

December 2009

Holiday Houses for Habitat Downtown



2009 Drawing to a Close with 12 Habitat Homes Completed



Dedication of two homes this month will bring the total to 136 houses built by Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity since 1987. In addition another seven existing homes have been renovated for families.

The home (at left, above) will be dedicated Saturday, December 5, at 10am. Located at 305 Brandriff Street, it will be purchased by the Joe Sablic family. At right is the final 2009 build, a home for the Saw Banardo family at 3913 Gretna Avenue. Students and staff at the University of Saint Francis provided the labor and meals for this build, which will be dedicated December 19 at 10am. Each dedication will be followed by a public open house.

Planning has already started for next year. A Thrivent Builds grant application for Fort Wayne HFH has been approved for 2010, part of a four-year \$125 million alliance between Thrivent Financial and Habitat for Humanity International. It has been the largest funding and volunteer alliance in the history of either organization. Ron Caron will again serve as the local project coordinator.

Holiday Houses for Habitat is one of Fort Wayne's newest holiday attractions, where hundreds of "snow village" homes, manufactured by Department 56, are showcased on the concourse of the Grand Wayne Convention Center for families to enjoy throughout the holiday season.

The free event drew a large crowd on opening night, November 25, and will continue until December 23. Viewing hours are Monday-Thursday, 4-8pm, and Friday-Sunday, Noon-5pm. The display is not open weekend evenings due to events at Grand Wayne Center. There is live music and entertainment on Sundays.

Donations are welcomed. Individuals and families can also sponsor a house for \$25, with proceeds going to build real Habitat houses for local families in need.

Parkview Health is the primary sponsor, along with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Downtown Improvement District, Grand Wayne Convention Center, and Anne's Hallmark Shops.

Glenbrook Holiday Gift Wrapping

Habitat volunteers are again manning a gift-wrapping booth at Glenbrook Square weekends in December and Christmas week. The booth is located near the J.C. Penney store. Donations are accepted for the service. If you can volunteer to help, call Kory at the Habitat office, 420-9919.

Mortgage Burned for House #1



A group of current and former board members and Habitat volunteers helped Fort Wayne's first Habitat homeowner, Cecilia Thomas, celebrate completion of her mortgage payments. The symbolic burning took place in the back yard of her

Lafayette Street home on October 2.

Cecilia overcame work lay offs and various setbacks along the way, and now the home is hers "free and clear."

Volunteer Arrives for Year of Service in Fort Wayne



My name is Barbara Smith, a licensed cosmetologist from Brevard County, Florida. It all began during a church conference. As I listened to a great presentation about the mission of Habitat for Humanity to make the dream of homeownership a reality for low income families through the love of Je-

sus Christ, I knew it was for me to join in the effort.

Later came the opportunity for me to travel and coordinate the Youth United program for the Fort Wayne affiliate, and after much prayer and confirmation, here I am! I firmly believe it is God's will that we use our time, talents, and resources to help lift people upward. It is a privilege to serve alongside the affiliate staff to fight poverty here in Fort Wayne. The kindness and hospitality of the affiliate staff and others has made my transition from sunny Florida to Fort Wayne, Indiana, simply amazing.

I am looking forward to a successful service year, with the help of God, working in partnership with Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity.

Editor's Note: Barbara is here as a volunteer in the AmeriCorps/Vista program.

New Partner Families

Two more families have been accepted for partnership and now begin the process of required classes and sweat equity leading to home ownership. We welcome to the program Janet and Abdul Bangura, and Nyo Nyo Soe.

E-Newsletters

Would you like to receive our Habitat for Humanity newsletter by email instead of in your mailbox and help us cut printing and mailing costs? Please notify us by email at ckeplar@fortwaynehabitat.org

Holiday Hours

The Habitat office will close at Noon, December 24 and December 31, and will be closed all day December 25 and January 1.

The ReStore, will be closed December 25-26 and January 1.

Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity

Executive Director.....Carol Keplar
Development Coordinator.....Laurie Brumbaugh
Family Services Coordinator.....Nea Laster
Volunteer Coordinator...Kory Stucky
Receptionists.....Debra Campbell, Rebecca Charles
AmeriCorps/Vista Volunteer.....Barbara Smith

Office: 629 E. Washington Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Phone: (260) 420-9919

Fax: (260) 424-9272

Website: www.fortwaynehabitat.org

Habitat ReStore

New Location: 3837 N. Wells St.
New Phone: 260-470-4200 Fax 260-470-4211
Staff: Pam Lochner, Coordinator
Tom Dunn, Asst Mgr; Nathan Ainslie,
Beth McCoy, Dewey Satterfield, John Weber

2009 Board of Directors

President..... Allen Glassburn
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Leadership FW intern: Nyein Chan
Director Emeritus: Dick Florea

A non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing organization, Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people in need to build affordable housing. The houses are sold to those in need at no profit and with no interest charged. Payments are recycled into additional housing.

Newsletter Editor: Dick Florea

Partner Offers Advice to Others

Ethel Billingsley remembers exactly when Habitat began working on her new home because it was the Saturday after Sept. 11, 2001. She says she spent the



next six to eight weeks working every Saturday at the site, along with many volunteers and, often, her sister.

In 2001, Ethel was a single mom with a high school age daughter and a son in elementary school, but she still managed to put in her hours. She said, "You've got to have someone willing to help you, and my sister helped me a lot." Ethel's nephew or her sister would watch her son, and her sister also came to the work site and helped with the construction.

Ethel's home was the first home sponsored by Waterfield Mortgage. She remembers "tons of volunteers" from Waterfield," as well as some partner families, working on her new home. She said she was very happy with Waterfield Mortgage and the help she received from them.

When asked what message she might have for potential Habitat families, Ethel said, "I prayed about my house and asked God for strength. Even when you think you're going through a rough patch, take a little silent time, and ask God for strength."

Ethel also recommends that people "go to an open house or visit someone who already has a Habitat home." She says that even though there is a lot of work involved in building a Habitat home, "it's worth it in the end."

-Written by Jill Case

Family Advocates Needed

Are you a homeowner or a parent? Do you like to work with people and help them improve their lives?

We are in need of advocates to assist our partner families in understanding the process of owning their Habitat Home. Family advocates assist the partner families in finding answers to questions that may arise as a first-time homeowner. They encourage, work with, and hold them accountable until they succeed in becoming a homeowner themselves. We would like to encourage you to become involved. The time commitment is usually no more than an hour or two every couple weeks for a few months. For more info, please call our office, 422-4828.

Special Contributions Received

In Honor of the marriage of Tina Brown and Fred Eckart:

Margaret Lewis

Bill and Jeanne Schumann

Year-end Giving

Please consider a year-end gift to the ongoing work of Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity. This can be in the form of cash or securities, materials for sale at the Habitat ReStore operation, or perhaps you can commit to working as a volunteer in 2010 on Habitat committees or jobsites. A special donation envelope is enclosed with this newsletter.

Donation of appreciated stocks can be tax-efficient and attractive to Habitat supporters and of great benefit to our 2010 homebuilding efforts. The process is relatively simple and starts with a call to Carol Keplar, executive director of Fort Wayne HFH. An account number will be obtained and the donor can transfer the stock to our account at A.G. Edwards & Sons. Habitat then sells the securities and uses the proceeds to further its mission.

ReStore News



Two loaded aisles of new and used lighting fixtures at the ReStore

- Since the summer expansion and move to Wells Street, Habitat ReStore business has been booming. Sales since the move are running 77% ahead of last year, as bargain hunters enjoy the pleasant retail environment and the increased merchandise now available.

Manager Pam Lochner reports donations are up 50%, with an estimated 153 tons of product diverted from landfills so far this year.

- A unique holiday tree-decorating contest is underway this month. Stop by and see how creative you can be in transforming ReStore items into Christmas tree ornaments. Deadline for entries is Dec. 19, with judging Dec. 22. ReStore gift certificates (\$50, \$20, \$10) will be awarded to three winners.

The Habitat ReStore is open Tuesday-Saturday at 3837 North Wells Street.

Gift Card Program Benefits Habitat for Humanity

You can support Fort Wayne HFH through your every day purchase of groceries, gasoline, food, and many other items and services through a popular gift card program. A portion of each card (on average 2%) comes back to Habitat to help sustain our homebuilding mission.

Information on participating firms as well as instruction for ordering is available from the Ministry Home Gift Card Center, accessed through our website home page www.fortwaynehabitat.org.

Youth United



YOUTH UNITED is a student-led group of youth between the ages of 5-25 with a goal to raise \$50,000 to sponsor and build a home in the summer of 2010.

Some upcoming fundraisers are a "STUDENTS FOR CHANGE" coin drive where students from around Fort Wayne can collect spare change to help build a youth sponsored Habitat home. If you feel young at heart you can collect change, too! Also in May look for our YOUTH UNITED special edition **Mother's Day cookbook**. Please send in your recipes to contribute to this project. We appreciate your support!

Donate your car.



(877) 277-4344
carsforhomes.org

From the Director's Desk

December 2009

Especially during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season, we at Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity are amazed at the blessings of God to this ministry and to each of us. Even though it's easy to get wrapped up in the day-to-day hustle and bustle not only of the holidays, but also of running this ministry, we see God's work daily, and we have experienced it throughout 2009. Our God is an awesome God!

Fort Wayne Habitat has been very blessed this year with funding to build 12 new houses for deserving families, as well as with a grant for relocating our ReStore to a much more visible and successful location. Not only that, but we are poised to follow God's leading boldly into 2010. Not only are we grateful to God, but we also wish to thank all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped make 2009 such a wonderful year.



One of the ways the Habitat staff, and some of our regular volunteers, have chosen to celebrate God's love is by adopting a family for Christmas. We all took names and their gift ideas, then shopped and wrapped the gifts for our family. It has been very moving to see everyone's excitement in wanting to give back a little of how we have been blessed.

Of course, we couldn't accomplish what we do without your support, from prayer support to volunteer support to financial support. We appreciate you so much. As you enjoy this wonderful season, would you please send up a prayer for our ministry of helping those in need? And if God puts it on your heart, please consider a gift to Fort Wayne Habitat. We would be so thankful!

May you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season.

Blessings,

Carol Keplar

Executive Director

Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity



This was the scene as volunteers began the fall Apostle Build at 5314 South Harrison. A compact five-bedroom house was built for the Teresa Niemeyer (center photo) family in a joint effort by members of eight local congregations: Anchor Community Church, Brookside Community Church, Calvary Third Presbyterian Church, First Assembly of God, First Presbyterian Church, Grace Presbyterian Church, Resurrection Lutheran Church, and Saint Joseph United Methodist Church. A joyous dedication was held November 7 marking the completion.

Jimmy Carter on Habitat



HFHI Photo

“The underlying problem is that sometimes it is difficult for people like us—who have homes, good educations, and fruitful careers—to cross the chasm that separates us from people who may have none of these blessings. Often, the needy are scorned by us more affluent people who think to ourselves, *Well, if those poor people would only work as hard as I do or study as hard as I do, then they could provide a good home for their families, just as I do.* That kind of prejudice can be difficult to overcome.

In Habitat’s work, building homes for those in need, (Rosalynn and I) saw the opportunity—as so many others have—to put our faith into practice.”

Editor’s note: The preceding is an excerpt from the foreword by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter for a new book “If I Had a Hammer” written by David Rubel for readers, ages 9 and up.

Promote and Support Habitat with Specialty License Plate



An attractive specialty plate is again available to Indiana motorists in 2010, with the added fee supporting Habitat for Humanity in the state. The process can be completed at any BMV branch. In addition to normal fees for your particular vehicle, a \$25 donation to Habitat will be collected plus a \$15 BMV handling fee.

Aluminum Can Collection

August	6,700 lbs
September	6,638 lbs
October	6,713 lbs

El Salvador Mission Trip

Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity will be part of a group of 25 volunteers from Indiana and Michigan making the March 6-13 mission trip to El Salvador. This year the destination is Ahuachapán, where they will be working in a holistic community that will have up to 90 HFH homes plus spaces for education, medical, and religious services. The build is being coordinated by the Santa Ana affiliate just as it has been for the last 5 years.

In Memoriam

Carolyn Muff, a Habitat homeowner since 1999, died July 20. Survivors include a son, Ozzie.

2008 Audit Completed

The most recent financial audit of our operations by Baden Gage & Schroeder LLC is available for inspection at the Habitat office.

Planning Ahead in 2010

The annual Habitat dinner-auction fundraiser is scheduled for Friday evening, March 5.

The Women Build committee is planning a tea on April 24 at First Assembly of God.



629 East Washington Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

www.fortwaynehabitat.org

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Holiday Houses for Habitat



INDIANA'S LARGEST SNOW VILLAGE
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Stroll through scenic snow villages and be part of Fort Wayne's newest holiday tradition benefitting Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity.

Fort Wayne/Allen County
Convention & Visitors Bureau: 260-424-3700

Discover Indiana's largest snow village!

Join us for the opening night of *Holiday Houses for Habitat* during the annual Night of Lights!

Wednesday, November 25, 2009 • 6 pm–9 pm

Enjoy this **FREE** holiday event at the Grand Wayne Convention Center

Nov 27 - Nov 29
Noon–8 pm

Nov 30 - Dec 1
9 am–1 pm

Dec 2 - Dec 23
Mon–Thurs: 4 pm–8 pm
Fri–Sun: Noon–5 pm

Join us for live music and entertainment every Sunday!



www.HolidayHousesForHabitat.com

