

March 2009

March Again Celebrated as Habitat Month

Habitat Month kicks off with our 5th gala fundraiser dinner-auction Friday, March 6, in the Diamond Room at Ceruti's, off West Ludwig Road. Reservations for the \$125 a plate event have been made for about 200 Habitat supporters. Major 2009 sponsors are Do-It-Best, and DeHayes Insurance, along with NIPSCO and Indiana Michigan Power. The 5:45pm reception period includes an expanded silent auction of donated

Spring Construction Schedule

House #125, 3529 Plaza Drive
Framing starts March 17; Dedication May 2
Partner Family: Patricia Jones

House #126, (location tba)
Framing starts March 31; Dedication May 30
Partner Family: Tha Wai

New Family Services Coordinator

Habitat partner Nea Laster began duties in late January as the new Family Services Coordinator.

She fills the vacancy created when Carol Keplar was promoted to Executive Director.



Mother of two and a Habitat homeowner since last July, Laster has a degree from Indiana Business College. She feels blessed to now be helping others. "Being recipient of a Habitat home and now working to help other families realize that

their dream of homeownership is a true possibility makes me feel that God is giving me the opportunity to 'pay it forward' to His glory." She adds "My experience is coming full circle. I am thankful and honored to serve with people and an organization that aim to show the love of God to His children in need."

Laster was off to a running start in her first month, meeting with potential partner families, the Family Selection Committee, the advocates training class, and visiting local social service agencies to promote the Habitat mission.



items and services. Following the dinner, Tim Kruse of Kruse International will conduct bidding for various components of a Habitat house build.

Because sponsoring firms cover event expenses, all money raised by the dinner, live auction, and the silent auction, goes directly to 2009 house construction. An advance pledge will match the first \$20,000 in auction bids. This year's ambitious building goal is 14 houses, with the first set for framing on March 17. The silent auction includes Vera Bradley bags, golf and tennis lessons, spas and salons, and many local restaurants.

Executive Director Carol Keplar will lead the 27-member El Salvador Mission Trip, leaving March 14. Former Executive Director Don Cross is also in the work group.

Mayor Tom Henry will be signing an official proclamation designating March as Habitat month in Fort Wayne. Our colorful Habitat street banners will again be seen in the downtown area. The Glenbrook Square food court will be using special tray liners and table tents promoting Habitat.

Website Has New Look

Still a "work in progress," the Fort Wayne HFH website has undergone a major upgrade. We invite you to take a look at www.fortwaynehabitat.org and check it out. Special thanks are due volunteer Dan McLaughlin, with recent help by new board member Larry Pensinger.

And, we now have another online Fort Wayne HFH presence.....on Facebook.

March Bargains at the ReStore



Save on your spring home improvement items at the Habitat ReStore!

Manager Pam Lochner reports a “50% Off – Stuff the Bag” sale is planned Friday-Saturday, March 13-14. Check with the cashier and you save half on everything you can fit in a ReStore Recycling bag.

The ReStore is located at 1111 East Wallace Street, and open Tuesday-Saturday. Proceeds from the operation support Habitat homebuilding. Store volunteers are always needed.

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

Office: 629 E. Washington Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: (260) 420-9919
Fax: (260) 424-9272
Website: www.fortwaynehabitat.org

Habitat ReStore

Location: 1111 East Wallace St.
Phone: 458-8159
Staff: Pam Lochner, Coordinator
Tom Dunn, Assistant Manager
Nathan Ainslie, John Weber, Beth McCoy

2009 Board of Directors

President..... Allen Glassburn
Vice President.... Dan Rickert
Secretary.....Jane Scott
Treasurer..... James Swift

Bill Burton, Carmen Files, Frances Ganaway
Andy Minnich, Larry Pensinger
Veronique Poudrier, Ann Simmerman, Judy Thomas
John Verduce, Lynn Weaver, Laurel Woebeking
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



Construction Volunteers Honored: Five Worked on Every 2008 Build

We salute these dedicated Habitat volunteers: (standing, left to right) Steve Grote, Dick Weaver, Stan Kessler, Jim Witte, Ron Korte, and (seated) Bernie Booker, honored for his 100th house.

El Salvador Mission Trip

The roster is complete with 27 volunteers set to participate in the 2009 mission trip March 14-22 to build homes in El Salvador. Watch for follow-up photos on our website and in the June newsletter.

Participants:

Albertson, Robert
Brittenham, David & Angel
Carlstrom, Kevin & Courtney
Cross, Donald
Farr, Jonathon
Foster, Bradley
German, Todd & Kathleen
Glasper, Timothy
Henschen, Catherine
Howard, Kyle
Kachmar, Andrew & Mary
Keplar, Jeffery & Carol
Kerestzes, Lorie
Miller, Lorie
Monnier, Thomas
Nayes, Lynn
Praski, Carl
Queen, Anne
Rondot, Steven
Shull, Perry
Voirol, Gary
Willis, Brenda

HFH Founder Millard Fuller Dies

Habitat for Humanity is deeply saddened by the death of Millard Fuller, the visionary whose ideas and tireless work created Habitat for Humanity. Fuller died in Georgia February 3 following a brief illness. He was 74.



“Millard Fuller was a force of nature who turned a simple idea into an international organization that has helped more than 300,000 families move from

deplorable housing into simple, decent homes they helped build and can afford to buy and live in,” said Jonathan Reckford, chief executive officer of Habitat for Humanity International. “The entire Habitat family mourns the loss of our founder, a true giant in the affordable housing movement.”

Fuller came to Fort Wayne at least four times. In 1993 he was the keynote speaker at a three-state Habitat affiliates conference at First Presbyterian Church. His last visit was October 30-31, 2002, to speak to Habitat supporters meeting at The Chapel and to address a Christian Businessmen’s breakfast.

Millard Fuller was a prolific writer, authoring 10 books. He had received more than 50 honorary degrees and in 1996 received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

He was buried in a plain wooden shipping crate and laid to rest in a pecan orchard without a headstone. A memorial service will be held at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., at 2 pm, Saturday, March 14.

Donate to Cars for Homes

It is quick and easy to donate cars, trucks, boats, RVs, motorcycles, construction equipment or other vehicles—running or not! Plus, when you donate your car, your vehicle donation may be eligible for tax deduction purposes if you itemize. (Consult the IRS or your tax adviser for details.)

Donate a car, truck, boat or RV to Cars for Homes™—Habitat’s official car donation program. Call (877) 277-HFHI (4344) toll-free or visit www.habitat.org/carsforhomes

Your donation can help a local family build a house and the hope of a better life!

Special Contributions Received

In Memory of George Lengacher
Mark & Colleen Lengacher

In Memory of Kurt Sauer
Elvera Bienz
Robert & Laura Christen
Bernard & Marlyn Hupperts
Richard & Barbara Sauer

In Memory of Beatrice Sawicki
Mark Hagen
David & Jill Nelson
Martha Schrock

In Memory of Robert & Bea Stoeckley
The John & Aileen Brand Family

In Honor of Jeffrey Burdek and Gayle Goodrich
Richard & Jo Ann Burdek

In Honor of Rev. Francis Frellick
Marcia Frellick, Dan & Eddie Kening

In Honor of Cindie Matuska
Anne Hombach

In Honor of Fred & Helen Shewman
Jane & George Scott

Habitat Fish and Tenderloin Dinner

Covenant United Methodist Church, 10001 Coldwater Rd., holds its annual Fish and Tenderloin Dinner, Wednesday, May 13, 4:30-7:30pm. The meal also includes potatoes, green beans, coleslaw or applesauce, dessert, roll and drink. The cost is \$8 adults, \$5 children age 5-12, and children under 5 eat free.

All proceeds benefit Habitat homebuilding.

In Memoriam

Bea Stoeckley, member of the Habitat board from 1988 to 1995, died October 5 in Phoenix, Arizona. She was 88. Her husband, Robert, age 95, died 4 days later.

Diann Kay Huffman, a Habitat homeowner since 1995, died November 24. She is survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

Newest Partner Families

Four more families have been approved for partnership: Kari Voirol and James Hopper (4 children), Alexandra Vasquez (2 children), E'Von Young (2 children), and Shameka Arrington (1 child).

They now begin the process of classes and sweat equity toward their goal of home ownership.

Another "Thrivent Builds" Fort Wayne Project in 2009

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has approved funding another house in Fort Wayne this year. Construction is scheduled to start June 16.

In 2009 Thrivent will contribute more than \$24-million to help build another 314 affordable homes in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

Briefs

- A networking retreat for Indiana Habitat affiliates will be held March 17-19 at Nashville, Indiana.
- Habitat will have information booths manned by volunteers at the March 4-5 Building Contractors Association tradeshow and at Tapestry: A Day for Women, April 24. Both events are at Memorial Coliseum.
- The Cans for Habitat recycling program collected 71,870 pounds of aluminum cans in 2008, producing gross revenue of \$52,997. The program has been selected by Leadership Fort Wayne for assistance in developing a strategic marketing plan to boost awareness in 2009.
- For those unable to visit our website, we have added an office bulletin board to post upcoming events, notifications, and services that may benefit our partner families and others who visit us.

Volunteers Needed

Photographers – Do you like to take pictures? Would you like to spend time at the job site taking photos of the house being built?

Speakers – Do you like to do presentations? Would you like to tell the story of Habitat?

Youth – Do you have a heart for the youth? Would you like to join a newly formed Youth Committee to help get more youth involved in Habitat?

From the Director's Desk ...

Since the financial world is so uncertain of late, I know that my God, my family, my friends, my church, and my home are the places where I must look for a sense of peace, comfort, and hope. When we are in national or personal economic disaster we often take inventory and ask ourselves some questions. What is really important to me? How should I spend my money? How can I most efficiently use my God-given gifts, talents and resources? What differences can I make in people's lives and in the world? And while asking these questions, I want to allow my Christian values to shine through in my decisions.



If you stop to take inventory and ask these same questions regarding your own life, I pray that you consider that Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity does focus on what really matters to our community and to the families we serve. As we work on eliminating substandard housing in Allen County, we are showing God's love, building hope and creating the security that comes with a safe and stable home.

We will soon be gearing up to begin building for the 2009 build season. However, as you can probably imagine, personal donations from individuals and the commitments of our sponsors have taken a downturn as the economy did the same. Therefore, the board of directors reluctantly has had to trim back our build schedule for the year and reduce the number of houses we plan to build. No one likes to cut back on ministry, but we must also be good stewards of what you as donors entrust to us and keep the organization financially viable into the future.

I am not ashamed to ask you to support us as your gifts allow, either financially or by volunteering some of your time and talents, all given to you by our Creator. Please join with me in helping our Habitat for Humanity partner families find the peace and comfort of owning their own home. Each time we put a family into a Habitat home, it changes their lives forever. We cannot change the world, but we can change our little section of the world, one Habitat home at a time.

Many blessings to you and your family,

Carol Keplar

Board Welcomes New Members

Three new members have joined the board of directors after being elected to three-year terms. They are Larry Pensinger, Director E-Business at Do it Best Corp.; Anne Simerman, Attorney with Barrett & McNagny; and Bill Burton, Assistant Professor of Business and Management at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Re-elected to second terms were Allen Glassburn and Frances Ganaway. Retiring from the board were Dick Florea, Jeff Woenker, and Rudy Koch. Florea, completing 21 years on the board, was named Director Emeritus.

Glassburn was re-elected president for 2009. Other officers elected Dan Rickert, vice president; Jane Scott, secretary; and Jim Swift re-elected treasurer.

Homeward Bound 5K April 26

Fort Wayne HFH is again participating in the Northeast Indiana Homeward Bound Walk, a state-wide fundraising project among local homeless and affordable housing providers. The Fort Wayne 5K walk is set for Sunday, April 26, at 2pm from Headwaters Park. Registration and entertainment begins at Noon.

Other area agencies participating include Cedars Hope, Fort Wayne Rescue Ministries, Fort Wayne Women's Bureau, Genesis Outreach, Hope House, Huntington County Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Park Center, Pathfinder Services, Vincent House, Whittington Homes, and the YWCA of Fort Wayne.

You can register your walk team and make pledges at www.homewardboundindiana.org/northeast. If you don't want to have a team please consider walking and sponsoring yourself.

The event is a project of the Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues. Similar walks will take place in ten other Hoosier cities in April.

E-Newsletters

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

Our Thanks for Community Support



The first downtown **Holiday Houses for Habitat** event netted over \$9,200. Dan O'Connell (right) of the Convention and Visitors Bureau came to the February 17 board meeting and presented the check to Habitat president Allen Glassburn.

Holiday shoppers at **Glenbrook Square** donated more than \$3,100 for the work of many volunteers at the Habitat gift wrapping booth.

And area **Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts** attending the 75th annual Lincoln Pilgrimage February 14 brought Lincoln pennies, resulting in a \$300 gift to Habitat.

2009 Cover Indiana Bicycle Tour May 11-17

This May bicycle riders will participate in the 6th annual Cover Indiana Bicycle Tour. They will see the back road beauty of spring's first flowers, the majesty of the Wabash River and the pride of our Hoosier communities.

Cover Indiana bicycle riders won't just be taking in the natural beauty and native hospitality, they will also be leaving something behind. Simply by riding through our cities and towns, the riders will spread awareness of the mission of Habitat for Humanity, and of progress the 71 independent affiliates are making toward ending poverty housing.

Our own Nathan Ainslie, from the ReStore will be riding to support our mission. We invite you to join Nathan in a ride that will not just lift your spirits, but will help Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity raise many walls. You can literally help us in our mission to ensure that every man, woman, and child has a decent place to sleep at night!

Please call our office 260-422-4828 or visit our website www.fortwaynehabitat.org to find out how you can be part of this exciting team.



629 East Washington Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

www.fortwaynehabitat.org

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Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity
Washington & Hanna Streets
Phone 420-9919

Office Hours
Monday—Thursday 8am to 5pm
Friday 8am to 3pm



1111 E. Wallace St.
Phone 458-8159

Open
Tues-Sat 9am-4pm
Wed open until 6pm

Yes, I would like to support Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity! Please mail to: 629 E Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

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