

SAGINAW HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
HABITAT BLITZ 2004!
Fact Sheet

Building houses by *the Book*.

Dates: June 11-26, 2004 (Friday start)

Location: South 14th and 15th at Hartsuff in the city of Saginaw, five blocks east of Genesee north of Remington.

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity's *eighth annual* blitz build—HABITAT BLITZ 2004!—will include the construction of seven houses in two weeks, by an expected 1,500 volunteers.

This deserving neighborhood is south of the past four blitz builds, where over 1,400 volunteers came together each summer for two weeks to complete a total of 35 houses from 2000-2003 and transformed the neighborhood near St. John Lutheran Church and Jones School. Seven houses were completed in this area during last year's blitz build. Strong support has come from the Saginaw East-Central Neighborhood Association, which welcomes the revitalization efforts.

HABITAT BLITZ 2004! is an opportunity to build houses, build lives, and rebuild a community.

Returning house sponsors include Citizens Bank with SBC Pioneers, General Motors Powertrain, and five groups of churches—United Methodists, Catholic Churches of Saginaw County, Lutherans (ELCA and LCMS), African American Christian Unity and Church Workers United. Each house sponsor pledges a minimum of \$25,000 toward the \$66,000 construction cost of its house and recruits and schedules all the volunteers. Radio stations WSGW, WTLZ, WHNN, Wheelz, WKQZ, WSAM and Eagle 97.3 play key roles in recruitment and awareness-building.

Further support comes from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority in the form of homebuyer downpayment assistance, and generous individuals, foundations, churches, businesses and other local organizations. Pepsi Bottling Group will again provide all beverages and some food for the blitz volunteers.

DeWalt Tools returns as an Official Power Tool Sponsor.

Saginaw Mayor Wilmer Jones Ham will 'three-peat' as Honorary Chairperson of the blitz (as in 2002 and 2003), replacing former Mayor Henry Marsh, who retired following the 2001 blitz after two years as chair. Mr. Marsh joined Habitat after watching hundreds of volunteers build five homes in his neighborhood in 1999.

Families are selected for Habitat homeownership based on criteria of need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner. Habitat sells its houses for no profit and with a zero-interest loan to families who meet the demanding criteria. Homebuyers also contribute a required 250 to 400 hours of labor—sweat equity—to the construction of their houses. Nearly 40 hours is spent in classroom training learning homeownership skills and basic home maintenance.

SHFH builds and rehabilitates houses year round. Volunteer opportunities are available on most Saturdays and often during the week. The goal for 2004 is to provide simple, decent houses for 16 families.

SHFH is one of 1,650 U.S. affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit Christian housing ministry dedicated to the elimination of poverty housing around the world. Founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, the Americus, Georgia-based nonprofit organization has built over 160,000 houses in over 92 countries. For more information about Habitat for Humanity or this year's projects, call the Habitat office at 753-5200.

