

Heartstone

Summer 2006

www.habitatdane.org

**Bringing the community together
to build homes with God's people in need.**

P.O. Box 258128, Madison, WI 53725-8128 • 608.255.1549



Among the 12 Habitat families starting construction on their homes in 2006 are the Rios Family (top photo) and the Blazek Family (bottom photo, front row), shown with their volunteer family partners Mike Kepler and Mary Beth Keppel.



Habitat Kicks Off Most Ambitious Building Season in the History of the Dane County Affiliate

“Our prayers have been answered and we will finally become homeowners!” exclaimed Carrie Blazek, a mother of two whose family is one of 12 families beginning construction of their Habitat for Humanity homes this spring and summer. “Because of my disability, cerebral palsy, and my lower income, I never thought it would be possible to own my home. This is a dream come true.”

Dreams and hard work have taken Blazek and the other families on the Habitat journey toward homeownership. They begin the lengthy process by attending an open enrollment meeting to find out what is required to become a Habitat homeowner. Then they fill out applications with background information on their income, credit and rental history. They also indicate their willingness to partner with Habitat to build their homes.

Once they meet Habitat for Humanity criteria in these areas, they move on to the next phase where members of the Habitat Family Selection Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers, visit them in their homes. These visits provide crucial insight into a family's commitment to building a new life through homeownership. Committee members make recommendations to the Habitat Board of Directors for the final selection.

Next, the new class of Habitat homeowners is officially welcomed at the “New Family Potluck.” They immediately begin working with staff and volunteers on the Family Support Committee and with their volunteer Family Partner to learn all aspects of homeownership and prepare for the 350 hours of sweat equity they will be contributing to the construction of their homes and 50 additional hours helping other Habitat homeowners. After 6–9 months of house construction, the families, volunteers and staff celebrate the end of construction with a house blessing.

Like all homebuyers, Habitat families attend a real estate closing for their home, where they execute the complex financing package, agreeing to make monthly 0% interest mortgage payments to Habitat over 20 years.

In the end, Habitat for Humanity homeowners can look with pride on what they have accomplished. Javier Rios, another future Habitat homeowner, knows how much his family will gain. “We can't wait for our children to have their own yard to play in and their own rooms.”



Habitat Heroes

Elaine Guderyon is a true Habitat Hero who has contributed thousands of volunteer hours since 1993 in a variety of roles. She began her volunteer service on the construction site, helped serve lunches, then took over the job of contacting and scheduling the food servers. Thanks to Elaine, the 60 Saturday volunteers at the Habitat Twin Oaks subdivision receive a hardy lunch. As if all of this weren't enough, Elaine started the site host program where volunteers sign up to coordinate worksite volunteer registration, coffee break preparation, general site organization, and lunch set-up and clean-up. Elaine also served on the HFHDC board for three years, and helped to produce the affiliate newsletter.



Elaine Guderyon (left), lunch provider organizer, with volunteer Julia Johnson.

Elaine got involved because she was not able to join the Peace Corps, and Jimmy Carter inspired her to contact Habitat. "My only regret is that I don't have more time to volunteer in other areas," she said. "Volunteering becomes a habit, a way of life."

If you are interested in providing lunch or morning snacks for our volunteer crews, please contact Marcy Stutzman at the Habitat office mstutzman@habitatdane.org or call 608-255-1549 ext. 104.

Volunteer Nominations

We love our volunteers and we love bragging about them. Some volunteers recently nominated by Habitat for Humanity of Dane County:

Ron Konkol

Nominated for Habitat for Humanity International's "National Volunteer of the Year" Award

Eric Oelkers

Nominated for United Way of Dane County's "Individual Volunteer of the Year" Award

Christ Lutheran Church, DeForest – Apostles Build "Regulars"

Nominated for United Way of Dane County's "Group Volunteer of the Year" Award

Fleetgard Nelson, Inc.

Nominated for United Way of Dane County's "Corporate Volunteers of the Year" Award

Meet the Newest Members of Our Team

Sue Chiaro, Thrivent Program

Coordinator, began working at HFHDC as administrative assistant in August 2005 after 17 years at Lands' End and became the Thrivent Program Coordinator in January 2006. She welcomes the variety of assignments she now has in coordinating the Thrivent sponsorship of three Habitat homes in Dane County, working with HFHDC satellites in Oregon and Stoughton, coordinating the affiliate database and supporting staff.



Peggy Halloran, Development Director,

joined the affiliate in October 2005 after moving to Madison from the Chicago area. Prior to joining HFHDC, she was the vice president of development and communications for a nonprofit agency serving individuals with developmental disabilities and a senior corporate events director for the American Heart Association. Her role at HFHDC is to coordinate fund-raising and communications activities.



Bob Huppe, Construction Manager,

feels that he has "come home" since accepting the position in March. With 24 years of remodeling and residential and commercial new construction experience, he is impressed by volunteers who have not worked in these trades. His primary responsibility is coordinating all building projects, securing appropriate plans, permits and bids, and scheduling contractors. He manages a team of three HFHDC site supervisors who Huppe commended for going above and beyond every day.



Marcy Stutzman, Volunteer Manager,

joined HFHDC in March after managing volunteer activities at the Madison YWCA for 11 years. Stutzman's also served as YWCA counselor for a single mothers' program, racial justice facilitator and children's programs coordinator. At Habitat, she manages scheduling and recruiting of construction and non-construction volunteers. Last year, over 3,000 volunteers contributed more than 46,000 hours to HFHDC projects.



House Blessings Celebrate Family and Sponsor Teamwork

Habitat for Humanity celebrations happened weekly throughout Dane County this spring as homes started last fall were dedicated and construction began on new homes.

“Traditional Habitat house blessings are extremely emotional,” according to Lisa Seidel, HFHDC family services manager. “It is a time for homeowners to thank the sponsors and volunteers who have helped them build their dreams, and it is a time for sponsors to thank their employees who have given so much of themselves to the project.”

Thank you to our Fall 2005 Home Sponsors: FISKARS BRANDS, INC., Stark Company Realtors, Asbury United Methodist Church, UW Chapter, and 10 Apostles Build churches.



UW-Madison Campus Chapter volunteers celebrate the end of construction with homeowner Michelle Born (third from left) and her son Bryden (fourth from left).



Pastor Harold Zimmick (center), Asbury United Methodist Church, shares his congregation's joy in helping the Munishi family realize their dream of owning a home. Long-time HFHDC volunteer Ron Konkol (right) served as event MC.



FISKARS BRANDS, INC. President and CEO Jim Purdin (center) and HFHDC Family Services Manager Lisa Seidel (left) present a tool box to new homeowner Melissa Clark.



Homeowner Christy Jensen and her son Christian are welcomed to their new home by sponsors Phil Stark (back row, left) and Dave Stark (back row, right) of Stark Company Realtors.



Home in a Box Nears Completion in Louisiana

The new Habitat home for a Katrina family in Louisiana which began with the construction of walls in Dane County in January is near completion. The Home in a Box was sponsored by the Gordon Flesch Charitable Foundation. The company's associates joined Habitat volunteers in completing the first step of construction by building panelized walls that were shipped to the Thibodaux home site. The homeowners, Mrs. Leila Southall, and her four grandchildren are scheduled to move into their new home by July 4.



Bill and Jan DeAtley Support Habitat's Mission to Change the Lives of Children

From hammering on Habitat homes in the Mt. Horeb area, to hosting Strategic Planning sessions in their home, to visiting Habitat's work in Guatemala, to investing seed money in HFHDC's new efforts to reach even lower-income families, Bill and Jan DeAtley are a strong leadership couple making a difference in the world around them.

In February, Bill DeAtley became President of the Board of Habitat for Humanity of Dane County and readily accepted the role of leading HFHDC in the coming years. "I'm excited about Habitat for Humanity's growth in Dane County," he said. "We're finishing Twin Oaks and are actively looking for places to serve low-income families in condominiums."

Bill has already been involved in Habitat's discussion with the City of Madison and with the United Way about expanding the Habitat model into Madison's troubled urban neighborhoods.

In December 2005, Bill and Jan joined other Habitat for Humanity supporters to visit Habitat's work in Guatemala, a country with extreme poverty and a housing crisis brought on by this past winter's mudslides. An average 3,000 Habitat homes are constructed each year in Guatemala, but there is a need for 1.6 million houses. Currently, families live in huts or they are crowded in small rented rooms. These properties do not have basic utilities and are located in high-risk areas, mostly in urban zones.

For 2007, the DeAtleys hope to plan another international trip where supporters of Habitat's work in Dane County can travel together to work on homes in Guatemala.



Bill and Jan DeAtley pose with a Guatemalan Habitat family. The DeAtleys visited worksites in that country as part of a Habitat for Humanity International trip in December.

"I'm excited about Habitat for Humanity's growth in Dane County. We're ... actively looking for places to serve low-income families in condominiums."

— Bill DeAtley



Children and their parents spent the first HFHDC Family Build Day constructing and painting planter boxes and birdhouses for their new homes.



Family Build Day

HFHDC held its first Family Build Day on April 22. Parents and children from the six families moving into their Habitat homes this spring took part in the activities. Families worked together to make planter boxes for their new homes, children painted coat hooks and name plates for their new rooms, families toured and worked in the community gardens at Twin Oaks, and children constructed "fairy" houses made of twigs and branches they found lying in the woods. All in all, families had a wonderful time getting to know their new neighbors. It was a wonderful afternoon of community building!

Compared to children of renters (of the same age, income and race) children of homeowners are:

- 25% more likely to graduate from high school*
- 116% more likely to graduate from college*

*Taken from a 1999 University of Tennessee at Knoxville study.



Habitat for Humanity of Dane County Receives National Award

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) has recognized HFHDC with its 2005 Clarence Jordan Award through its annual "Pioneers in Excellence" award program. HFHI honors U.S. Habitat affiliates or individuals based on their high performance in achieving the organizational mission to eliminate substandard housing in communities.

The 2005 Clarence Jordan Award was given to HFHDC to honor this affiliate's accomplishments in the following areas:

- **The development of a large mixed-income subdivision called Twin Oaks**
- **Successful fund-raising and volunteer recruitment through its 2005 Capital Campaign**
- **The expansion and success of its Habitat ReStore**
- **The increased commitment to homebuilding overseas through other Habitat affiliates**



"Habitat for Humanity has 1,700 affiliates in the United States and a countless number of dedicated volunteers, all of whom work tirelessly to help families living in substandard housing achieve the benefits of homeownership," said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International. "Through the award program, Habitat can recognize the importance of their local work on a national level."

Each year, HFHI recognizes three outstanding Habitat affiliates in the United States. Winners receive a plaque and a \$5,000 award for the local affiliate. The winners will receive the award at the HFHI National Leadership Conference taking place in Charlotte, North Carolina in August 2006.

Amazing April at Habitat ReStore

Madison's Habitat ReStore had a great Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 22, featuring 25 exhibitors highlighting Earth-friendly products and services, including two on-site bio-diesel vehicles. Habitat ReStore thanks the exhibitors, food donors and the hundreds of members of the community who helped make the day a great celebration of the ReStore's commitment to recycling.

Habitat ReStore sales for the month of April have amazed us all, thanks in part to three semi-truck loads of new windows and patio doors, plus increasing donations from individuals. "We couldn't have done it without our equally amazing volunteer crews and staff," noted Jen Voichick, Habitat ReStore director. "Less product in the landfills and more affordable housing! Nice work everybody!"

Increased donations and shoppers have resulted in a need for new volunteers, especially for the warehouse. Warehouse workers load and unload merchandise, sort and clean items and maintain a clean and safe working environment. Warehouse workers must be able to lift 30-50 pounds with some frequency, and be on their feet for the 3-5 hour shifts (with periodic breaks). ReStore volunteers generally work one shift per week for at least 6 months. Additional flexibility is available for Saturday volunteers.

We are also seeking volunteers for our Deconstruction program to remove flooring, cabinets, etc. Deconstruction shifts vary and are usually on an as-needed basis. Please contact Amanda at apurington@restoredane.org or 608-661-2813 for more information.



Tithing Facts

- **Over \$100,000 has been contributed by HFHDC to other Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the last 2 years**
- **Additional \$70,000 "tithe" has been budgeted for 2006**
- **Examples of places we're building homes:**
 - Katrina Relief Fund – \$95,000
 - Tsunami Relief – (SE Asia) \$10,000 (8+ homes)
 - Guatemala – \$9,000 (3 homes)
 - El Salvador – \$12,000 (3 homes)
 - Zimbabwe – \$6,000 (1 home)
 - Mexico – \$7,000 (2 homes)
- **+ many others**





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For more information, please contact Peggy Halloran, HFHDC Development Director at **608-255-1549 ext. 106** or phalloran@habitatdane.org.

Hearthstone

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