfort and security. It felt light and spacious even in the dark winter."

Now that her new cabin is finished, she will continue to use her U-Dome as an art studio and guest house. She noted that the dome remained dry in heavy rain and light snow, liked that the windows and door are easily adaptable, and reported that painting the exterior was not hard and helped keep the dome cooler in the summer. She smiled and said, "The brilliant design and technical support from World Shelters was fabulous."



Green-Dome Debut

In partnership with Water Planet Garden Supplies, World Shelters developed and now produces a versatile, affordable and durable greenhouse. The U-Dome design features simple assembly, venting, a fan shroud and mount with a 3 year-warranty. With this greenhouse, gardeners make a contribution when they purchase a Green-Dome because a portion of the sale benefits World Shelters non-profit humanitarian projects.



You can visit a model Green-Dome at Water Planet, 76 South G St., in Arcata where the sales staff is happy answer questions and provide pricing and shipping information or call them at 707-822-9888.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: GLEN TWOMBLY

By Alia Burdick

Glen A. Twombly, a 78-year-old recent addition to Humboldt County, loves solving problems, and "loves being around people who like their problems solved." We are fortunate he has directed his abilities towards projects at World Shelters, where he assisted in developing a more efficient, less resource-intensive shelter platform, cutting costs in half without losing structural integrity. The new platforms are being utilized in our current domestic homeless initiative projects in Arcata, Ventura, Sacramento.

Glen has a robust history working behind the scenes in theater, television, and numerous public presentation projects. During his time at UCLA he was drafted into the Army and sent to Japan as a motion picture cameraman and engineer for the Far East Company. After he returned from overseas, he worked in the CBS control room and in 1955 designed the very first computerized light control system for television. As a consultant he helped design touring auto shows, World Fair exhibits, museums, zoos and more. In the 1980's, he

worked for Marine World Africa U.S.A. as Director of Public Presentation Facilities, saving the park over \$1 million on unnecessary and inefficient projects.

Though he is technically retired, Glen hasn't stopped working. When he is not volunteering with World Shelters, he is often volunteering with the Sequoia Park Zoo or Ink People. While he's not volunteering and solving problems he enjoys walking his dog, building things, and "chas[ing] out ideas." We are thankful to Glen for his work with us thus far and are eager to see what ideas he'll come up with next.



What's New at World Shelters?

The TranShel is a 192-square-foot hard-paneled, fire retardant transitional shelter for international relief projects that meets the Transitional Shelter Standards drafted by the Shelter Centre and the shelter program managers for the major relief agencies operating as the "Transitional Shelter Consortium." This group defines transitional shelter as a durable initial structure that adapts to use of local materials and architecture in order to maximize cultural acceptability and local economic benefits. In May, World Shelters displayed the production-ready prototype of our TranShel at the Transitional Shelter Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. FEMA is currently evaluating a proposal for 200 TranShels for use in American Samoa following the recent tsunamis. "The governor of American Samoa is eager to get these villagers out of the tents that have been provided and the TranShel is a climatically and culturally appropriate solution," noted Bruce LeBel, WS Executive Director.



JAS Shelter ("Just Add Sticks") is an innovative ultra low cost and compact new shelter kit for use in international relief. With the JAS connector kit and locally available materials, recipients can build a 192-square-foot family shelter. The box of JAS connectors and associated parts is so compact that kits for 600 shelters will fit into one ocean-going freight container. LeBel explained that "The JAS shelter was developed with the design imperative of minimizing cost and shipping volume of shelter materials and to maximize local cash purchase of resources. The economic development attribute of shelter provision is of critical importance." JAS can be used with the ubiquitous plastic sheeting (fire retardant and UV-resistant) distributed by international relief agencies after disasters, and can also support corrugated galvanized roofing sheets. Bamboo or other locally available and culturally appropriate materials can function as the "sticks." One international agency is currently considering use of the JAS kit for transitional shelter in Indonesia or the Philippines.

North Coast Co-op's Donation Program

When you shop at the Co-op, please donate 1% of your purchase using World Shelters' number **80042**. Thank you!

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