

Coastal Habitat to honor Neptune committeeman

Randy Bishop among honorees at Hearts and Hammers event

BY BRIAN HARRIS

THE COAST STAR

SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS —

Coastal Habitat for Humanity will hold the second annual Hearts and Hammers fundraising event at the Manasquan River Golf Club in Brielle on Thursday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m.

The event will raise funds for Coastal Habitat For Humanity programs and awards will be presented to three community partners for their support of Coastal Habitat for Humanity.

According to Maureen Mulligan, executive director of Coastal Habitat for Humanity, three honorees will be recognized at the event, including Neptune Township Committeeman Randy Bishop.

Mr. Bishop will be honored with the Golden Heart Founders Award, which is awarded to a person who shows "outstanding individual leadership," according to the website



RYAN WELSH THE COAST STAR

Neptune Township Committeeman Randy Bishop will be among those honored at the 2016 Coastal Habitat for Humanity Hearts and Hammers fundraiser for his support of the organization's initiatives.

Also being honored are Star News Group, which will receive the Golden Hardhat Award for its support of various Coastal Habitat for Humanity projects; and the New Jersey Bankers Association [NJBA], which will be recognized with the Golden Hammer Award for outstanding corporate citizenship and partnership.

In his 12 years as a Neptune Township elected official, serving as both a committeeman as well as mayor, Mr. Bishop has partnered with Coastal Habitat For Humanity on various projects, including making repairs to homes for disadvantaged homeowners in the borough, along with the building of new, affordable housing in the town.

"I have always been, at the personal and municipal level, an advocate for everyone to have safe and affordable housing," Mr. Bishop said.

According to Ms. Mulligan, during the time Mr. Bishop has been working with Coastal Habitat for Humanity, the township of Neptune has donated 12 properties to the organization for affordable housing sites.

Along with the donation of land, Mr. Bishop also coordinated projects where Coastal Habitat for Humanity worked with the World Changers mission as part of their "A Brush With Kindness" program, which provides repairs and home improvements to properties in low-income neighborhoods.

"He's been a consistent supporter of everything that we do," Ms. Mulligan said.

Mr. Bishop said he is humbled by the recognition, pointing out that his being honored is the result of the many different people who have worked alongside him on the various Coastal Habitat for Humanity projects that he has been a part of over the years.

"I'm humbled because I'm fortunate to be the face of some of the work done in Neptune and in other communities. There are a lot of people that have contributed," Mr. Bishop said. "While it's an honor for me to be singled out, it's about the many people who have helped out over the years."

The Hearts and Hammers event will take place at the Manasquan River Golf Club, located at 843 Riverview

Drive, Brielle, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the fundraiser are \$150 and there are sponsorship opportunities available.

The mission of Coastal Habitat for Humanity is "to put love and respect into action by bringing people of all backgrounds together to build and repair homes and communities."

An affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, Coastal Habitat was founded in 1994 to "create a world in which everyone has a decent place to live," according to the website.

For additional information about the Hearts and Hammers event as well as Coastal Habitat for Humanity, contact Stacy Vasta, resource development manager, at 732-974-2422 ext. 3, svasta@coastalhabitat.org or at www.coastalhabitat.org.

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