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# ◊ Saginaw Habitat Highlights ◊

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## From 'Re' to 'De' - and \$10,000

ReStore, redistribution, home repair...Saginaw Habitat for Humanity had a "re" theme going until, in February, it made headlines "De"constructing.

When Habitat volunteer Laura Fox heard the United Financial Credit Union at 4685 State, where she does business, was headed for demolition, Habitat crews led by Methodist volunteer Chuck Aubin sprang into action.

Deconstruction is the hand demolition of a building in the reverse order in which it was built — salvaging as much as possible for sale to scrap metal companies or resale in the ReStore.

It's a growing trend as the United States finally comprehends that it needs to help the planet by reducing the refuse deposited in landfills while providing usable materials for renovations and other small-scale construction projects.

Upwards of 60 volunteers worked on the project.

Ceiling tiles are headed for installation at Habitat's warehouse, 315 W. Holland, to reduce heating loss along with carpeting for use on the ReStore floor. The solid unit drive-through will fetch several thousand dollars from an interested buyer while the aluminum frames around the windows went to the Rifkin scrap yard, both raising funds for Habitat projects.

Insulation found a home. Unearthing copper liners in the outdoor flower pots around the drive-through windows was a surprise because no one had looked under the dirt earlier.

Also culled was wiring, countertops, furniture, bathroom fixtures, pine tongue and groove, circuit breaker

*(From Re to De continued on page 2)*



### Four workers part of a pilot project

Four of the hardest working "volunteers" on the four-day deconstruction project at United Financial Credit Union were men under the eye of Friend of the Court Sue Prine in what is a pilot program.

"They didn't owe (child support) money to women and they were not in jail," says Habitat volunteer Laura Fox. "But they owe interest money to the state — interest money which just grows and grows.."

So Prine, says Fox, came up with an idea to credit each man with \$50 in

interest paid for each hour of work on the deconstruction project.

"It was her first time to try it, and she wants to make it work in Saginaw County and then take it to the state level.

"The four who were with us all four days were in the late 20s, and were unbelievable. They worked and worked. One had construction skills so that really helped.

"They've been unable to find jobs, and told us this project beat sitting home."

(From Re to De continued from page 1)

boxes — all on sale now at ReStore.

Says Fox, "It was a lot of fun, and we got more stuff than I ever imagined we would once we got in there."

It is estimated recycling the materials from the building could net Habitat \$10,000 or more — and already they are looking for other buildings to deconstruct.

Donating to the project were Subway, Jimmy John's, Hungry Howie's, Sam's Club, Fassezke Glass, Mike's Wrecker Service, Diebold, Allied Office Interiors, and McNally Nimergood.

And, reports Fox, a former teller at the facility was so impressed with what Habitat was doing she sent notices to people far and wide "about what we were doing."

# Tri-County abundant with collaborations

As we look to the future it is important that we continue to synergize our efforts by collaborating with other agencies and organizations. While collaboration is

sometimes seen as a strategy to survive tough economic

times, it is really a style of leadership that takes advantage of good times and prepares for tough times. Much more can be accomplished when partners and associates combine efforts to reach common goals, or when one partner is supported by another to accomplish a singular goal.

The Tri County area is rich with the rewards of collaboration. SHFH, for example, is grateful for the efforts of many organizations and sponsors that have support us and share in our successes.

Now I am proud to be able to point out some successes of collaboration between the Bay, Midland and Saginaw Habitat affiliates. Last sum-

mer the three affiliates jointly did fund raising at the Loons game. Bay County Habitat and SHFH are currently running a joint media campaign

to increase the awareness and support for our ReStores.

And you will read in the newsletter that \$1M dollars was re-

ceived from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority through a collaborative grant between the three affiliates, the Saginaw Rescue Mission and Midland Affordable Housing Alliance. This grant provides funding for the construction of houses in each County, with final ownership by the homeless service providers. The grant exemplifies collaboration at its best!

Habitat Affiliates share so much in the way of mission and purpose that there is abundant common ground for mutual development. By working together on areas of common concern, each Affiliate is better prepared to respond to its own unique circumstances.

## Board of Directors



Roger Scovill, President † Jim Doane, Vice President † Al Napier, Secretary † Andrew Rose, Treasurer † John Archambeau † Rev. William Brown † William Cook † Rev. Paulette Cummings † Al Genske † Sharon Howell † Christina Jones † Bridget Smith † Penny Lichon † Herbert Spence Jr., Executive Director Emeritus and Life Member



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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 I. Martineau, editor

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for assembly

## Grant of \$1 million shared

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority recently gave \$1 million jointly to the Habitat agencies in Saginaw, Bay City and Midland for an usual building project.

Four homes will rise in Saginaw, two in Midland and two in Bay City, built by Habitat labor with MSHDA buying the property. The homes will then revert to the City Rescue Missions in Saginaw and Bay Counties and the Midland Affordable Housing Alliance in Midland County for rent to people coming out of shelters.

Building is slated to begin in April, but organizers have not yet decided on the look of the houses — typical Habitat or something more innovative.

Even a duplex is possible. The homes will, however, be built to Habitat quality standards and above.

Also set aside is \$200,000 collectively to help maintain the homes and pay for utility costs for the next 40 years.

The project is part of the state agency's Homeless Family Initiative. Saginaw Habitat Executive Director Paul Warriner says he and Cameron Brady, development director, went to a talk recently where a Dow Chemical official urged Saginaw, Midland and Bay Counties to become more collaborative "so we decided to apply for this grant, and we hope to do more."

# Bid once twice on a quilt --sold



Beth Ferrier works on a quilt.

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

For several years now, Saginaw Township's Beth Ferrier, a nationally and internationally known quilt designer, teacher and author, has donated a quilted piece she has designed and created for use in illustrating a magazine article or book, says Jane Werner, who with Linda Grindahl coordinates the annual show and sale.

"I wouldn't even know how to assign a value to them because of that uniqueness," says Werner.

Ferrier has appeared on PBS' "Kay Wood's Quilting Show" and HGTV's "Simply Quilts."

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

\* Friday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

\* Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

\* Sunday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Werner is accepting donations through April 2 (call 326-1192, or e-mail werner6@juno.com).

Last year 183 donated pieces brought in \$10,016 — once again a setting a new high. Grindahl says donated pieces come from as far as Florida, Texas and Ohio "from friends of friends and relatives."

"Our church family is a small one, and we have a lot of older members, so when it was decided each Lutheran church would raise \$1,000 for the Lutheran builds and commit to sweat equity during the builds, we struggled come up with something we could do," says Grindahl.

"The very first year we did it we raised \$1,000 with 47 pieces — and it has grown every year since to more than \$10,000 last year."

At the end of each quilt show and auction, she says, church members hold a praise and potluck dinner for Habitat personnel, quilt donors and sale and show volunteers.

## Blitz bits

### Eggroll sale in March

Help Habitat while enjoying great food.

Eggroll sales at the Freeland United Methodist Church are on March 28, April 18 and May 16.

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.

### House No. 1 mortgage paid

Madonna Morris, who in 1987 became the occupant of the first house built by Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, now owns her home.

Morris is battling cancer, and was \$5,000 short of paying off her home when she fell ill and was unable to work.

In its last newsletter, Saginaw Habitat issued a year-end appeal for readers to help Morris.

"We received enough donations to pay off her debt," says executive director Paul Wariner. "I'd say around 100 people gave money, which will allow her to stay in her house and pay her medical bills.

"This is the first time we have done something publicly like this, but the balance was small and the circumstances were unusual. What happened (to cause her to fall behind in her payments) was not caused by her."

### Harmonies for Habitat concert on May 12

Harmonies for Habitat benefit concert Monday May 12, 7p.m. by the Saginaw Area Concert Band under the direction of David Valessek at Resurrection Lutheran Church (792-7135) at 2110 Brockway.

## Dow Chemical, GM Powertrain pledge funds In memoriam...

The Dow Chemical Foundation has committed \$80,000 to Saginaw Habitat's two new Neighborhood Improvement and Home Repair programs, reports executive director Paul Warriner.

Of that sum, \$10,000 to \$20,000 will go toward the Neighborhood Improvement program and the rest into the Home Repair program which provides qualifying homeowners no-interest loans to make vital repairs.

And along with the money, Dow Chemical employees will volunteer their time to work on both projects "which they are delighted about, because it is difficult for them to commit employees to a blitz build but they

can do this on weekends. So it is good for Dow and good for us."

The money will help purchase home repair products or the services of contractors and, since it is a loan, the money will perpetuate itself.

Applications for both programs are in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, GM Powertrain and the UAW donated \$25,000 toward the fall build by Carrollton High School.

With money getting tight, says Warriner, Saginaw Habitat's full funding of the school builds is becoming a struggle. The Carrollton house costs \$70,000.

### IN HONOR OF ...

- ▶ Madonna Morris
- ▶ Frank W. Jones
- ▶ Ruth Reinert
- ▶ Dillon, Karl and Andrew
- ▶ Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Luplow
- ▶ Charlie Wargel
- ▶ Dick Parks
- ▶ Keith Clarke
- ▶ David Eaton Family

### IN MEMORY OF ...

- ▶ Angela Nicole Marsh
- ▶ Leo Foley
- ▶ Francis Sloan
- ▶ Elaine Hinds
- ▶ William Thumme
- ▶ Annarose Robinson

## Tweet, tweet—bird house kits offered to students

Looking for a way to involve more youths in the spirit of volunteerism, Saginaw Habitat has come up with a tweet solution.

They downloaded bird house plans, will pre-cut the forms, and then will canvass elementary schools in the hopes classes with put the bird houses together and paint and decorate them for sale at ReStore, 315 W. Holland.

First step: Adult volunteers are need to cut out dozens of the patterns.

Spring nears. Birds need decent and affordable housing too.



## Two join Habitat board

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity welcomes two new board members.

\* Ed Genske is the technical manager for GM Powertrain Saginaw Metal Casting Plant and an adjunct professor teaching management courses at Saginaw Valley State University. He has a doctorate in organizational development.

Genske has helped on past Habitat houses and has been active in his church for the past 40 years.

\* Penny Lichon is an associate broker for Keller-Williams and a co-worker of departing board member Mary Ann Badour. Lichon has worked in the real estate field for 27 years.

She has served on the board and been a reading mentor at the Francis R&H School and has a bachelor's degree in drama.

## Party store bought by Habitat gets new life

Valued at \$30,300, the former Sheridan Party Store, 1202 Sheridan, was purchased for \$300 by Saginaw Habitat for Humanity at a Department of Natural Resources auction.

The property's former owners were delinquent on their taxes, says executive director Paul Warriner, so Habitat took advantage of the situation as part

of its commitment to improve neighborhoods where they build homes.

Earlier this year, Habitat in turn donated the property to members of Burk Memorial Church of the Nazarene, 1022 Atwater, for conversion into a youth activity center.

## Smile, ReStore on TV

Channel 5, WNEM, has begun airing informational spots about the Habitat ReStore ventures with the Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Saginaw and Bay City.



**Laura Fox uses her minivan to gather and distribute everything that makes a house a home.**

## Laura Fox — a woman on a mission

As the redistribution program heads into its third year, Saginaw Habitat volunteer Laura Fox is a woman on a mission.

In the spring, summer and fall, she spends her weekends and some weekdays trolling at estate sales, garage sales and auctions looking “for some really good deals.”

Redistribution is a joint effort of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, Gleaning for Jesus, Emmaus House, House to Home and United Way of Saginaw County.

When it began, donors could drop off furniture, working appliances, windows, doors and other household items once a month in the Home Depot parking lot, and each of the participating agencies shared in what was collected.

Now, says Fox, donors are asked to call a dedicated line (989-233-2650) and arrange for a pickup, with the agencies sharing what is collected.

And come spring, summer and fall, Fox goes hunting for goodies — handing out cards telling about the redistribution program at garage sales, estate sales and auctions and often, with her own money, purchasing items.

“If at a garage sale it looks like the family really needs the money, if I get that feeling, I’ll buy. It’s OK, I don’t donate to a church, so that’s just the way it is at these sales. I never spend more than \$5 or \$6 dollars on any one thing.”

When an estate sale is being run by a professional company “once they get used to seeing me, they’ll give me some good deals.”

And auctioneer Marty Wegner “has been fantastic to me once he found out. He’ll stop at one point in the auction and ask if I am going to bid on something and then he goes into a spiel about how it’s good to give to a non-profit agency and how the people there should all pick a nonprofit of their own and donate to it.”

Sometimes she is given or buys “boxes and boxes” sight unseen and culls through them, often finding usable can openers and irons.

“Once people know who I am, they will sometimes buy a box and take one thing they want and then give me the rest.”

Fox says she’s also making valuable contacts that might prove fruitful down the road.

## Applause for five dedicated staff members

Five and 10 are the magic number this year when it comes to the Saginaw Habitat for Humanity staff.

Celebrating 10 years of service are:

... Cameron Brady, development manager, in September.

... Sister Lois Ann Sheaffer, family relations coordinator in October.

Celebrating 5 years of service are:

... Paul Warriner, executive director, in March.

... Sharon Block, jack of all trades, in October.

... Courtney Fitzpatrick-Huyck, financial manager, in September.

Seek them out and extend your congratulations, and thanks for jobs well done.

In turn, they thank you for the opportunity to serve and to work with great volunteers.

## They’re headed south to work and play

Cameron Brady, Saginaw Habitat’s development manager; Mike Bebeau, Saginaw Habitat’s construction manager, and Maria Theunick of Home Depot’s pro desk are headed to Lafayette, La., for a week in April to visit an old friend...

...And to help him start a six-week blitz to build eight Habitat homes.

Former Saginaw Habitat construction manager Ron Chaltraw is the old friend, who just happens to be over-seeing that Lafayette blitz build.

Cameron will help with public relations, food and volunteers and his fiancé, Marnie, who works in the Covenant emergency room, will be stationed in the first aid area. Mike and his significant other Maria will serve as construction managers.

Word is there is also time allotted to attend a couple evenings of an international music festival.

**Check out this newsletter in full color: [www.saginawhfh.org](http://www.saginawhfh.org)**



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**! In this issue.... Deconstruction project raises \$10,000 Page 1**

### Going green at Habitat

As part of its new revised strategic plan, Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has made a commitment to going green whenever possible as its part in helping save the planet.

“That might mean things like a metal roof, which saves energy. Or tankless hot water heaters,” says Cameron Brady, development manager.

“It means looking into geothermal and solar panels. We are working with Dow Corning and getting calculations. “It may make a house more expensive to build initially, but over 10 to 20 years it would save money.”

Bay County Habitat already has gone green. There are, out

there in the nation, solar Habitat houses.

“My idea is that maybe we’d build one of these houses out in Hemlock, near Hemlock Semiconductor (the maker of solar panel materials) and maybe a semiconductor employee could buy it as a model house using smart technology,” says Brady.

Saginaw Habitat already buys Energy Star appliances, and incorporates more than a dozen other eco-friendly practices, but wants to do more.

“It will help the environment and, we think, attract younger volunteers who are interested in green technology,” says Paul Warriner.



### Major Contributors

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



Bell’s Chicken Villas, Inc. No. 2 (KFC) † Bishop Robert Carlson, Catholic Diocese of Saginaw † Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church † Jean Grey † Stephen and Karen Jennings † Wal-Mart Store #1733 † David & Zella Bueker Wallace Fund