
◊ Saginaw Habitat Highlights ◊

www.saginawhfh.org

Volume No. 12

Issue No. 1

Summer 2007

Get a facial. . .help build a Habitat house

Set aside the date of Sunday, Sept. 16, between noon and 7 p.m.

That's when an unusual fund-raiser takes place—one involving facials, massages, manicures, pedicures and hair cuts.

The entire crew at the Anna Luis Salon & Day Spa, 1115 N. Center in Saginaw Township, is donating its services and tips that day to Habitats in Saginaw and the Gulf Coast that was hit by hurricane Katrina.

"We'll also have refreshments, a guessing game with a \$50 gift certificate as a prize, and I hope to get some silent auction items," says Luis Jimenez, the owner of the award-winning salon.

Each appointment will last 30 minutes and cost \$20, he says—a solid value because normally it would cost \$30 or more.

"I proposed this idea at a staff meeting, and told them 'I want your support on this, be it 50 percent, 75 percent or 100 percent of what you make you donate....and what about tips.' All 13 of them unanimously said they would donate everything they make, tips included. I was so proud of them.

"We hope to raise at least \$2,000, half of which will stay in Saginaw and the other half of which will go to the Gulf Coast Habitats. And we hope make it an annual event, benefiting other charities."

Drop-ins are welcome that day, or appointments by calling 799-8900.

As Jimenez explains it, Vidal Sassoon and behindthechair.com, an educational web site for cosmetolo-



Liz Grimaldi, left, teases a client in advance of the Sept. 16 fundraiser at Anna Luis Salon & Day Spa. Staff members are donating their time in support of Habitat.

gists, teamed up to create Hairdressers Unlocking Hope benefits at salons nationwide in aid of Habitats in the Katrina area.

Bumble and Bumble Products, which Anna Luis uses, actually sent people to help in the area, Jimenez says, "So we felt we wanted to do something as well, but we wanted half of the money to stay in Saginaw."

For the guessing game resulting in a \$50 gift certificate that day, Jimenez

borrowed a jar of house keys from Stan's Lockshop. Participants make a donation, guess how many keys are in the jar, and the person guessing closest gets the prize.

Anna Luis is in its 10th year of operation... and Jimenez says he'll be right in there cutting and styling hair with his staff come their normal day off on Sunday, Sept. 16.

"Everyone is welcome... all ages, families."

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity turns 20 — 144 houses strong

Overcoming challenges begins with you

The home for the Suggs' family is currently under construction in Chesaning. We were very fortunate to find an affordable piece of property in the Village. As we began to develop the site plan, we discovered a plastic pipe buried the length of the property, just where the basement was going to be dug. We hastily developed alternate plans for locating the house. As it turned out, the drain was not the county drain that we first feared, and we then proceeded with the original site plan, after a long collective sigh of relief.

That relief was premature. We dis-

covered a fiber optic phone cable that also ran through the lot. and we feared that this could be a real show stopper. But, in just a matter of hours Century-tel, the phone company serving Chesaning, agreed to move the cable. In a matter of days it was actually moved.

Two close calls. Two challenges overcome.

Facing the challenges that are pre-

sented to us is in many ways the measure of Habitat's success. Placing our trust in God, people and community will bring about successful responses to our daily challenges. Saginaw Habitat for Humanity gives its families and volunteers a real opportunity to overcome the barriers to affordable, decent housing that too many people in our community face each day.

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity needs your help to continue its good work. Volunteer. Refer a family. Donate.

Paul Warriner
Executive Director
Saginaw Habitat

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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).

Habitat's new home closer to paid for

Saginaw Habitat board member James Doane reports Saginaw Habitat is getting closer and closer toward raising the \$593,025 for its new home at 315 W. Holland.

"We have raised \$392,742 and requests are currently pending for another \$95,000 plus three requests for unspecified amounts. The campaign has never stopped moving forward. I work on it all the time."

Doane is the chair of that particular fundraising effort which brought all of Saginaw Habitat's offices, ReStore and warehouse into one facility a year ago.

The building is the former home of Saginaw Kitchen and Bath.

Check out the ever-changing sign outside that keeps passersby informed of ReStore sales and new Habitat builds.

Habitat ornament awaits trees

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Saginaw Habitat for Humanity offices on Holland.

For the first time in its 20 years of building homes, Saginaw Habitat is offering for sale a Habitat home decoration—a Christmas tree ornament, frosted green in color with the organization's blue logo emblazoned on it.

"We have wanted to have one for several years -- to reinforce our Christian identity," says development director Cameron Brady.

They're on sale, for \$7.00 each, at the Habitat ReStore -- the perfect gift, perhaps, for home sponsors and/or volunteer builders to give to occupants of one of the 144 Habitat homes standing in Saginaw County.



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

Special thanks to:
Klement Press
for discounted printing
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Francis Sloan, left, and some members of the Suggs family watch as donations he solicited are put to use on House #144.

From PortaJohns to \$38,000 & rising

When Francis Sloan of Chesaning stopped by a builders show booth passing out information about an anticipated Saginaw Habitat build in Chesaning, he offered to donate PortaJohns during that build.

"I own a septic tank/PortaJohn rental business," says Sloan, 69.

Before he knew it, he went to a Chesaning build meeting, learned they'd been struggling for well over a year to raise the needed \$30,000, and said "I'll take the job."

The builders show was in March. Now the build is in progress at 913 E. Liberty, within sight of Big Rock Elementary School.

"Raising the funds was easy," says Sloan.

His long years of working in the septic tank business came with connections as Sloan called in favors and secured impressive in-kind donations and hefty discounts from Everett's Equipment (bulldozing), Hedrich Excavating (digging the basement), Ray Walker (water and sewer) and Advantage Board Walk (pouring the basement floor, walks and driveway).

And when he needed something further, those he'd already rounded up

called on their friends as the chain of giving grew.

"We've got some \$38,000 in cash and donations so we're in good shape. We still have money coming in and we're not done yet. We're headed into having enough money to build a second Habitat house. I am aiming for a final total of \$50,000 or better.

"I recently worked at the Saginaw County Fair and a couple of people walked up and said 'I haven't given you a check yet' and wrote them for \$250 and \$200."

With a chuckle, he admits he delicately strong-armed a couple of businesses in town by casually mentioning competitors had donated. Six churches also added dollars. Sloan is guessing 50 to 60 businesses and churches are participating.

"I've never been involved with Habitat before and at nearly 70 years of age I just wanted to do it now. The build will run through Aug. 25 and then I think I'll take a little rest."

Sloan's wife Sandy is the co-chair for food services during the Habitat build in Chesaning.

Sloan Septic Tank Service has been in operation 54 years. The Chesaning project is Saginaw Habitat's first rural build.

Meet the new Habitat families

► **House #141:** 1580 Joy in Buena Vista Township, a renovation project. Hope Zamora and her sons Victoriano, 9, and Matthew, 4. Hope works at Nagel Paper and Box in Bridgeport, making paper tubes.

► **House #142:** 423 N. Harrison. Cynthia Bailey and her daughter Tempest, 5. Cynthia is a sales clerk at Wal-Mart.

► **House #143:** 1320 Cleveland. Kimberly Griffin and her niece Tieeshu, 18. Kimberly works in the cafeteria at General Motors Corp.'s Saginaw Metal Casting Operations.

► **House #144:** 913 E. Liberty in Chesaning. Kim and Grady Suggs and children Amber, 15; Krystle, 14; Grady III, 13; Tiffany, 11, and Justin, 9.

Kim works in the kitchen at Chesaning Middle School. Grady works for Greenia Custom Woodworking.

As a worship leader at New Wine Full Gospel Church in Chesaning, Kim Suggs had worked for more than a year to get the Chesaning build off its feet when a fellow parishioner suggested her family apply for a Habitat house.

"Nailing" donations

Second Presbyterian Church has hit upon a solid fundraiser.

Habitat volunteer Dick Odell sells nails on Sundays at the 320-member church. Buy a nail for \$1, stick it in a pegboard, "and every nail bought is used at the Habitat house the church helps build as a part of Church Workers United," reports wife Diane Odell.

This year the nails brought in \$740 and went into the house built at 423 N. Harrison.

Meet our new Habitat board members. . .

...Dr. Charles Guerreno

Guerreno, for 15 years the pastor at First Congregational Church, is no stranger to the Habitat story.

"Way back in 1982, when I was serving a church in Southern Illinois, I took 20 kids to Americus, Ga., for a week and we worked on a Habitat house there," he recalls—Americus, of course, being the headquarters of the Habitat movement.

He recalls that founder Millard Fuller himself dedicated the house he and his crew worked on, and they also visited the farm where Habitat faithful lived.

Over the years since, says Guerreno, he has helped with Habitat building projects in a leadership role or on sites and points with pride that his current church resides within the Cathedral District where many Saginaw Habitat houses have risen.

"It was Dinah White of St. Mary's who got that started, back in 1994-1995. Neighborhood Renewal Ser-

VICES had torn down a house in the area and she thought a Habitat house should be built in its place. But (then director) John Perna of Habitat told her the area was not safe for families."

From that moment, he says, White, a Daughter of Charities nun who was vice president of mission services at St. Mary's,



Rev. William Brown at the blitz site in June



Bridget Smith plans to use her skills while helping Habitat.

started St. Mary's dedication to turning around the neighborhood.

As a new Habitat board member, Gurreno wants to continue that story since he to deeply cares for the Cathedral District. "I come to the board with no expectations or agendas. Whatever comes up, if I can help, I will."

...William Brown

When his uncle, Louis Booker, became involved with Saginaw Habitat and starting sharing information, William Brown listened intently.

Now the pastor of Transforming Life Church is one of four new Saginaw Habitat board members.

"I want more Christians to know about it, and that is what I will bring to the board," says Brown. "I think most people think that if you can't swing a hammer, you can't be a part of it."

"I learned there is a lot more to it than that, way more, and I want church folks to learn that. There are committees, the board, office work, all kind of ways you can help."

Brown says he went to a Habitat house dedication recently "and it touched me because it touched them, the people getting the house, so

deeply. You could see it helped their self-esteem. I want to be a part of that process."

...Bridget Smith

Smith, an urban planner for Saginaw Township, is the author of an ambitious document.

Last October she penned Saginaw's 10-year plan to shut the doors on homelessness in the county. "My husband quips that next I'll try to help solve world hunger, or create world peace," says the Frankenmuth resident.

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, the Underground Railroad, county and city officials and others formed the initiative to end homelessness, which resulted in the 10-year plan Smith penned. The group is now working on getting grants and other funding to enact its plans.

"We are seeking to fund wrap-around services. It's not just about a house. It's about getting jobs, transportation, help with battling substance abuse. To get someone off the streets there need to be a supportive system.

(see Smith, continued on page 5)



Auction items include sporting goods and fine art.

Dinner buys chance at condo

Interested in taking a four-day trip to the mountains of Colorado, staying in a condo while you golf, hike, bike or canoe?

How about showcasing an exclusive carving by the Saginaw Woodcarvers in your curio cabinet; one standing about 12- to 24-inches in height?

Both are among the auction items up for grabs when Saginaw Habitat for Humanity hosts its third annual Builders' Club Auction/Dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

"We're still working on getting items for the silent and live auction," says Sharon Block of Habitat. "But those two we know we have. The woodcarvers are creating an item just for us for this event."

The evening also has new features and a new location.

It starts at 5:30 p.m. in Frankenth's Bavarian Inn Lodge after the first two years at Saginaw's Germania Town and Country Club. A cash bar social hour is followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the live auction at

8 p.m., conducted again by auctioneer/entertainer Marty Wegner.

The silent and live auction will offer merchandise, services, the use of a cottage, boat trips, tickets to sporting events and concerts, art and tools.

Art Lewis of WSGW, 790 AM, is the master of ceremonies.

Added are sponsorships, many of them with plenty of perks. The sponsorships range from \$5,000 to \$50. The biggest donors get program and newsletter recognition, radio blurbs, their name listed on Saginaw Habitat's web site for a year, and seats at the auction dinner.

Tickets to just the dinner are \$40, with reservations due Oct. 1. Call 753-5200 to donate auction items or to make reservations.

Block says the first year of the event raised \$4,500 and the second year \$9,500 with 150 people attending.

"So we hope to keep that momentum going and raise \$14,000 with 200 to 250 attending."

Board changes

Roger B. Scovill, a certified public accountant, is the new president of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity.

Serving with him are vice president James Doane, secretary Albert Napier and treasurer Andrew Rose.

New to the board are Bridget Smith, an urban planner for Saginaw Township; Charles Guerrero, pastor at First Congregational Church; William Brown, pastor at Transforming Life Church, and Paulette Cummings, pastor at St. John Lutheran Church.

...Smith...

(Continued from page 4)

We need to get people into a safe quality environment."

Homelessness, Smith says, affects all ages. "Foster children, when they are 18 they are put out on their own. Maybe they double up and live with a sister, but that means they are homeless. Part of the plan is that it is inherent that we change people's minds on what it is to be homeless."

As an urban planner, Smith says she will bring a unique perspective to the Saginaw Habitat board.

"I am paid to look at where houses are located in relationship to transit, hospitals, schools. I am a strong believer in renovating existing homes. A lot of neighborhoods are right on the brink, and a sound investment on one or two houses can make a difference.

"Making cities vibrant and attractive to families starts with a basic need for reasonably safe neighborhoods and decent, quality houses."

Saginaw County statistics in 2005, she says, listed as homeless 25 children, 25 veterans, 71 victims of domestic violence, 95 with substance abuse problems, 19 who were mentally ill and 42 considered chronically homeless.

"And those were just people seeking services....there are many others we do not know about."

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

Thank you donors to our last auction

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Auctioneer Marty Wegner entertains at last year's auction.

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The Pepsi Bottling Group
The Saginaw News
The Sawmill Golf Club
The Temple Theatre
Tri-City Locks
Twin Oaks Golf Club
United Financial Credit Union
Wally's OldFashioned Sandwich Shop
Charlie Wargel
Paul Warriner
Wescourt Retirement Residence
West Side Decorating
Linda Williams

Never too young to participate

Peter Haake, a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Reese, sent the following story about a member of his church:

“Nathan (Bublitz) was in kindergarten in 2005 when we gave Habitat for Humanity house banks to the Sunday school children. His older brother Daniel, who was in fifth grade, came up with the idea to make and sell fudge to earn money to put in his house bank. Nathan collected pop cans from friends, neighbors and relatives.

“These two boys donated over \$75 to Habitat that year.

“In 2006, shortly after we gave out Habitat house

banks, the boys and their family were on vacation when they learned that their house had burned to the ground.

Nathan’s first comment was, ‘Oh no, my Habitat house bank was burned up with money in it’ (but he resumed collecting and donated again that year).



“This year Nathan is in second grade and was given a couple of weeks to fill up his Habitat house bank. He worked very hard and earned every penny that he put into the bank by doing chores for his parents and grandparents and collecting pop cans.

“The night before he was to turn it in, he asked his mother if he could pick asparagus for her to earn a few last

cents to put in the house bank because ‘I know how important a house is.’”

In memoriam...

IN HONOR OF ...

- ▶ Bob Grindahl’s 75th birthday
- ▶ Ed & Ruth Morczyk
- ▶ Emil & Gee Gee Weiss
- ▶ Robert & David Eaton families
- ▶ Staff at State Street United Methodist Church
- ▶ Mark Spence
- ▶ Cynthia Kroll
- ▶ 50th anniversary
Robert & Kathryn Buse
- ▶ Chris Hall
- ▶ Barb & Lowell Martin

IN MEMORY OF ...

- ▶ Annarose Robinson
- ▶ Chester W. Lichon, Sr.
- ▶ Frank Jones
- ▶ Jenny Bauer
- ▶ Bill Ennis
- ▶ Robert W. Grant, Jr.
- ▶ Parents of Lois Ann Sheaffer
- ▶ Michael Bergan
- ▶ Ron Salbenblatt

Quilt project grows each year

Six years ago, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Hemmeter at Weiss, began its Saginaw Habitat for Humanity Quilt Show and Auction as a fund-raiser for the Lutheran Habitat builds in Saginaw.

With each year, the handiwork by needle artists is increasingly more lucrative.

This year 183 quilted items created by 70 individuals or groups brought in \$10,018, reports Jane Werner. “There were 120 bidders for those items, and 400 people came just to see the display.”

The first year of the project brought in \$1,000, the second year \$1,900, the third year \$4,500, the fourth year \$6,500 and the fifth year \$9,259, says Werner, with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans also contributing to the cause.

Major Contributors

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



- Ascension Lutheran Church † Bell’s Chicken Villas, Inc. No. 2 † Bethel AME Church † Blessed Trinity Catholic Church † C.K. Eddy Memorial Foundation † Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church † Dow Corning Corporation † Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church † First Presbyterian Church † Freeland United Methodist Church † Leo A. Kahan & Emilie Kahan Charitable Fund † Northwest Lower Michigan Synod ELCA † Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church † Our Saviour Lutheran Church † Resurrection Lutheran Church † Second Presbyterian Church † St. Helen Parish † St. John Lutheran Church † St. Lorenz Lutheran Church † St. Mary Church † St. Thomas Aquinas Church † Trinity United Methodist Church † Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church † William F. McNally Family Foundation † Wal-Mart Stores † David & Zella Bueker Wallace Fund

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