

Saginaw Habitat Highlights

www.saginawhfh.org

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Spring 2010

Credit unions, Land Bank help new mom

Blitz bits

One-of-a-kind creations are up for bid this year during the **Ninth Annual Habitat for Humanity Quilt Show and Silent Auction** at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter at Weiss.

This year's quilt show and silent auction, with profits going to Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, is at:

* Friday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

* Saturday, April 10, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

* Sunday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For sale are quilts, quilted bags, baby quilts, table runners, pillows and wall hangings. Come often and place a silent bid often.

Eggroll sale in April

Help Habitat while enjoying great food.

Eggroll sales at the Freeland United Methodist Church are on April 30.

Call (695-2101) in advance of each sale date to reserve your eggrolls as they do sell out. Only \$10/dozen, proceeds to Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

Harmonies for Habitat concert on May 17

Third Annual Harmonies for Habitat benefit concert Monday May 17, 7 p.m. by the Saginaw Area Concert Band under the direction of David Valesek at Resurrection Lutheran Church (792-7135) at 2110 Brockway.



House #156, before (at left) and after (below).



The Mid-Michigan Chapter of Credit Unions, in partnership with Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, dedicated a three-bedroom house at 1825 Lessur in Saginaw on April 5. This is the first "deconstruct/reconstruct" Habitat for Humanity house in Saginaw. The house was donated to SHFH by the Saginaw County Land Bank Authority. With current economic and housing conditions being what they are, Habitat has been pursuing rehabs as a way of providing simple, decent houses for those in need and found the Land Bank as a willing partner. Deconstruction started in September, 2009. Initially, the garage, loft, and other areas were deconstructed taking the house down to the floor and three exterior walls. From there credit union volunteers began reconstruction and enlargement using 'green' and energy-

efficient resources. Extensive work was done on the interior, with a new living room and kitchen being built. The house has three bedrooms and a full bath. As with all Habitat built homes, the house meets ADA accessibility criteria.

Participating credit unions provided volunteers to work on the house three days a week and also had additional fundraising efforts. Paul Warriner, Executive Director of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity said, "This is our first collaboration with Saginaw County Land Bank and with the help of the credit unions it has been a success."

The new homeowner, Shannon Edwards, gave birth to her first child on March 24 and the goal was to have this house ready for her and her new baby. She has had lots of friends and volunteers help in achieving this goal.

Women Build 2010 coming May 1-5—call Habitat to volunteer!

In memoriam...

IN HONOR OF ...

- ▶ Bill and Dorothy Zuellig
- ▶ Don Doolittle
- ▶ George Magee
- ▶ Herb Spence, Jr.
- ▶ Mark Spence
- ▶ Marlene & Al Luplow
- ▶ Ruth Reinert
- ▶ Gene Wistehuff
- ▶ Paul & Judy Fehrmann wedding

IN MEMORY OF ...

- ▶ Conan (12-26-94 to 3-26-09)
- ▶ Dale Hirschenberger
- ▶ Shirliana Zalba
- ▶ Antonio Hernandez
- ▶ Carl Weber
- ▶ Christine McLeod
- ▶ David Lawrence
- ▶ Diane Rivest
- ▶ Hilbert List
- ▶ Leo Lynch
- ▶ James C. Maine, Sr.
- ▶ Joyce Lutzke Smith
- ▶ Mary Fleischmann
- ▶ Effie B. Calhoun
- ▶ Nadine McGovern
- ▶ Robert Brown
- ▶ Robert Dust
- ▶ Ruby Belle Kelly
- ▶ Scott Grasel
- ▶ Scott W. Foulds, Jr.
- ▶ Shirley Alcanter
- ▶ Tom Chelsky
- ▶ Mrs. Harold Miller
- ▶ Clara Hermann
- ▶ Dorothy Meeleder
- ▶ Stan Murphy

New year, new plans for Saginaw County

During the current fiscal year, July 1, 2009 to July 30, 2010, Saginaw Habitat for Humanity will complete 9 Energy Star-rated homes, including two houses that were

total rehabilitation projects. By the end of the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) we plan to

complete at least two new homes and rehabilitate up to 5 more. This two year effort will help 16 families and 32 children acquire a decent home! This summer's project schedule is unlike any that we have had before, since we will be doing more rehabilitation projects than new construction. Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire vacant homes with the complete funding required to rehabilitate them in hand. This opportunity further advances our mission to sell decent homes to families in need.

We are asking our volunteers and faith sponsors to partner with us on these rehabs this summer. The plan is to have all required demolition done on each house before the construction volunteers get to the house to complete its reconstruction, that is, the siding, windows, drywall, doors, bathrooms, cabinets, painting, flooring and other work. The demolition work will be done using our deconstruction program . . . and, if you love this kind of work too, you are welcome.

We are still looking for the right houses to rehabilitate as I write. We have our eye on 4 homes that are

very close to one another on the City's west side. And, I think we can get all the rehab projects underway by early June and completed by July.

The City of Saginaw, with CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds, has awarded Saginaw Habitat \$40,000 to

build a new home with the Saginaw Career Complex. This project will provide a home for a Habitat family and it will also be a learning experience for students from their building trades program. We thank Citizens Bank for the \$60,000 grant for this year's school builds. We have also received a grant from Lowe's for a "Lefthanders and Friends Build" for the construction of a new home. Saginaw Habitat will gladly supply left-handed hammers and nails!

We ask our supporters to continue efforts to raise money to sponsor a home. If your group can raise the sponsorship which includes gifts-in-kind, then we can build a home every other year. Or, if it can be raised annually, then an annual build would be possible. We strongly suggest that groups partner with others to raise the sponsorship.

As always we are very grateful for your support. Saginaw Habitat for Humanity's sponsors and volunteers are the heart of our organization. Together we have accomplished a lot, but there is much more to be done to reach the goal of ending poverty housing in Saginaw County. With your help, we can get there!

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Meet our new staff

Randy Alpin has been hired to fill the newly approved position of Project Manager. Randy has been a volunteer with Saginaw Habitat for Humanity and has extensive experience in the civil engineering, design, and construction administration fields and comes to Habitat after nearly 28 years with Spicer Group, Inc.



He has an A.A.S. in Civil Engineering Technology from MTU and a B.B.A. in Management from SVSU.

His duties will be to manage construction, deconstruction, home repair and revitalization projects. Randy will fill a leadership and managerial role with Saginaw Habitat and started in January.

Kimberly Griffin is a Habitat homeowner who is assisting us on our Church Relations Committee. Kimberly writes, "I am 47 years old and I work as a direct care worker. I come from a family of nine. My dad always told me, 'Keep your faith. You will get your house.' I received my home in July of 2007 at 1320 Cleveland. My dad didn't live to see it, but he's watching over me.

"I attend Saint Paul Baptist Church; Rev. Vincent McMillon pastor. I really enjoy doing work for Habitat. I do church relations and also nurture families.

"Church Relations brings the community together. I Nurture families to

help them to do right and stay involved with Habitat. Habitat has helped me dearly. God bless Habitat."

Debra Greenwood is our new ReStore manager. She was born and raised in Saginaw, was a young mother at 16, graduated at Ruben Daniels, and then college at Great Lakes Jr. College.



She graduated with perfect attendance and an Associates in Finance Administration. She bought her first house at 18 years old, raised her three girls in that house, and still owns that house. She bought another house three years ago and now has two grandbabies to share it with.

Before she came to work for Habitat for Humanity ReStore she worked in retail for five years.

Debra says, "Habitat for Humanity has been a blessing to me, being closer to home and helping the community. Habitat for Humanity has also helped me to get involved with the community."

Meet **Stacy Hawkins**—a member of our ReStore staff.



"Welcome to the ReStore for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.' I get to answer the phone with that greeting and get to use it when people walk into our store.

I just received an Associates degree in Construction Management from Delta College and I am now working

in the ReStore.

I get to learn more about customer needs and to use my knowledge to help them. I came to work at the ReStore through the Habitat for Humanity Deconstruction Program. I have learned about dismantling a house piece-by-piece and about the value of donated and reclaimed construction materials and their import back into the community and our customer base.

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity is helping me build a future. I hope you will come in and allow me to help you find the materials to build your home and our community's future. It will be nice to meet you or see you again."

Meet **Jamie Chesney**—a member of our ReStore staff.



"I am 44 years old. I have three children and I also have a grandson that just turned two years old. I love being a mother and grandma. I work for ReStore Saginaw.

I love my job. Even though I am on payroll I feel like I am giving back to my community. I treat people with respect and feel I should get the same in return. My personal skills are working with customers and help them find items they need. I feel I am an asset to the ReStore because of my interior decorating skills. I see things with more detail. I like everybody that works for Habitat for Humanity and the ReStore. We all are team players and that's what makes it such a great place to be employed. In some way we all make a difference."

Don't be 'left out' of this World's First build

The World's First Left-Handers & Friends Build will begin Friday, August 6, 2010 in Saginaw County. Lowe's has committed \$35,000 to the project, as well as volunteers and training opportunities. The project is open to all Habitat supporters .

"This is intended as a lighthearted look at discrimination," said Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Development

Manager Cameron Brady, himself a leftie. "Depending on what you read, around seven to 15% of the population is left-handed. We have a goal of 50% of volunteers for this build being left-handed, but righties and ambidextrous persons are welcome as well." Please notify the Habitat office by email at info@saginawhfh.org if you would like to help.

Left-handed celebrities are being asked to support this unique project. "We are hoping some famous lefties will pledge, donate an item, or even come to volunteer," said Brady.

First Gentleman of Michigan Daniel Mulhern is among those asked to participate, along with many local south-paws. About \$35,000 is still needed to completely fund the house. Special tools are being ordered for the builders to use.

From the President: Greater demand requires greater partnerships

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity faced new challenges in 2009. The weak economy made it more difficult to raise funds for our projects. High unemployment in Saginaw County meant that many individuals were less able to donate money to us and sometimes less able to volunteer their labor. Some of our homeowners, like many others, struggled to keep current on their mortgage payments to us. It is some comfort to us that our delinquency rate is no worse than the average rate for the whole nation. I know we can meet these challenges and continue our successful growth. Last month we created a two-year strategic plan to do just that.

In the new plan we give top priority to improving the financial strength of Saginaw Habitat, by establishing new benchmarks for debt financing, adding new sponsors for building projects, and supporting our profitable and rapidly growing ReStore. We will increase our efforts to recruit, encourage, and reward our volunteers. We will give increasing

attention to renovation and repair work and thereby take advantage of the many opportunities which now exist for these types of projects. Our partnership with the City of Saginaw to deconstruct abandoned houses will grow in 2010 and continue to provide usable material for sale in our Restore.

Jim Doane
Board President
Saginaw Habitat

I am optimistic that we will succeed in all these efforts. Our newest board members bring a wealth of ability and long community involvement to our governing body. We have also recently recruited two new staff members who add very significant skills to our day-to-day operation.

The demand for our work has never been greater. We now have a record 29 families who have completed our rigorous qualifying process and are on the waiting list for a new or renovated home. It will take our best efforts and lots of dedicated volunteers to create those homes. We invite you to join us as a volunteer. We guarantee it will be some of the most satisfying work you have ever

Church relations key to success

In January, over one hundred gathered for the annual Ministerial Breakfast held at Horizons Conference Center.

Two soon-to-be Habitat homebuyers fanned the flame of hope as they shared struggles to work toward a better future for themselves and their children.

Most importantly, we spoke with congregational ministers and leaders about our financial situation. As have many other nonprofits, Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has been hit hard with the downturn of the economy. We can no longer break ground for new construction unless full sponsorship funds are in hand.

There is no hard deadline to begin building. When congregations have collected enough to sponsor a home then we will build. Sponsorships for new

builds remain the same at \$30,000.00 and \$20,000.00 for rehabs.

In late February, congregations received a letter letting them know we will not be building new homes sponsored by congregations this summer. Two new homes will be built; one by the Saginaw Career Complex sponsored by the City of Saginaw with CDBG Funds and a "Lefthanders & Friends" Build sponsored by Lowe's. In a partnership with the City of Saginaw, homes will be rehabbed. Who knows, maybe we'll have a "Rehab Blitz" instead, or shall we call it a "Rehab Race", "Rehab Rush" or simply "Rehabilitation". Whatever we call it, we will need plenty of volunteers to work on all of these homes. We still count on our congregational partners to support these efforts by sending plenty of volunteers.

Leave a gift that lasts

Be a Legacy Builder

Have you ever thought about leaving a legacy lasting beyond your lifetime? Saginaw Habitat for Humanity would like to honor every planned gift donor with membership in the Legacy Builders Society. It is created exclusively to honor and recognize people who have helped our mission continue by including us in their wills, trusts or estate plans.

As a member of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity's Legacy Builders Society, you'll receive a certificate of appreciation and a Legacy Society lapel pin to serve as a reminder of your support.

Your gift can be recognized publicly, unless you prefer to give anonymously. We provide information and assistance to donors considering a planned gift.

If you have already arranged for a bequest or other planned gift, we would like to honor your support. Please notify us to become a member. If you are still considering such a gift, let us know so we can help you and your advisors complete your gift in a way that benefits your estate and makes clear your intention to help Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

When you join the Legacy Builders Society, you demonstrate your commitment to the mission of the Saginaw Habitat for Humanity and help ensure the long-term strength of the organization.

Habitat welcomes four new board members

William Shapleigh holds a BCE in Civil Engineering from Cornell University and is a Registered Professional Engineer. He was a Construction Officer in the US Air Force, then employed at GM Central Foundry from 1962 to 1976,

first as a Project engineer and later as a General Supervisor. He became a Coordinator-Environment and Energy at GM Powertrain Division and retired from there in 1992. From 1992 to 2004 he was Senior Project Coordinator at William Kibbe & Associates, and has since been a real estate agent at Keller-Williams Realty. He has been active in the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, YMCA Industrial Management Club, and United Way of Saginaw County.

Kanah Franklin has a BS in Business Administration and a MS in Public Administration, both from Central Michigan University. She worked as an accountant for Neighborhood Renewal Services from 1993 to 1999 and for the County of Saginaw from 1999 to 2000.

In 2000 she became Community Development Block Grant accountant for the City of Saginaw and in 2006 was promoted to the additional position of Coordinator of the Saginaw Economic Development Corporation. Both positions involve extensive financial analysis, reporting, and supervision responsibilities.

She has been a Habitat volunteer and is a member of the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Community Developers Association.

Monica Reyes currently serves as the Director for Office of Continuing Ed & Professional Development at Saginaw Valley State University's Center for Business & Economic Development. She is a graduate of SVSU

earning her MBA and Bachelor's in Human Resources, Accounting & Organizational Development.

She is also ABD from Michigan State University. Mrs. Reyes is certified as a Trainer from the American Society of Training Development (ASTD), certified as a Business Solutions Professional from Michigan State University School of Labor & Management (2008), Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) from the National Society of Human Resource Management (2009), and has a Certified Public Manager (CPM) from the National Consortium Board of CPM's in 2009. Monica's background includes Training, Human Resources, Leadership Development, Program Management and Development.

Monica is currently the President of the Michigan Council for Continuing Higher Education. Monica is also the Director for the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute, Board Advisor for the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, National Certified Public Managers Board of Directors and a Member of Saginaw Leadership Alumni, SVSU Alumni, Women In Leadership, Society of Human Resource Managers, National Association of Hispanic MBA's, Mid Michigan Hispanic Business Association and participates in various nonprofit fundraising events.

Monica has been married to her husband Lupe for 34 years. They have three children, eight grandchil-

dren and one great granddaughter. She loves camping with her family, enjoys landscaping and gardening.

Roger Wight received his BS from Michigan Technological University in Metallurgical Engineering and his MBA in Industrial Management from U of M Flint. He is retired from General Motors where he was in various quality/

process control positions over a 30+ year career there.

He then went on to work as a manager in quality control systems and analysis at CMI Technical Center where he was responsible for developing and coordinating the implementation of a formal Continuous Improvement System. He has also worked as an independent Quality Consultant providing training and assistance to automotive suppliers for the implementation of Continuous Quality Improvement systems and Team Problem Solving techniques.

Roger first became involved with Saginaw Habitat in 1995 when he worked on two houses being built in Buena Vista. It was an all volunteer organization at that time. When the first blitz build was planned for 1997, he was the primary organizer and Project Director for the United Methodist house and went on to be the Director for the Methodist houses for the next six or seven years.

During that time Habitat began building its staff and he served on the Board on two different occasions.

Board officers for 2010 are:

Jim Doane—President
Bridget Smith—Vice President
Robert Miller—Treasurer
William Brown—Secretary

Check out this newsletter in full color: www.saginawhf.org

Spring 2010



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! In this issue.... 9th Annual Quilt Auction coming! Page 1

ReStore offers up 'green' bargains

ReStore Saginaw's mission is to provide income to the affiliate, prevent reusable construction materials and household items from being discarded in landfills and provide affordable construction materials, household and maintenance items to the public at greatly discounted prices.

Individuals and businesses are welcome to donate to ReStore. We accept lumber, doors, cabinets, siding, lighting fixtures, electrical and plumbing supplies, glass, bathroom fixtures, flooring, tile, brick, hardware, roofing, paint, windows, furniture, appliances, tools, sinks, TVs and computers.

What may be best is that we will

pick up donations for free. Some facts about your ReStore:

- If you are interested in discounts, ReStore has a Frequent Buyer Club Card to save you even more money.
- We are the #1 paint-recycling drop-off point in Saginaw County
- ReStore works with Community Service Volunteers from The Department of Corrections, Friend of the Court and Work First.
- In an effort to be green, our customers bring in grocery bags and newspapers for ReStore to use for items purchased.

Sweat counts at Habitat for Humanity

When people speak of equity of a house, we know that the person is usually referring to money. As contrasted with financial equity, **sweat equity** is a term used to describe the contribution made to a project by people who contribute their time and effort.

At Habitat for Humanity, families contribute sweat equity instead of the traditional down payment required by lending institutions. Low-income families who would otherwise be unable to purchase a home (because their income does not allow them to save for a down payment or qualify for an interest-bearing mortgage) contribute 250-400 hours of sweat equity to the construction of their own home, the homes of other partner families or volunteer to assist the organization in other ways.

All families are required to begin sweat equity hours prior to the selection of the property. To date about half of the 30 families on the waiting list have started.

Major Contributors

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

- Catholic Diocese of Saginaw † Chemical Bank † Daughters of Charity St. Vincent dePaul † Dow Chemical Employees Credit Union † C.K. Eddy Memorial Fund † First United Methodist Church † Frankenmuth Credit Union † Frankenmuth Jaycess † Frankenmuth United Methodist Church † Freeland United Methodist Church † Helen H. Hain Trust † Korean War Veterans Assn #251 † MCVI † William McNally Family Foundation † Members First Credit Union † Mid Michigan Chapter of Credit Unions † Allen and Marie Nickless Memorial Foundation † Our Saviour Lutheran Church † Resurrection Lutheran Church † Saginaw Medical Federal Credit Union † St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church † St. John Vianney Parish † St. Mary Church † Team One Credit Union † United Bay Community Credit Union † United Financial Credit Union † David & Zella Bueker Wallace Fund † Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church † Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation † Wickson-Link Memorial Foundation † Wildfire Credit Union † Wolohan Family Foundation