

July 2009
to
September 2009

HAMMER & NAILS



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Church Relations... We Can Help

by Dave Calverley



Partnering is a word we hear more frequently these days, and partnering is what we often do to get an important job done. Habitat For Humanity partners with volunteers, churches, businesses and home buyers when we build a house. All parties can participate in some way, and we need this help. The results come back in the form of feeling rewarded by doing something worthwhile, by knowing that a need has been met, and seeing a family living in their own new home. It can be an amazing process.

On May 19, 2009, we sent a letter to churches inviting them to join in a House of Prayer event at their church to be held from now through August 2009. Faith groups have the opportunity to partner with us and sponsor a house. Each member can buy 1 - 2x4" board that will be used to frame a house. We only need 350 boards per house.

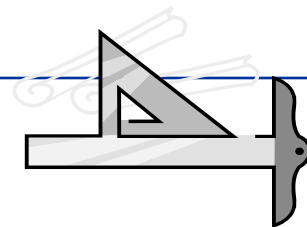
Each person who purchases a board will receive a certificate to fill out with their own prayer, blessing, or good wishes for the future homeowner. Blessings, prayers, and wishes are also written on boards in permanent ink. The certificates are bound in a book and given to the new homeowner at the House Blessing ceremony, along with some other gifts, when the house is finished and the family is about to move in.

If this sounds interesting to you, Habitat would be pleased to come to your church and present our ideas during a coffee hour, a committee meeting, or a format that works best for you and your congregation. Then, the congregation can decide if it wants to partner with Habitat. Please, think about it and contact the Habitat office at 608-754-1228.

Help Habitat surround a family with your blessings and prayers as they start a new beginning.



ON THE SQUARE (AND LEVEL!) BY LARRY BODLEY



Ah, summer is almost here! I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather. It has been a joy to be able to go to a Habitat build and not have to shovel the driveway to gain access to the house.

The Coldwell Banker build on Orchard is now occupied by its partner family.

The Women Build on Morgan Terrace has an occupancy

permit and awaits the dedication and mortgage closing.

The Harrison Avenue build, funded by Kerry International, has also obtained its occupancy permit and after a little grading in the backyard will be ready for its house blessing and closing.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who put in countless hours on these three builds so

that three partner families can have safe, decent and affordable housing.

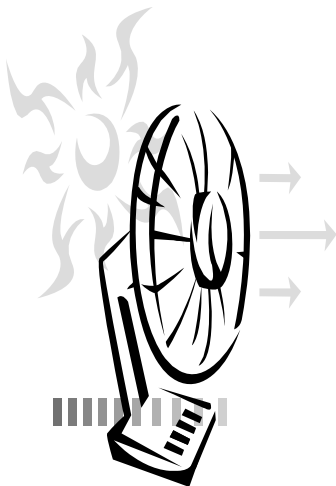
So now is prime construction season and we have no builds starting! We have lots available, but need funding and/or a sponsor to come forward so that we can embark on another adventure. Speaking for myself, I can truly say that I learn some-

thing new and useful on every build. I spend all week at a desk, with a computer, or on the factory floor. Saturdays are a refreshing change of pace: a chance to give back, a chance to take personal satisfaction in a precisely framed wall, a beautifully sided house, a neatly trimmed window. I hope to see many of you on future builds.

Summer Energy Tips

Air conditioners, dehumidifiers, fans, lights and sprinklers... it's an expensive time of the year. What can you do to keep costs down?

- Close your mini blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day, when the sun is beating in— it will keep your house from heating up.
- On the days that are cool enough, turn off the air and open the windows. Run your fan instead! You'll get fresh air and save some money.
- Run your sprinkler in the early morning and late evening when it's not so hot— that way, the sun won't evaporate the water and will give your yard more time to soak it up. You will also not have to run the sprinkler as long!
- Switch your light bulbs to compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) and save \$\$\$. CFL's use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Replacing one 60-watt incandescent bulb with a 15-watt CFL can save you over \$10 a year. Just think of how much you would save if you changed every light bulb inside and outside!
- Remember to dispose of CFL's safely since they contain a small amount of mercury. Visit www.earth911.org or call 1-877-EARTH911 to find local disposal options. Home Depot in Janesville, WI accepts expired CFL bulbs.



July 2009— September 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT by Chris LaBrie

Wow, what a year! It's been a busy one, and a successful one— four homes were sold, three homes were completed and nearing sale. We hold seven lots for future builds and sold another to raise funds. What a year!

As we leap into another fiscal year we are planning on being no less busy or successful. We have been offered another lot in Janesville and are in the process of considering this acquisition. We are also

actively pursuing the House of Prayer that we plan to build this year. The House of Prayer and the Habitat Restore, which we spent the last fiscal year preparing for, are going to be the focus of our new year. We have accomplished our goal of filling the Restore with fantastic items for people to browse and buy. We think it will be a wonderful way for people to remodel on a budget. And as Habitat continues to Go Green, it will be an opportunity for people to recycle their building materials and keep them out of the landfills.

Don't let the economy get you down—we're not letting it get us down, either. We're excited about Habitat's new year and overjoyed by the last year. Be ready with us to face the future head-on and with excitement!

**“It's not a house, it's a home...”**

by Erin Loveland



“It's not a house, it's a home,” is what my 12 year old cousin said to me at my daughter's 4th birthday party just this last week. It's been a year now since I bought my house. A fantastic year, too. Sometimes it feels like I just moved in yesterday (when I find a box I still have to go through!) and sometimes I'm so comfortable it feels like I've been there forever. Elliot & Kelsie feel the same way— they love to show off their rooms and this summer even

got to experience what it feels like to have our own yard!

Owning my own house has been a lot of work— mowing, shoveling, weeding, and even roto-tilling (quite a story) - but it's all been worth it. As my cousin says, it's not only a house, it's also a home. Looking back, it amazes me how many people worked together to help me attain my dream of having a house for my kids and a yard where they could play.

We have an addition to our family, too! Columbus is an 8 month old puppy that is just a little yappy. Almost as soon as we moved in the kids reminded me of my promise to buy them a puppy after we bought a house since we couldn't have one in our apartment. Another improvement we owe to Habitat.

Thank you again to everyone who helped us realize this dream.

WE ARE BUSY, BUSY, BUSY by David Thomas

It's been a busy time at the Habitat office! This past spring the Daddy Daughter Dance and Shanty Town were both very successful and went off without a hitch. Everyone had a great time at the 2009 Golf Outing, and preparations for the House of Prayer are underway. We just ended our fiscal year and have started the new one

with some energetic plans. Funds are being raised, grants written and the ReStore and Tool Room are being organized. Groups of volunteers are signing up to work on the next build as staff and Board members work on cost saving measures. Rock County Habitat is working to meet the new challenges and hurdles the economy

has presented while serving families who need a hand-up not a hand out. We thank all of our many supporters, volunteers, and donors who make us successful and look forward to another year of building.





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Yes, I want to help!

Cost to build a home in Rock County: \$76,000

Amount given by each of the 900 supporters who receive this newsletter : \$85

Building one more house in 2009 is the goal.

We challenge you to make a \$85 donation, so that we can build one more home in 2009!

I would like to get involved with Rock County Habitat for Humanity in the following ways:

DONATION OF: \$25 \$50 \$85 \$100 \$500 other \$ amount

VOLUNTEERING: Building (please specify any special skills/experience you may have):

Office Work Snacks or Food Preparation Fundraising Serve on a Committee

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contact the RCHFH office at
608/754-1228, for informa-
tion on volunteer opportuni-
ties. Updates on build work
schedules can be found at
www.rockcountyhabitat.org.

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