

Development expert Jim Chanin enhances FHFH board

By Sandra Moriarty

Three years ago when Jim Chanin and Kimberly Maxwell were married, they “registered” at Flatirons Habitat for Humanity. They asked that in lieu of wedding gifts guests donate money to HFH. That is a clue how much new board member Jim Chanin respects Habitat and the work it does.

Jim has been involved with Habitat since he was active on building projects while attending Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. After graduating when he was working in various contracting jobs he continued to be the college’s alumni liaison to Habitat and volunteered as an advisor to help the Rollins students with their commitment to build a house each year.

His career in building, contracting and land development evolved from his early experiences on job sites with Habitat to a career in framing, a project manager position with Centex Houses and eventually his own company, Chanin Development.

He has been in business for himself 14 years as a land developer and general contractor in the Denver/Boulder area (see www.chanindevelopment.com). His political science degree from Rollins has come in handy as Chanin’s work



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involves government bodies, both elected and staff, in all cities and counties in the area.

So in addition to his knowledge and expertise in the building industry, he brings to Habitat his many contacts with building departments and inspectors, public works, planning and zoning, and transportation among others. With these credentials it is only natural he is on the Site Selection Committee for FHFH.

In terms of his long-term goals with Habitat for Humanity, Chanin would like to use his development expertise to help third world and developing countries with their building codes. The re-

cent tsunami, for example, demonstrated how unsafe buildings can be when they aren’t built to a set of standards.

He points to the earthquake in Bam, Iran, where the buildings just crumbled. He sees such an effort as admittedly big picture thinking; however, he believes it needs to be done and through Habitat he may be able to have an influence on this international problem.

In his spare time Jim volunteers with the Boulder Junior Soccer program and is a director on the Rollins College board. He played soccer in college and in the Boulder Men’s League. He and his wife have twins on the way, so his life will get even more complicated after they are born. Odds are they will grow up playing soccer and touring housing sites with their dad.

Chanin’s philosophy is that it’s important to contribute to the community. He believes all need to volunteer in their own area of expertise. This makes a better community in which to live. As he says, “We are all in it together”.