

# Saginaw Habitat Highlights

www.saginawhfh.org

Volume No. 10

Issue No. 1

Early summer 2005

## Meet the 2005 Saginaw Habitat families

### ► House #120

**Address:** 1202 S. Warren.

**Family:** Ruby Vann; daughters Aesha, 18; Detra, 16; Bree, 13, and Ruby Lee, 9. Ruby works for Headstart and attends Delta College.

**House Sponsor:** United Methodist Churches.

### ► House #121

**Address:** 1210 S. Warren.

**Family:** Roslynn Williams; daughters Ka'Mesha, 15, and Ki'Ann, 12, and son Ke'ontac. Roslynn works for Headstart and attends Delta College.

**House Sponsor:** Lutheran Churches.

### ► House #122

**Address:** 1230 S. Warren.

**Family:** Kenneth and Shelina Wilson; daughters Kenteanna, 11, and Tatianna, 9, and son Kenny III. Kenny works for Jack's Fruit Market and Shelina for Valley Residential Services.

**House Sponsor:** Church Workers United and African-American Christian Unity.

### ► House #123

**Address:** 1223 S. Warren.

**Family:** Ollie Broxton; daughter Santaria, 8, and son Corey, 6. Ollie works for Valley Residential Services.

**House Sponsor:** Catholic Churches.

### ► House #124

**Address:** 1227 S. Warren.

**Family:** Daphne Espinoza; daughters Krista, 15, and Marcia, 9. Daphne works for Valley Residential Services.

**House Sponsor:** GM Powertrain & UAW.



New homebuyers break ground April 16 at the blitz site.

### ► House #125

**Address:** 1231 S. Warren.

**Family:** Lisa Fuller; sons Donte, 14, and Mann'Drell, 12, and daughters Maria, 13; Mariah, 13, and DeShondra, 9. Lisa works for Healthy Futures and attends Saginaw Valley State University.

**House Sponsor:** Saint Mary's Hospital.

### ► House #126

**Address:** 1237 S. Warren.

**Family:** Kimberly Austin; son Robert, 15, and daughters Mykim, 14, Brena, 13, and Sharna, 12. Kimberly works for Headstart and attends Saginaw Valley State University.

**House Sponsor:** Citizens Bank and SBC Pioneers.

### ► House #127

**Address:** 3620 Schauman Dr. in Bridgeport.

**Family:** Margaret Layton; daughter Jai Marqui, 12. Margaret works at Citizens Bank and is a graduate of Delta College and Northwood University.

**House Sponsor:** The Dow Chemical Company.

### Non-blitz partner families

#### ► House #115

**Address:** 1309 Greenwich.

**Family:** Timothy and Sarah Gonzales; daughter Angel, 4. Tim works for Waste Management and Sarah is preparing for the birth of a son.

**Builder:** Delta College.

#### ► House #116

**Address:** 1558 Division

**Family:** Debbie Smith; daughters Tiffany, 17, and Toni, 11, and sons Dominique, 14; Tony, 9, and Derrick, 4. Debbie works for TenderCare.

**Builder:** Saginaw Career Complex.

(see "Families" continued on page 2)



# Once in-a-lifetime blitz

It's only a matter of hours before the Jimmy Carter Work Project blitz is underway on South Warren. Things are moving forward. It looks like this is going to be another great blitz. Of course, an added feature is the additional blitz house in Bridgeport that is sponsored by The Dow Chemical Company and will be built by the Care-A-Vanners. This is the first, perhaps the only, time that the affiliate will build houses during the blitz that are so far apart.

Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers and contractors. Teamwork is what makes it possible.

It is going to be a once in a life time opportunity for Saginaw to host 50 Care-a-Vanner rigs. And a once in a life time opportunity to participate locally in a Jimmy Carter Work Project. And a once in a lifetime opportunity for each partner family to be homeowners.

While so much is being done on this year's blitz, we are already looking ahead to the fall builds and the builds in 2006. We are very excited that the Home Builders Association of Saginaw is building in Carrollton this year, another three-day build in October. We have builds planned for Ash,

Barnard, and McGregor Streets as well.

The costs of building are still going up. We need your continued support to eliminate sub-standard housing.

I want to recognize the outstanding work of the Family Selection Committee, chaired by Leola Wilson. Leola is a founding member of the affiliate and has continued to serve as Chair of the Family Selection Committee.

This year she and the other members of the committee, including Sister Lois, worked long hours to take the Saginaw Habitat message to the community. They accepted

applications several times during meetings of prospective homeowners. The results have been outstanding. Partner families have been selected for the blitz homes and the fall builds. We now have a waiting list of approved applicants.

Once again, the work of the volunteers' committees is the hub of the wheel that moves Habitat. The efforts of the site selection committee, family selection and nurturing committees, construction committee, church relations and others all contributes to the success of the affiliate and its partner families.

Paul Warriner  
Executive Director  
Saginaw Habitat

## Board of Directors



Mary Stephens, President † Nancy Martin, Secretary † Ron Fries, Treasurer † John Archambeau † Mary Ann Badour † Ralph Bergelin † Debra Drake-Davis † James Doane † Rev. Bob Emrich † Karen Lawrence-Webster † Pamela Leckie † Al Napier † Andrew Rose † Roger Scovill † Rev. Alice Williams † Herbert Spence, Executive Director Emeritus and Life Member



**Staff:** Paul Warriner, Executive Director † Cameron Brady, Development Manager † Sr. Lois Ann Sheaffer, Family Relations Coordinator † Ronald Chattraw, Construction Manager † Stephanie Simmerman, Fund Development † Noah Mehalski, Volunteer Coordinator † Courtney Fitzpatrick, Financial Manager † Katrina Scott, ReStore Manager † Chuck Severance, ReStore Associate † Frazier Wilson, ReStore Associate † Mike Bebeau, Construction Supervisor † Clay Strait, Construction Supervisor † Sharon Block, Office Coordinator † Barbara Merkerson-Brown, Office Coordinator † Dick Parks, Assistant Treasurer



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

## *("Families" continued from page 1)*

### ► House #117

**Address:** 201 Lynn  
**Family:** Denita Rider; son Kahleel, 9. Denita works for Headstart and attends Saginaw Valley State University.

**Builder:** Carrollton High School Building Trades.

### ► House #118

**Address:** 842 S. 14th  
**Family:** Angela Harry; daughter Sha'Drea, 10, and sons Marcus, 8,

and Markwan, 5. Angela works for Durolast.

**Builder:** Saginaw Correctional Facility and Saginaw Habitat staff and volunteers.

### ► House #119

**Address:** 831 S. 15th.  
**Family:** Yvonne Youngblood; daughter Erykak, 6. Yvonne works for Health Delivery.

**Builder:** Saginaw Correctional Facility and Saginaw Habitat staff and volunteers.

# She doesn't do roofs...

Some people tell you they don't do windows.

Well, Audrey Ussery of Lompoc, Calif., doesn't do roofs—or so the 69-year-old reports in a cell phone conversation from somewhere in Georgia. Audrey and her husband Bernie are on their way to Saginaw for the first time as the team leaders for the National Care-a-Vanner Reunion, which takes place every other year, she says.

This year's reunion will find upwards of 100 Care-a-Vanner Habitat volunteers in 40 to 50 rigs (recreational vehicles and motor homes, but no tents) converging in Saginaw to help during the Blitz Build.

Audrey says normally 12 couples are assigned to a build site, so a reunion event brings forth a good many more than usual.

"We'll have 600 Care-a-Vanner people on the road this summer in several hundred rigs and every two years we get together as many of us as we can at one build."

The Usserys got hooked starting in 1998. He's 70 and retired from the United States Air Force after 23 years of work in missiles and satellites; she's retired from Lockheed Martin after 29 years in the same field.

"We kind of wanted to give back because we've been very blessed and because Habitat is not a giveaway but a hand up. Once you've met the families you can't step away from it."

With a laugh, Audrey admits they been struck by what Care-a-Vanners called "Habitatitis" those who keep hooked on spending life on the road in service of Habitat for Humanity builds.

"Last year we did seven builds—one all the way in St. John, Newfoundland (far eastern Canada). There were 11 RVs there and we spent six days. We put 17,000 miles on our rig last year.

"Two years ago we were in New Zealand for the first Care-a-Vanner build there. We rented a motor home and help build two houses—one in the north island and one in the south island. We spent a month there. And it was just like in the States how it all

took place."

This year the Usserys will go to "only" four Habitat builds. Other than Saginaw they'll travel to Buffalo, N. Y.; Cleveland, Tenn., and El Dorado, Ark.

Audrey says she does everything on builds other than the roofs. "I kind of like the detail work that comes at the end." She also, on occasion, works at organizing the Care-a-Vanner wives who are not into the construction end of things but prefer to work in other ways.

So how long do the Usserys plan to hit the road every spring, summer and fall?

"Well, we just bought a new motor home last year. Our last one had 80,000 miles on it. So we are planning on at least five more years, depending on our health. It's like a family with Care-a-Vanners.

"We're usually home (in California) November through March, but some are out on the road all year < in the winter months hitting the builds in the southern states.

"The 2003-2004 statistics reported that 3,120 Care-a-Vanners donated 249,000 hours.

"And the competition can get fierce.

A newsletter listing all the build sites for a year is sent out and given two weeks to hone in on all its traveling recipients. "Then on a selected day at 10 a.m. Eastern time the phone opens up—which the west coast people complain about—and you start making your requests of the places you'd like to go. Like I said, normally it's 10 couples assigned to each build."

This year's Reunion confab in Michigan will find the Care-a-Vanners housed at the RV park in back of St. Lorenz Lutheran in Frankenmuth since they always stay in one place



**Three Care-a-Vanners at work during the 2004 blitz build**



and then commute to the three build sites, where they are building with Citizens Bank/SBC Pioneers, Saint Mary's Hospital and The Dow Chemical Company.

"I was born in Detroit," says Audrey, "but I don't think I've ever been in Saginaw before."

# Blitz reminds her of spring flowers

Our Blitz always reminds me of spring time. As the snow melt away, tulips and all the others early perennials start to bloom. Our spring blitz does the same thing. We build in areas that were once vacant lots, holding debris from winter. Unsightly boarded houses that we sometimes remove to build a new house.

Our Habitat volunteers are like a large group in involved in a large spring cleaning job. This is what the mission statement of habitat is all about. Trying to eliminate standard housing and renewing blighted communities. This is why Habitat for Humanity needs other partner groups to help revitalize one area at a time. We can make a larger different in the

Mary Stephens  
President  
Saginaw Habitat

community where we build if we had other agencies doing the same type of service in the same area.

This year's Blitz will be especially special because of the Jimmy Carter Work Project. This will be the last year that President Carter will be involved in a Habitat build. Even though he will not be coming to Saginaw, nevertheless the excitement is almost the same. We will have built 13 houses to dedicate on June 24th, designated for dedication for the entire Jimmy Carter Work Project. Our staff and volunteers

have been busy all winter with school builds and community builds to add to our number of houses dedicated on June 24th.

It's so important to remember that our build in the spring is not just houses for families but we are creating a community for family to live and raise their kids. We as Christians render service to God by serving our fellow man. I can not think of any better way to show love to some one and render service than helping someone build their dwelling place. Remember, our forebears always had worked on the house or barn while others prepared the food. All had the same kindred spirit.

**SEE You at the Blitz!**

## New board member has double vision

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity welcomes three new board members, Jim Doane, Al Napier and Andy Rose (Doane is profiled in this newsletter; Napier and Rose in the next one).

Doane is doing double duty with Habitat.

Not only did he join the board in April but during the Blitz build in June, as a member of First United Methodist Church, he's also the coordinator for the Methodist Churches' build at 1202 S. Warren.

"I knew they'd been looking for someone because the person from last year was out, and I was an easy target. I got drafted."

Doane, 65, has an unusual background.

He's retired as a financial consultant with Merrill Lynch and recently got his residential

construction associate's degree from Delta College, a two-year program.

"It was something I was always interested in, and I've done minor remodeling projects my whole life. I love tools."



He laughs at how it took a little work to track down his "old" 1960s college records so he did not have to repeat basic courses like English for his new associate degree from Delta."

Doane has worked Saginaw Habitat Blitz builds off and on for five or six years—from landscaping to sanding wallboards and everything in between.

He said yes to the board invitation "because that was something I was always interested in too—it's an organization serving a great need to our community for sure, providing quality housing."

## Ronald Chaltraw returns as construction manager

After two years, Ronald Chaltraw is back with Saginaw Habitat for Humanity at its construction manager.

He was with Habitat in that job from January 2000 to March 2003 and then went to work as a construction supervisor with Gohm Insurance Restoration Inc.

This March the 29-year-old rejoined Habitat full-time.

"I missed it—the happiness of the employees, the volunteers, the new home owners; the overall positive atti-

tude. So when there was an opening I decided to come back."

June will be Chaltraw's fourth Blitz build from beginning to end—a year-long process because there is more work in the preparation ahead of time than during the actual build, he says.

"You have such a small window of opportunity from when you can get the heavy equipment on the road, after the frost lifts, to dig and start preparing to the June 1 start of the Blitz. You just need everything to work out."

This year, he said, started out a little behind but has caught up. "We're in good shape."

There's no let down, he says, because there also are late summer builds and fall builds."

Chaltraw says basically he oversees all the hundreds of volunteer construction workers "but I make sure I channel all my concerns through the house leaders for each project. I do my best to make sure I don't step on any toes."

# Cost increases show a disturbing trend

SIMPLE, DECENT and AFFORDABLE is a Habitat principle and the single common thread for describing each of our houses, everywhere!!

SIMPLE – is controllable but not always easy because of something Habitat for Humanity calls “Creeping Affluence.” That is, we who have... want more and better for our partner families forgetting that it can become a financial burden sometimes.

DECENT – is controllable and deliverable as every volunteer and staff member strives for perfection in workmanship, use of our materials, their time and talent for the ministry of Habitat.

AFFORDABLE – Not always in our control, but each of us works hard to make it happen... as we buy or use materials for the houses or to run the office...

Another basic principle is that we make NO PROFIT on the sale.

That also includes a standard procedure defining what costs should go into the final house cost and price. In minor ways that procedure has changed house costs and pricing as we developed better financial and accounting procedures.

The staff and volunteers continue to work on AFFORDABILITY by improving designs, procedures, bill of materials, cut sheets, bidding and working with our suppliers for their “better” ideas.

Still, for all kinds of economic and social factors, costs continue to rise at an alarming rate. For example, increases for our 2005 houses over just last year include:

+23% for poured concrete basements  
+11% for shingles and roof materials  
+5-11% for interior and exterior doors  
+4% for insulation

And thanks to one-supplier bids at cost in support of our mission, we were able to avoid 10 to 20% increases for windows and siding.

Labor and material costs for skilled work will also increase a little again this year.

Since 1998, I have tracked costs for the same house plan which directly affects the partner family mortgage. This shows a disturbing trend:

	2004	1998
Final house costs	\$69,300	\$53,000
Less Grants/subsidies	10,000	8,000
Family Mortgage	\$59,300	\$45,000

A breakdown of these costs shows for:

	2004	1998	
Site related	\$16,730	\$10,620	+60%
Basement	\$11,830	\$ 7,730	+54%
Building Mat'ls	\$19,980	\$19,100	+4.5%
Plmbg, Htg, Elect.	\$ 9,380	\$ 9,100	+30%
SHFH/blitz-related	\$10,080	\$ 6,450	+56%
Appliances	\$ 1,300	none	

Site-related costs increased due to higher lot procurement and permitting costs, demo and dumping costs (none in 1998), more excavation and concrete pavement costs. Basement costs increased as we replaced con-

crete block “seconds” with poured concrete walls, improved drainage, waterproofing and insulation.

Building materials costs have been controlled by extensive design, process and procedure reviews and bidding of all major items, and significant help from our suppliers. Plumbing, heating and electrical costs are higher for both labor and material.

Construction-related costs are higher for more paid supervision which must be offset with serving a greater number of partner families in the future, blitz costs for temporary power, tents & waste disposal.

Appliances were available for every 2005 house. All included range and refrigerator and for most a washer and dryer. These were not available to our families in 1998.

In summary, costs have been tracked, identified and justified. Many hours have been spent to minimize or offset the cost increases which have a major impact on our partner families and the ability to maintain the same budget. Our house sponsors are our partners, 50-50. When the sponsorship amount was arrived at eight years ago it reflected an equal partnership. Maybe it is time to recognize that the sponsor pledge has not changed since before 1998... and some increase should be considered for the future.—*Charlie Wargel*, Construction Committee Chair

## What are the odds? Strange coincidences continue...

Cameron M. Brady, the development manager, reports he was in Frankenmuth at Sullivan’s Black Forest. (“I always say, ‘Support those who support Habitat,’” reasons Brady. “Tim Sullivan has been providing dinners for each Wednesday of the Blitz for several years.”) Anyway, Brady continues. “I looked to my right and noticed someone and I began discussing how much I like Black Forest and the fact I work for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity and how we appreciate Sullivan’s generous support.” And then it got goosebumpy.

The man Brady was addressing

said, “Habitat for Humanity, eh? I pulled the building permit for the first house in Saginaw—Madonna Morris, right?”

The man’s name is John McCullough. Brady said McCullough remembered calling people at 11:30 at night to try and get them to volunteer—as no one back then knew about Habitat for Humanity.

“He knew some of our founding board members, including the late Rev. Nick Hall; Leola Wilson (who still chairs the family selection committee) and founding board president the Rev. Gary Dawes.

“He talked about the house at Deindorfer and Bay that had been donated to Habitat, then sold to generate money for the first new construction, our House No. 1 (Madonna’s).

“Apparently the founding board wanted what he called ‘the glamour’ of new construction, but no one had a builder’s license. He did.”

So reports Brady, “I commended him and thanked him for his vision.” Over 100 houses later, his work remains the foundation for the decent, affordable housing that thousands of volunteers in Saginaw have helped create.

# Saginaw Habitat For Humanity

316 S. Jefferson Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48607-1126

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Saginaw, MI  
Permit No. 322



## In this issue.... Care-a-Vanner National Reunion comes to Saginaw Page 3

### Key 2005 Blitz Dates

- ▶ June 2, at 6:30 p.m., Prayer Vigil
- ▶ June 3, Day One of Blitz Build.
- ▶ June 18 at noon, *Habitation* Celebration.
- ▶ June 24, House Dedications (times to be announced)

### A first for the Jimmy Carter Work Project

Habitat for Humanity's chief executive officer, Paul Leonard, recently spent some time in Benton Harbor discussing this summer's Jimmy Carter Work Project.

Leonard said this is the first time that an entire state has been involved in a Jimmy Carter Work Project. A total of 63 Michigan Habitat affiliates in

76 communities will build 238 homes this June—including six in neighboring Windsor, Ont., and 24 in the focus site of Benton Harbor.

### Needed ....

309 feet of picket fence donated to Longfellow Elementary for use around a garden.

### Safety No. 1

As you may be aware, a front-end loader belonging to long-time major Saginaw Habitat donor Champagne & Marx Excavating was vandalized on April 30.

The loader was parked at a soil dump site a couple of blocks from this year's Blitz site.

As a result, some volunteers and supporters have expressed concern about the safety of the Blitz site.

Saginaw Habitat is committed to the safety of our partner families, volunteers, staff, vehicles, tools and equipment.

Be assured that additional security measures will be taken as necessary to make this site as safe as possible.

### Thanks to ...

Bernie Payne from Pro-Lift for the donation of two booth spaces to Saginaw Habitat at the Mid-Michigan Regional Business Expo.



### In memoriam...

- ▶ in memory of Connie Jo Bellile
- ▶ in honor of Robert Hanley's son's 36th birthday

## Major Contributors

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



Frank N. Andersen Foundation † Catholic Diocese of Saginaw † First Presbyterian Church † General Motors Corporation † Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church † St. Helen Parish † St. Mary Church—Hemlock † Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church