

# ◆ Saginaw Habitat Highlights ◆

www.saginawhfh.org

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Early spring 2004

## Quilt auction returns...and three bowls too

Mark these dates for the Third Annual Quilt Show and Silent Auction benefiting Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

**Place:** Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter Road (corner of Weiss).

**When:** Friday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**What:** Bidders can look over quilted bags, bibs, bay quilts, table runners, pillows, wall hangings and throw-size quilts.

**Admission:** free.

Co-chair Jane Werner reports that last year, the quilt show and auction

raised \$1,900, which went toward the Lutheran Blitz build.

"We had 40 items for sale the first year and 65 items the second year," says Werner. "So far we have 45 promises for items this year and we expect more."

"And it is not just church members who donate the items. The 25-member Piecemakers Quilt Guild, of which I am a member, donated 11 items last year from quiltmakers who are not members of our church, because they think Habitat is a wonderful organization and because of its name. Beth Ferrier, a Piecemakers member known nationally as a quilter, quilt designer, author and teacher, donated several items last year.

"Other donations come from friends and relatives, some from as far as Ohio."

Werner says the items tend toward the smaller in size. "Last year we had a twin-size quilt. But the time and money in producing just one of these items is significant, phenomenal and uncountable."

There is a bit of a twist this year as well—three hand-turned wooden bowls also are on the auction block. "Last year we had a hand-stitched, hand-quilted pot holder made by Louise Mathieson of Midland. She's in her 90s. And the pot holders are in a sort of Grandma Moses primitive motif.

"Well, her son, Dick Mathieson,



New Habitat homeowner Margarita Luna displays a gift quilt from WarmUp America members at January dedication.

was so pleased with the project and what his mother did last year that he wanted to donate. So he made three hand-turned wooden bowls. They are gorgeous. And Louise made two pot holders this year."

Werner, who co-chairs the event with founder Linda Grindahl, says all of the items are by a numbered silent bid.

"This year we are really promoting the idea that this is a show as well as sale. People are welcome to come and look even if they do not want to bid. Last year we had a couple from Alaska who stayed 90 minutes looking, and the husband was as big a fan of quilting as the wife."

Members of the church are always on duty during the sale.

### Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Blitz 2004 Events and Dates.

- ▶ March 30, prayer breakfast, Jefferson Avenue United Methodist Church at 7:30 a.m.
- ▶ April 17, Groundbreaking at 9 a.m. followed by 10 a.m. FREE pancake breakfast.
- ▶ May 6, house sponsor picnic—time and location TBD.
- ▶ May 25, Blitz Steering Committee Meeting at 5:15 p.m.
- ▶ June 8, Blitz Steering Committee Meeting at 5:15 p.m.
- ▶ June 9, Blitz Volunteer Training at 6 p.m.
- ▶ June 10, Blitz Volunteer Training at noon, prayer vigil at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ June 11, Opening prayer for Habitat for Humanity 2004.
- ▶ June 11-26, Blitz building of up to 8 homes in the 14th and Hartsuff area.
- ▶ June 26, Habitation Celebration, starts at 4 p.m.

**And the winner is ...**

Newsletter reader Tammy Johnson found the most typographical errors in the Holidays 2003 edition—three of them. That makes her our first winner of the “find the errors” contest.

**A reminder ...**

All Habitat for Humanity merchandise—shirts, hats, socks, books, etc.—are now on sale at the ReStore, 2121 S. Michigan.

**Board of Directors**



Mary Stephens, President † Laura Bush, Vice President † Nancy Martin, Secretary † Ron Fries, Treasurer † John Archambeau † Mary Ann Bador † Debra Drake-Davis † Rev. Bob Emrich † Karen Lawrence-Webster † Pamela Leckie † Nancy Martin † Roger Scovill † Roger Wight † Rev. Alice Williams † Herbert Spence, Executive Director Emeritus and Life Member



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**AmeriCorps Staff:** Tom Stover, Volunteer Coordinator † Shelly Ann Beck, Volunteer Coordinator



*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).*

**Saginaw Habitat Highlights** is published quarterly by **Saginaw Habitat for Humanity** Janet Martineau, editor

Special thanks to:  
**Klement Press**  
for discounted printing  
**Dedicated volunteers**  
for assembly

# Something new in the t-shirt game

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has issued a call for grade school students to design its official 2004 Blitz T-shirt.

“It has to be a drawn image on the front, with the traditional Blitz site map on the back,” reports development manager Cameron Brady. “The winner gets a pizza party for his or her classroom and one free shirt.”

“Pepsi is paying for all the shirts and the printing, so the sales will totally profit Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.”

Following are the rules and regulations:

1. The contest is open to all Saginaw area public and parochial school children, kindergarten through 8th grades.

2. Entries may include pictures and/ or slogans. Since the Habitat for Humanity logo will be on the top of the T-

shirt, it is encouraged that students do not include the logo again.

3. Drawings must be in one color only. Shading of the same color is acceptable.

4. Drawings must be able to fit on one side of the shirt.

5. All judging will be done by Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

6. Drawings become the property of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity and the organization reserves all rights of use of the drawings for one year.

7. All entries must be received by April

30, 2004. Send to: Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, Attn: Shelly Ann Beck, 316 S. Jefferson Ave., Saginaw, Mi. 48607.



# Her friends call her “Gussie”

Her name is Gazella O’Malley, but her friends call her Gussie. A resident of Saginaw for 40 years and a volunteer for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity on and off for the past 15 years, O’Malley has committed herself to community service. She enjoys the people who serve at Habitat and believes that “some people would not be able to have a home without this program.”

O’Malley’s service to Habitat began in the kitchen but she gladly traded in her pots and pans for a hammer and nails when a house leader offered her a construction opportunity. Currently she can be

found volunteering for the mailing of Habitat’s newsletter and helping out at the new ReStore.

For O’Malley and her family, the link between community service and social reform was an easy one to comprehend. In the



1960s, with her children in tow, she caravanned down to Selma, Ala., for the Freedom March to Montgomery. Her husband attended the “I Have a Dream” speech by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington,

D.C. She also became a foster care parent.

In terms of employment her history there has been diverse but with a social sense the common theme. At Handley Elementary School O’Malley was an occupational therapist. She has worked as a Real Estate agent and has helped out at local cemeteries.

In her rare spare time, she enjoys quilting and is a member of a club which displays its art in Freeland.

O’Malley’s philosophy is that “life is too short to sweat the little things.”

As for her age... well, that’s her one secret.

—Tom Stover, AmeriCorps member

# Welcome to five new board members

Five new people joined the Habitat for Humanity board of directors in mid-January—most of them with a long-term involvement in homeownership issues, ranging from hammering shingles on a roof to teaching an unusual Sunday school class.

At the same meeting, a new slate of officers was elected: Mary Stephens as president, the first female board president for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity; Laura Bush as vice president; Nancy Martin as secretary and Ron Fries as treasurer.

The new board members are:

► **John Archambeau, a retired supervisor of engineering at Saginaw Steering Gear and a member of First Presbyterian Church Saginaw.**

"I started volunteering for Habitat crews about the time John Perna came on board (as the executive director)," says Archambeau. "At first I did just whatever needed to be done that day and then I graduated to serving as crew leader."

His claim to fame, he says, is that he himself is a general handyman when it comes to homes and that he has helped, over the years, train about eight other Habitat volunteers to follow in his footsteps.

"Last year's Blitz build was the first time I didn't have to repair or fix up anything that had been done the previous day. Nor did I have to put any shingles on."

He also pre-makes window frames for the Blitz builds, and taught the grandson of former mayor and Habitat supporter Henry Marsh how to paid a shed with no paint runs.



And when it was found a three-step home really needed four steps, he came up with how to add the fourth step.

► **Karen Lawrence-Webster, a certified public accountant and finance director for the City of Saginaw and a member of Victorious Believers COGIC Church.**

Lawrence-Webster was the administrator and treasurer of the first women's build, sponsored in Saginaw Township in 1995 by the Saginaw chapter Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

"Our sorority has always participated and volunteered in some way since then, sometimes by mentoring selected families."

But where Lawrence-Webster has really been involved these days is through an unusual adult Sunday School class at her church.

She and her husband, Michael Webster, run what she calls a couples ministry teaching church members how to pick a house, rehab skills, maintenance, how to clear up credit issues.

"We have not in particular worked with them to get Habitat homes, but rather we are working to support any member who wants to become a house owner."

They've brought in attorneys, credit representatives and others as well as taught the class themselves.

"We started the financial series two years ago and have worked with approximately 15 couples. Since we started at least three have purchased homes.

"Our pastor, Bishop Pryor, really wants for us to focus on the credit issue, to see how our members measure up on that, because that is



often the biggest stumbling block to owning a home—and to qualifying for Habitat."

As a Habitat board member Lawrence-Webster hopes to continue working along those lines, "talking to individuals who apply, maybe helping with their financial budget, making recommendations on their efficiency in finances, helping them target resources for financial assistance that is out there but many people do not know about."

► **Debra Drake-Davis, retired from community relations at Ameritech and a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church.** She was the food tent and merchandise manager for last year's Blitz build.

► **Roger Scovill, a certified public accountant and controller for Malthrop-Clift Insurance Agency of Bay City and a member of Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church Saginaw.**

"I started out in 2000 as a Blitz volunteer,"

says Scovill, "and by the second year was a crew leader and then the last two years a co-house leader. In 2002 we were split over two houses, helping mentor the African-American build."

Habitat was something he had for a long time wanted to do, he says, "as soon as I got the time. In 2000 I realized I'd never get the time but decided to do it anyway. I have gone to churches on the east side of Saginaw all my life."

So what is it that draws him to Habitat?

"There are several facets. One is to flat out get my hands dirty in the



(see Board continued on page 4)

# Faith is needed to build on common ground

Each February is Black History month. The formal recognition of the annual event gives us an impetus to learn more about the contribution of black Americans to the cultural, scientific, social and economic life of the United States. It presents us with reminders of the tremendous injustices of the past and the equally tremendous challenges of the present.

The issues of equality, equal opportunity and discrimination on the basis of race are still with us today. Over 140 years after the historic end of slavery, we have not always been able to accept the true equality of all of God's children.

Today, we continue to be confronted with the many faces of hate and inequality; it is up to each of us to channel our Christian beliefs and

values into positive and just actions. While the work and prayers of Habitat will not eliminate inequality, it will

show the world that we can work together to overcome



Paul Warriner  
Executive Director  
Saginaw Habitat

common obstacles, to find common ground. It is my hope that Saginaw will come together to solve common challenges. Equality is the best defense in a dangerous world.

I feel privileged to recently have been a part of a Habitat house dedication on Martin Luther King's birthday. It was a dedication ceremony for all races, all faiths.

The positive acts of faith by the hard-working partner family and dedi-

cated volunteers resulted in a simple decent house, purchased with an affordable no-interest mortgage .

All of us can be led by the spirit of Dr. King to "speed up the day when all of God's children...will be able to join

hands...sing..."free at last, free at last, Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

Willingness without action is fantasy.—*unknown*



## New board members (continued from page 3)

construction aspect. A second is the teaching aspect of working with homeowners, of passing on skills that someone gave me.

"Then there is the interaction with the partner family, watching them realize their dream."

And the last reason Scovill says he keeps active with Habitat is "as a Christian, what good is your faith if you do not put it to work."

At first, Scovill says, he just worked Saturdays and took vacation days to work Mondays and Tuesdays. "But then I found on Wednesday I would go into work early so I could get out early and go work more. That is why I got to interact with the partner families so much, because I'd be there working until 8 p.m."

The last two years he took a week of vacation to build, and this year is planning to take a full two weeks to work on the Blitz.

In agreeing to serve on the board, Scovill says, he wants to work on two goals.

"The first one, the top priority, is to increase the number of partner fami-

lies that are approved. We are chronically short of families and I literally want to see us build a backlog of families waiting because it is easier to drive the growth of an affiliate if there is a need.

"And second I want to increase the number of churches participating with Habitat, which will bring in additional volunteers."

Currently, he says, only about 105 churches of the more than 300 in Saginaw County are involved with Habitat.

► **Roger Wight, a metallurgical engineer, quality control specialist and problem solving/data analysis trainer and consultant and a member of State Street United Methodist Church.**

Wight first volunteered for a Habitat build in 1995, and since 1997 has served as the project director for the United Methodist Blitz . He estimates he's worked with organizing 200 volunteers in those years, coming from 10 to 12 churches.

"We've now developed a core of people who pretty much know how to do the part they get involved in. Most

of them, like me, are handymen at home or into home repair."

He served briefly on the board before but left early because of his work schedule. But he remained involved, serving as the chair of the wellness committee and offering his help during board retreats.

Retired since January, although he remains a consultant, he figures he now has more time for board duties.



Each of the new board members will serve a three-year term.

Retiring as a board member is Elizabeth Peters, an attorney with Masud, Patterson & Schutter, who served two terms. She assisted the public relations committee and consulted on legal matters.

# Something's cooking in the kitchen

Imagine, in the course of three days, making 950 pasties—that complete meal within a pastry shell that hails from Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"We involve about 50 or 60 people in the project, but not all at one time," reports Jim Frost of First United Methodist Church, Gratiot and Center. "We have specialists. Some just make the dough, others have different specialties."

The mid-January sale of those 950 made-by-hand pasties raised \$3,000 for the United Methodist Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build.

"We used to do spaghetti dinners to raise our share for the Blitz build," says Frost. "But we did a study and we found we make more money per hour with the pasties."

The pasty project is in its fourth year.

"We got a fantastic recipe from Chuck Aubin, a member of our con-

gregation who has relatives in the U. P. Some people like rutabagas in theirs, others prefer carrots, so we make both kinds.

"We start making them on a Thursday, work all day and into the evening on a Friday, and then Saturday until noon. Then we sell them."

Frost says the 600-member congregation advertises in newspapers and other church bulletins and sends out fliers.

"It's fun. There are 15 United Methodist churches in Saginaw County, 10 or 11 of which participate in the Habitat build. Each church has to

raise \$8 per member for its share of the build, so we like to support each other's projects.

Recently State Street United Methodist had a soup supper for Habitat. So we go back and forth to each other's projects."

Frost says the pasty patrol is talking about installing more efficient ovens at the church and maybe making a few each month so it's not so intense at one time.

Rumor Central has it that Cameron Brady bought 10 pasties this year.

Meanwhile, the Freeland Methodist Church raises its funds by making killer egg roles the fourth Friday through April. Call 695-2101 to order.

(Does your church or group have an interesting or unusual Habitat fundraiser? Let Habitat newsletter editor Janet Martineau in on it by e-mailing her at [jmartineau@thesaginawnews.com](mailto:jmartineau@thesaginawnews.com).)



## Another student build completed

Here is a point to ponder: Including last year's housing starts, Saginaw County schools have build 32 of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity's 104 houses. Or nearly one-third.

On Friday, Jan. 16, Bridgeport High School's building trades class, in partnership with Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, dedicated a four-bedroom house at 3100 Studor in Bridgeport.

Ten students led by instructor Cliff Davis and assistant Brian LaFramboise, worked five days a week starting in September.

Saginaw Career Complex and Carrollton High School also are building homes, due for dedication in May.

"These partnerships are important to Habitat's mission in Saginaw County," says executive director Paul Warriner. "A deserving family will purchase a simple, decent home; construction students get hands-on experience and learn the spirit of volunteering, and another neighborhood is improved."

## Other Habitat happenings...

► The Genesee County Habitat for Humanity hosted a Big Boy fundraiser, which brought in \$1,300 to assist an ecumenical cluster of Grand Blanc churches build a home.

The event found 15 area "celebrities" and community leaders volunteer as servers and hosts for a night at the Big Boy restaurant—among them a state representative, a newspaper editor, a prosecuting attorney, the sheriff, ministers and radio announcers.

In addition to proceeds from the meal served, donated items and gift certificates from 16 businesses on Fenton and Grand Blanc also were raffled.

► Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity has initiated a "Major Home Repair Program." It is gradually being adopted by Habitat affiliates as another way to improve housing.

It is open to homeowners who don't have enough money to repair

their home to meet community standards and/or health and safety needs to bring their home above substandard.

Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity repairs the home at no-profit and with volunteer help and offers an affordable second mortgage at zero interest.

Applications are reviewed on need, ability to pay and willingness to partner.

The first project in Jackson replaced siding, a roof and porches.

### Thanks to ...

The Saginaw Spirit hockey team which donated a block of 80 tickets to Saginaw Habitat for Humanity for the Jan. 7 game against the Kingston Frontenacs, at the Saginaw County Event Center.

And, hey, the home team won, 3-0.

The Spirit also donated 50 tickets to an exciting game against the Plymouth Whalers televised on Fox Sports Net.

Early spring 2004

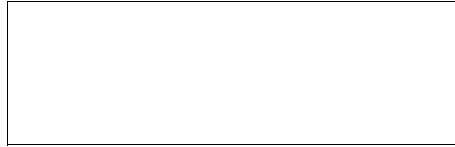


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 In this issue....

T-shirt contest open to youth

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### In memoriam...

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

**In loving memory of:**

- ▶ Sarge Harvey
- ▶ David Wallace
- ▶ Mike Baldys
- ▶ John McLeod
- ▶ Victoria Burages

**In honor of:**

- ▶ Don Doolittle's birthday
- ▶ Mark S. Spence

### A rose by any other name...

For the third year, the Jackson & Perkins company of Oregon has introduced a Habitat for Humanity Rose—with 10 percent of its net sales donated to the home-building efforts of Habitat for Humanity International.

In the first two years of the program, Jackson & Perkins has donated an astonishing \$65,000 to Habitat.

This year's offering is a maintenance-free shrub rose, and more likely to survive Saginaw's climate than the traditional tea rose. It is light yellow with pointed, ovoid buds, 50 or more petals each on four-inch bloom.

It grows up to 4 feet tall, blooms throughout the season and the bloom emit a strong, spicy fragrance. The leaves are semi-glossy, dark green.

The price is \$15.95, and like its two predecessors the 2004 Habitat for Humanity Rose is on sale only this year.

To order or for more information, call (800) 292-4769 or log on to [jacksonandperkins.com](http://jacksonandperkins.com).

#### What is Habitat for Humanity?



Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity International has built more than 160,000 homes in 92 countries. 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.



### Major Contributors

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



Bank One Foundation † Bell's Chicken Villas Inc. No. 2 (Saginaw KFC) † First Presbyterian Church † Home Builders Association of Saginaw † Leo and Emilie Kahan Charitable Foundation † Our Saviour Lutheran Church † Pepsi Bottling Group † St. Mary's Cathedral † St. Stephen Catholic Church † Robert E. Stark & Martin H. Stark Foundation † David & Zella Bueker Wallace Private Foundation and Charitable Trust † Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation