
◆ Saginaw Habitat Highlights ◆

www.saginawhfh.org

Volume No. 8

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Mid-summer 2003



Cameron Brady and Lorie Thompson wait with door prizes for throngs of bargain-seeking Habitat volunteers.

Volunteer Appreciation Night August 28

Been thinking about new windows for the house as a fall project? Painting the living room? A new toilet in the bathroom?

Well, if you've volunteered for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity in the past year, construction or non-construction, you don't have to scan newspaper ads looking for sales.

On Thursday, Aug. 28—two months to the day after the ending of Blitz Build 2003—The Home Depot is again

hosting a Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Appreciation Night.

Running from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., everything in the store is 15 percent off that night for Habitat volunteers—yes 15 percent, an increase from the usual 10 percent.

Just check in at the Habitat "desk" for the night to receive a nametag and have your name checked off as authorized to shop 'til you drop.

Opening soon for business: Saginaw's ReStore

Come mid-September, if all goes well, home improvement bargain hunters will have a new store to investigate.

"We've leased a 4,000-square-foot building at 2111 S. Michigan and will open our ReStore there by mid-September, says Paul A. Warriner, the executive director of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

A growing concept nationwide, a Habitat ReStore sells donated home improvement materials—used items donated by homeowners upgrading their own domains as well as new items that are remnants or close-out items donated by home improvement stores or companies.

"I have gone to other ReStores, talked to people on the telephone who run them, and studied them on the Internet," says Warriner, "and all of them do very well making \$10,000, \$12,000, \$15,000 a month or more, which is then used to build Habitat homes."

His goal, he says, is to break even the first year and to start making money by the second.

Saint Mary's Hospital has donated shelving, so volunteers can start arranging the items already in hand for sale.

Anyone can shop at Saginaw's ReStore, Warriner stresses. It is not limited to Habitat volunteers or

homeowners.

"We price the used items by estimating their fair market value and the new items at half price." Already in stock and ready for the first day are lighting fixtures, windows, hot water heaters, wood and trim, old doors and door knobs, old cupboards.

Now Warriner is looking for volunteers to hopefully keep the store open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

"We plan to hold off on a grand opening for awhile, until we work out the kinks," says Warriner. Saginaw Habitat has leased the building with an option to buy.

In memoriam...

Saginaw's Habitat for Humanity received gifts since our last newsletter...

In loving memory of:

- ▶ Alfreda Barry
- ▶ Kathy Gilbert
- ▶ Margaret Haglund
- ▶ Alice Provost
- ▶ In honor of:
- ▶ Steven P. Sowulewski

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Regular meetings, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. the third Thursday of each month, are open to interested people by appointment. Call the Habitat office for details (753-5200).

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Janet Martineau, editor

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Lighting the way

Through September, the purchase of a scented candle in a jar and/or a candle shade for it can benefit the Habitat for Humanity International organization and its Women Build Program as well as Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

Home Interiors, an in-home sales program, has pledged to raise \$500,000 to build 10 or more Habitat for Humanity homes in 2004 in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The funds will come from the sales of two limited edition products: the 11972 Summer Garden Scented Candle in a Jar priced at \$6.35 and the 11950 Summer Garden

Candle Shade sold at \$11.65. As a set they cost \$18.

Home Interiors' a Pocketful of Hope Charities has called the Habitat fund drive campaign "Building Homes & Decorating Lives." Each candle sale will pay 50 cents and each shade sale \$1 to Habitat International.

Joan McKeon of Pinconning, a local rep for Home Interiors, also is making a sale donation of her own to Saginaw Habitat: \$5 for the set, \$3.25 for the shade and \$1.75 for the jar.

"The local Habitat is making more from this than the national," says McKeon.

To order call the Saginaw Habitat at 753-5200 or McKeon direct at (989) 879-4247.



Dinner is served...

When Leadership Saginaw alumni Cameron Brady of Habitat and community volunteer Marianne C. Bird crossed paths recently, Brady had an idea cooking and wondered if Bird was willing to help.

The answer was yes, and thus it is that on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at the Germania Town and Country Club at the foot of S. Wheeler, Saginaw Habitat for Humanity will host its first-ever "celebration dinner," in advance of Habitat for Humanity International's annual *Building on Faith Week*.

"Cam wanted a way to celebrate Habitat, to thank and recognize all the people involved in it and to keep awareness about it going," says Bird, who does freelance marketing work for volunteer groups, honed from her days as director of hospital relations and marketing at St. Mary's Hospital.

"We've invited all the contributors over the past year—financial donations and in-kind contributors as well as business people in the area." All SHFH supporters are invited.

Bird says the menu is not yet set but is

likely chicken, and she and Brady also are working on the program which will include a national Habitat video and photo displays of Saginaw builds.

The time: 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner. The cost: \$37.97.

"We wanted something different than the usual \$30 or \$40," says Bird of the odd price. "What that amount pays for is a hammer, eight 2 by 4s and five pounds of nails."

The dinner also will serve as a fundraiser for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

Bird says four or five years ago she tried her hand at a Blitz build, working electrical wiring duty, and had helped recruit Saginaw Habitat volunteers when she worked at St. Mary's.

"I also was involved for 12 years with Christmas in July (now Rebuilding Together) program. I was a scraper, primer and painter of porches."

Now she's working the logistics for the Sept. 10 Habitat dinner.

Reservations for the dinner are required by Wednesday, Sept. 3. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

Volunteers needed all year 'round

Whew!!! I made it through my first Blitz. And wouldn't you know it, we're planning for the next one already!! Congratulations and thanks to every person and organization that participated in the 2003 Blitz.

Both veterans of past Blitzes and rookies reported that the Blitz went very well. In fact, 6 of the 7 blitz houses have already received their occupancy permits and four of the houses are occupied by our partner families. Saginaw Habitat established a goal early on that the target date for occupancy permits was August 1, 2003. The staff and volunteers all worked hard to make that date a reality.

Now, of course, we are working on houses and projects between Blitzes. And we are working hard to assure that all our current non-Blitz projects are finished on time with the highest possible quality standards in mind. In

this regard, the Affiliate can always use volunteers: construction, office and, with the ReStore, retail.

So many people in our community believe that Habitat and the Blitz are synonymous when in fact the Blitz

Paul Warriner
Executive Director
Saginaw Habitat

accounts for half of our annual house completions. Additionally, there are a number of activities needing volunteer support that are unrelated to construction and Blitzes. We need volunteers all year 'round to help with our other builds, to provide construction/repair support to our families, or to assist with office work. Giving your time to help with our mission is the noblest of charitable acts.

We all know that it can be very dis-

couraging for a partner family to wait too long for a house to be ready to be occupied. But, it is also discouraging for partner families to have delays in completing minor repairs. No house is ever built that does not need some touching up....

volunteers are needed for this important work.

Many of you know that we will be operating a ReStore. The ReStore is a retail outlet for dis-

counted construction materials. The ReStore needs the support of our volunteers. Persons who would be willing to work in the store, assist in picking up materials, inventorying, or answering the phone, for example. Call Drew at 753 5200 to offer your help.

Proceeds from the ReStore will be used to continue our mission of providing safe and affordable housing.

102 families share in Habitat partnership

Ever since the first two houses were completed in Saginaw under the Habitat for Humanity (HFHI) banner in 1989, teamwork and partnerships are what have made it happen. Each new family signs a Covenant Agreement when they apply for a Habitat home. In it they agree to partner with Saginaw Habitat through 400 hours of physical effort (250 for single adult household) to buy their new home. Saginaw Habitat, in turn, partners to provide simple, decent, affordable houses for them. Saginaw Habitat is the large group of volunteers and tradespeople who build, the sponsors who supply money and materials, and Saginaw Habitat Administration who coordinate and let the interest-free mortgage. It's a partnership "made in heaven" for all who share the love of Jesus.

As of today, some 102 families in Saginaw County share in this partnership as Habitat homeowners.

Generous sponsors built the following:

---Home Builders Association of Saginaw (HBAS) who built their first HFH home in 1992 and completed

Ralph Bergelin
President
Saginaw Habitat

their first 3-day build in November 2001. Another is planned for this fall. (They also completed a summer blitz-build in 2000.)

---Saginaw Career Complex (including the COC) who constructed 13 houses since 1992.

---Delta College building and trades classes erecting 10 houses since 1994.

---Carrollton High School trades classes assembling 5 houses since 1999.

---Bridgeport High School trades

class finished their first house in 2002 with another planned for this fall.

---Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, one house in 1995.

---Freeland Correctional Facility assembling a complete house inside their walls then trucking it to a foundation site in 2000.

All these houses and more were built outside the highly publicized Blitz Build format held each June.

Nearly all materials costs for the above homes (except for the HBAS houses, built almost entirely with in-kind gifts from its members) are borne by Saginaw Habitat's operating budget. Which means money for these costs come from general donations and ever-shrinking federal and state housing grant funds. Church sponsors are feeling the pinch as well, which sometimes reflects their giving to Saginaw HFH.

(see Bergelin column continued on page 4)

New tools got old fast

When Tony Kuchar won the 2003 Blitz Build drawing for a set of six Ryobi cordless power tools, he put them all to immediate use.

"My church sent 30 people—24 high school kids and six adults—to North Carolina for a week where we worked on 67 jobs sites on the north end of Wilmington," says Kuchar, 58, a resident of Maple Grove Township in Saginaw County and a member of St. Michael's Church. "Those tools got a heavy workout."

It was his ninth year participating in the Colorado-based Group Work Camp project, which in the course of a summer sends more than 400 young volunteers to 67 projects nationwide helping the poor and elderly with small home repair or maintenance projects—and his first as a Saginaw Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

"I'd always wanted to volunteer for a Habitat Blitz build but it always fell when the church group did its work camp project," says Kuchar. "This

year our church group went later than normal."

Kuchar spent the second week of the blitz, Monday through Saturday,



RYOBI

from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., working, assigned finishing projects like trim, painting and porch rails. Three of his older high school workers from St. Michael's also helped out a couple of the days.

"I was surprised at the quality of the

workmanship with Habitat," he says of the experience. "Nothing is done slipshod. If you make a mistake, you go back and fix it."

He enjoyed it so much, he says he plans on returning for Blitz 2004.

Kuchar, who mentors a high school youth group at his church, says the North Carolina contingent was housed in a high school. "We were near the ocean so that was a plus for the half-day off we had."

In earlier years Kuchar and his youths have journeyed to South Dakota and Minnesota Indian reservations, twice to West Virginia, and to Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

Home Depot donated the Ryobi cordless tools to Citadel Communications, which conducted a drawing taken from among all blitz volunteers.



Current board president Ralph Bergelin (center) greets founding Board President Gary Dawes with long-time volunteer Roger Wight looking on.

(Bergelin column continued from page 3)

The great good news in all of this gloom is that our Christian good works through Saginaw HFH are partnering with families who now live in their own house AND are paying less per month to own a decent house rather than rent in substandard housing. Your generous gifts to Saginaw

HFH go farther than to buy a door or a roof or a sink. It becomes a seed that flowers and multiples much fruit that lasts many lifetimes. Your donation toward a house is recycled many times in the form of mortgage payments. God blesses your prayers and gifts to Saginaw Habitat for Humanity. Thank you for your blessing.

Thanks to ...

...Christian Music Festival volunteers Earnest Burnell, Gloria Rumph and Roger and Shirlee Scovill and family.

...June newsletter mailing volunteers Mary Bauman, Mary Jo Doherty, Greta Engelman, Rebecca Gallery, Jessie Lanston, Gazella O'Malley, Kathy Wittig, Jim Kanitz, Oreatia Kunckles, C.J. Peters, Liz Plater, Pam Dorsey, Lotoska Mosely and Guatelupe Trejo.

... Marcia Westrick for the data entry of more than 1,400 volunteer forms.

... Web Master Dale Stephan for posting the grand total of 422 Blitz 2003 photos on the Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Web site.

Have you remembered Habitat in your will?

New construction manager on duty

Clay Strait, 54, began work in March as Saginaw Habitat for Humanity's new construction manager.

"I've been a Christian for 31 years and had worked full time in Christian service before and wanted to get back to it," says Strait, a resident of the city of Saginaw.

He and his wife were house parents at Teen Ranch for six years.

Strait came to the Habitat job after 18 years as director of building maintenance for the Saginaw Public Schools. He also has a building license and was self-employed in remodeling.

No stranger to Habitat,



Clay Strait (right) helps Doug Kadolph with a railing on the GM Powertrain house.

Strait worked as a house leader and general volunteer for two years and liked it so much he applied for the paid position of construction manager.

"I am still learning the job and what it requires, but it involves working with contractors, with volunteers and with suppliers, getting everything it takes to get a house going and finish all the builds, not just the Blitz."

One thing he says he's learned quickly. "It's more than a full-time job."

Fall builds, new homebuyers

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce the following new homebuyers:

► Pamela Dorsey, the mother of Carlina, Carla, Arnisha and an infant granddaughter, will occupy a Bridgeport High School build on Studor Dr. Pamela has worked at Heartland Health care for nine years.

► Guadalupe and Jaime Trejo and son Jose, 4, will occupy a Saginaw Career Complex build at 1558 Division. Guadalupe works in the dietary department at Saint Mary's Medical Center and attends Delta College. Jaime works in construction.

► Angline Saucedo and her children Gabriel, Amanda, Adrain, Valerie and Ciarra will occupy a Saginaw Home Builders Association build on Williamson Road in Bridgeport. Angline has worked in the dietary department at Martin Luther Memorial Home for five years.

► Ebony McDaniel and daughter Denyce, 3, will occupy a Carrollton High School build on Grant St. Ebony works for the Saginaw Public Schools and attends Delta College.

Margarita and William Luna and children William Jr. and Margarita will occupy a home restored by Saginaw Habitat at 1554 Holmes. William Sr. works for Masters of Maintenance. Margarita works for 7-Eleven and attends Delta College.

Rummage sale revisited



Jefferson Avenue Methodist Church, the home of the Saginaw Habitat for Humanity offices, is still raising money to replace its aging and ailing boiler.

Thus we announce the 3rd Annual Cathedral District Neighborhood Flea Market and Rummage Sale set for 9 a. m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, in the Warren Ave. parking lot across from Hoyt Library.

The church will sell items to benefit its boiler fund and Cathedral District neighbors can sell to benefit their fami-

lies.

Table space is limited, with reservations due by Friday, Aug. 22.

Participants are asked to contribute \$5 for publicity.

Items for sale include clothing, household goods, tools and decorative items.

And new this year is an international table.

For more information, or to reserve a table, call the church office at 753-7797.

Although Saginaw Habitat for Humanity is not an official member of the United Way of Saginaw County, contributions to it can be designed to Habitat.



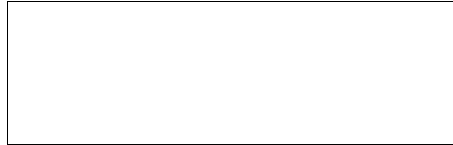


Saginaw Habitat For Humanity

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Fall builds loom

With fall creeping around the corner comes the announcement of four new Saginaw Habitat for Humanity homes on the rise.

The Home Builders Association of Saginaw will tackle a three-day build Oct. 30-Nov. 1 on Williamson in Bridgeport. And students at the Saginaw Career Complex, Carrollton High School and Bridgeport High School also will each construct a house.

Habitat homeowner dies

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity homeowner Ozell Carter, 63, passed away in July. He and his wife of 29 years, Kathleen Carter, were the owners of the House No. 42, a 1999 Carrollton High School build on Jackson.

Carter, who was born in Arkansas, handled the barbecue duties for the

first of Saginaw Habitat's annual Valentine's Day parties. He and his wife are the parents of one daughter and three sons: Kathleen (Dell Jr.) Carter, Brian Carter and Alexander Carter.

Services were at Church of Christ South 17th. Habitat friends wishing to make a contribution to the family can call the Habitat office at 753-5200.

Major Contributors

Thank you to the following groups and individuals who contributed more than \$1,000 since the last newsletter:



Akbar WAQF Foundation † Ames United Methodist Church † Bethel AME Church † Blessed Trinity Catholic Church † Delphi Automotive Systems † Diocese of Saginaw † First Presbyterian Church † First United Methodist Church † Frankenmuth United Methodist Church † Freeland United Methodist Church † General Motors Saginaw Metal Casting Operations † William F. McNally Family Foundation † Messiah Missionary Baptist Church † Mt. Olive Baptist Church † New Covenant Christian Center † Olivia Ritzert Memorial Fund † Second Presbyterian Church † Smith Barney, Inc. † State Street United Methodist Church † TCF Bank † Victorious Believers Ministries † Zion Missionary Baptist Church †

What is Habitat for Humanity?



Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity International has built more than 150,000 homes worldwide. Millard and Linda Fuller of Americus, Ga., founded the ecumenical Christian ministry with the goal of eliminating substandard and poverty housing globally. Yet it is not a "giveaway." Habitat homes are built with volunteer labor and materials bought with donations and the interest-free mortgage payments of Habitat homeowners, "Partner families" who help build their homes and then become representatives for Habitat in their neighborhoods.

