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Habitat House a Lasting Legacy

Recently, many Habitat for Humanity of Evansville supporters have decided to sponsor houses in memory of loved ones.

Mike and Hope Staubitz named one of two houses they sponsored last year the Alderson and Miller House, using the last names of both Mike's grandparents. Both Bob Gries and Charles Robertson will be sponsoring 2008 builds in memory of their mothers, with the Ida Marie Gries House already under roof and the Lola Ellis Robertson House scheduled to begin construction in mid-July.

When asked why he chose to sponsor a house in memory of

Lasting Legacy
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A volunteer works on the Ida Marie Gries House in April. The home is sponsored by Bob Gries, former Miami Dolphins quarterback, and his son, Brian, with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Supports Habitat

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville recently received word from Mead Johnson Nutritionals, a Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, that we had been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation.

The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation (and earlier the Mead Johnson and Company Foundation) have been longstanding supporters of the work of Habitat for Humanity of Evansville. Since 1993, the Foundation has contributed over

Bristol-Myers Squibb continued on page 2

Habitat Says Farewell to Sally

After five and a half years as Habitat's Community Relations Director, Sally Gries has moved to a new position. Sally is now the Development Director for the St. Mary's Warrick Foundation, beginning her new job in April.

Sally will be missed by all of us, having enhanced many programs which furthered the mission of Habitat, including *Habitat Happenings*, the *Annual*

Farewell to Sally continued on page 3

Looking Ahead

With New Haven projected to be virtually complete early in 2009, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville is planning a return to older neighborhoods of Evansville. We are building strategic alliances in an effort to expand on our traditional "Blitz" model and promote comprehensive community development.



Eleven of the planned 24 homes to be constructed this year at New Haven are already under construction.

Presently Habitat is leading the work of the Glenwood Planning Team — consisting of the University of Southern Indiana, the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, Aurora, the Evansville Housing Authority, and Habitat — to coordinate efforts for capital investment in the Glenwood neighborhood. This group is considering the concept of approaching urban development as we have disaster recovery efforts — coordinated, concentrated investment in one place and at one time to create transformational change.

By partnering with other organizations, holistic community development and a full-service neighborhood will result for the benefit of Habitat families and the neighborhood residents. Currently the Glenwood Planning Team is reaching out to the area schools, churches, community groups and residents of Glenwood to help shape this initiative. Assessment and planning will be complete around December 2008. Most capital investment is scheduled for 2010.

As always, when your time permits, I hope you will stop by and see the progress at New Haven. Also, give me a call if you're interested in participating in the Glenwood Project.

In Partnership,

Lori Reed
Executive Director



Lasting Legacy
continued from page 1

his mom, Charles Robertson replied, "Mom had her deepest roots in Evansville, and I have fond memories of the 1992 Blitz."

One anonymous donor, who has sponsored three houses in memory of John H. and Mary Ada Berg (two houses have already been completed), has requested that a small plaque indicating the memorial be affixed to the house. With the homeowner's permission, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville is honored to do that.

Bristol-Myers Squibb continued from page 1

\$160,000 to our housing ministry.

In 1998, Mead Johnson/Bristol-Myers sponsored the "Oprah House" in our community, where Oprah Winfrey sought corporate sponsors in each of the 205 television markets where her program airs to build houses for families in need.

*Now abide faith, hope, love,
these three, but the greatest of
these is Love.*

— I Corinthians 13:13

Dr. Vince Bertram, EVSC Superintendent, To Speak at Breakfast

It truly takes collaboration to create transformational change. It takes representatives from housing and education. And it takes ministers and healthcare professionals. All are essential, and not one is more important than the others.

This partnership will be the focus of Habitat for Humanity of Evansville's Ministerial Breakfast June 19 at the Greater St. James Community Recreation and Education Center. Dr. Vince Bertram, Superintendent of the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, will be the guest speaker. He spoke with the Pastors Advisory Council in April at the Habitat for Humanity of Evansville office to review topics he will discuss at the annual breakfast. He outlined five core principles contained in the corporation's strategic plan — professional development; early childhood education; technology; innovative school models; and family,

Ministerial Meeting continued on page 3

Lydia Johnson Named Community Relations Director

Lydia Carrico Johnson has been named Community Relations Director for Habitat for Humanity of Evansville. Her first day was



April 21. She was a reporter for seven years and most recently served for four and a half years in public relations for a community action agency in Kentucky. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and is a May candidate for a master's degree in communication from Western Kentucky University.

Lydia will be contacting partner families, volunteers, supporters and members of the media soon to introduce herself.

To reach Lydia, please call the Habitat office at 423-5623, ext. 21.

Ministerial Meeting continued from page 2

school, and community partnerships — and discussed ways these will be implemented.

"The key piece is how do we achieve equity for all children?" Bertram told ministers. "We want to show kids that we do believe in them."

The plan includes transforming elementary and middle schools into K-8 centers to ease transition into the upper grades and adjusting the transportation system so that children can attend the same school if they move. Dr. Bertram will discuss these and other issues at the breakfast.

Lori Reed, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville's Executive Director, discussed collaborative efforts to coordinate community development plans with capital investment planned for 2010 in the Glenwood area. Forums are already being conducted to assess needs in that area, and a strategic plan will be ready by December.

For more information about the Ministerial Breakfast, please call Sr. Jane Michele McClure, Development Director for Habitat for Humanity of Evansville, at 423-5623, ext. 26.



Dr. Vince Bertram, EVSC Superintendent, discusses the school corporation's strategic plans with area ministers during a meeting with the Pastors Advisory Council at the Habitat for Humanity of Evansville office in April.

Farewell to Sally continued from page 1

Report, the Public Relations Committee, the web site, partner family programs, the annual dinners and awards programs, and the initiation of online volunteer registration, to name a few.

Sally, all of us at Habitat wish you well, and thank you for all you've done!

Diamond Valley Makes a Difference

Diamond Valley Federal Credit Union, one of nine credit unions in southwestern Indiana (Centurion, Dynamic, Evansville, Evansville Firefighters, Gas and Electric, Heritage, Sterling, Teachers and Toyota) who are sponsoring a Credit Union Build in 2008, has announced a new program to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Evansville and other participating non-profits.

The program, called "The Difference," will give a \$10 contribution to Habitat for every new member who opens an account at Diamond Valley with a minimum deposit of \$50. Referral cards are available at the front desk of Habitat — those can be presented when you open your account or inform the teller you are a member of the Habitat organization. Membership in Diamond Valley is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Vanderburgh County, or is an immediate family member of someone who does.

"If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes." - St. Clement of Alexandria

Softwood Lumber Grant Helps Habitat

Earlier this month, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville received a first payment of just under \$20,000 from what promises to be an extremely helpful program for partner families in our local area who seek decent and affordable housing.

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville and other Habitat affiliates across the United States will be sharing in the largest lump-sum contribution which Habitat for Humanity International has ever received — a \$100 million grant for softwood lumber purchases received as a result of an agreement between the governments of the United States and Canada.

The \$100 million award to Habitat is part of a larger grant provided through the U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement. The agreement allowed for the distribution of \$450 million to initiatives in the United States surrounding issues of assistance for timber-reliant communities, low-income housing and disaster relief, and the promotion of sustainable forest management practices.

Typically, lumber purchases account for about one-third of the cost of a Habitat house. Coupled with increased interest on the part of our donors and sponsors in helping hardworking families realize the American dream of homeownership, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville hopes to continue to raise its homebuilding capacity.



Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville help build homes in the New Haven neighborhood in April. Lumber, such as that received through the U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement, will go far in providing affordable, safe and decent housing in the Evansville area.

First Benefactors Build Leads The Way

Thanks to all Benefactors Build donors, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville is well on its way to funding our first Benefactors Build house.

To date, Benefactors Build donors have contributed \$41,148 and construction on the first Benefactors Build house is slated to begin September 6.

Jim and Carol Havens, who serve as chairs for this year's Benefactors Build campaign, feel confident the needed funds toward a \$50,000 house sponsorship can be raised. "We are so pleased with the response of Habitat donors — and so happy that these funds will not only build a house in Evansville, but one in either Jordan or Botswana as well."

Long, Fowler Seek Crew House Supporters

Two crew members are on a mission.

Nick Long, one of the original members of the Wednesday Crew and the 2005 winner of the Jim Fowler Construction Crew Volunteer of the Year award, and Jim Fowler, the founder of the Wednesday Crew (which he organized after the '92 Blitz), are initiating the sponsorship of a **2009 Crew House**.

Jim, Nick, and Nick's son Kevin are all familiar faces on the Habitat build sites. All say that they feel "privileged" to do things for other people — now they'd like to take that to a whole new level by leading an effort to sponsor a house in honor of our volunteers.

The **Crew House** will be built in New Haven next year and will pay tribute to Habitat volunteers who — like the current Tuesday Crew, Wednesday Crew, and Concrete Crew — fall into three distinct categories:

■ Volunteers who are no longer with us (Joe Buedel, Ron and Jan Brown, Bud Fischer, Kenny Henson, John "Deacon" Jones, Earl "Smitty" Smith, and Ralph Zehner to name a few, and most recently Jerry Melchiors and Bill Nicholson)

■ Volunteers who are not able to work any longer due to family responsibilities, ill health, or advanced years (folks like John Beckman, Dick Bohm, Gene Gilles, Harold Godeke, Joe Hayes, Maurice Keller, Bill Kincheloe, Doug Mikolasek, Kelsey Riddle, Rex Strange, and Forrest "Feathers" Thompson come to mind)

■ And finally, in honor of all the regular crew members who continue to give selflessly of their time and talent to help hardworking families become homeowners.

Nick and Jim have already received commitments of \$31,050 toward their \$50,000 goal. Additionally, Jim Perigo will have his crew lay the blocks for the foundation as an in-kind contribution.

If you'd like to help with this project, use the enclosed envelope to send your gift. Note **Crew House** on your contribution and the name of the special volunteer you'd like to honor or memorialize. Call Nick (604-0576) or Jim (476-9797) for more details.

Two Partner Families Burn Mortgages

Congratulations to two of our partner families who recently made the final payments on their homes.

One of the homes, sponsored by Bristol-Myers, was built in 1972. The family who owns this home made the last payment in June of 2007.

The other home, sponsored by American General Finance, was built in 1974. The owner of this home made her last payment in January 2008.

All of us know it's great to own a house free and clear. Best wishes!

Lutherans Host Choral Music Festival

Lutherans for Habitat and Thrivent Builds invited the public to a Choral Music Festival, featuring combined choir and a sing-along session of favorite hymns, April 19 at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. A free will offering was taken for future Lutherans for Habitat house builds. Denise Thomas, partner family for this year's build, enjoyed the music and participated in fellowship following the concert. Don Diekmann chaired the event.

In-Kind Donations: Thank You! December 2007 — February 2008

Expert Title
Ferguson
First Federal
Gregory Haas

Jim Havens
Harold Hutchinson
Harry Josephson
Amy Kost

Lowe's East Side
Lowe's West Side
Dale Oberbeck
Reitz Electric

Repro-Graphics
Schwindel Graphics, Inc.
Whirlpool
Bowers Harrison, LLP

Charlotte Richardt, Dr. Llewellyn Lieber Will Help Habitat Forever

Chances are Charlotte Richardt and Llewellyn Lieber never knew each other personally. However, they have much in common.

Both died at the age of 95 and both were blessed with long professional careers where they touched the lives of many, Charlotte as a librarian and Llewellyn as a teacher and counselor who served at military bases throughout the world.

Although Habitat for Humanity of Evansville was not aware of this during these ladies' lifetimes, both Charlotte and Llewellyn had made provisions for continuing to support our housing ministry after they passed. Both established funds with the Vanderburgh Community Foundation and each year, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville receives a contribution which helps support our operations.

From all indications, both Charlotte and Llewellyn were very thoughtful individuals who had a heart for the poor. Mary Jane Steele, Llewellyn's niece, said that her aunt was very impressed that Habitat for Humanity of Evansville seemed to accomplish a great deal with very low overhead. Being a frugal person herself, she was impressed with a charity making a dollar go a long way.

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville appreciates the legacy which Charlotte and Llewellyn created as well as our partnership with the Vanderburgh Community Foundation. The Foundation's ability to hold and invest funds like Charlotte and Llewellyn's is a great benefit to Habitat for Humanity of Evansville and many other non-profit organizations in our community.

Honor/Memorial Gifts: January 14, 2008 — April 25, 2008

In memory of

Earl & Myrt Damm

Billy Gries

Shelly Gentry

Sally Gries

Ed & Erline Belwood

Robert & Patricia Johnson

Jerry Melchiors

John Beckman

Walter C. Pfingston

Esther Pfingston

Carl "Bud" Fischer

Pete Nichol

James Wittgen

Joey Barnett

Bill Nicholson

Orvel & Vicki Schroeder

In honor of:

Grace and Peace Lutheran Church

Lutherans for Habitat

John Buthod

Jim "Tiger" Ritter

Daniel J. Elpers & Veolia Environmental Services

McCutchanville Community Church

As a Christmas gift for:

Jim & Pam Stevens

Ron & Judy Irvin

Rev. Ruby Schroeder

Stan & Joan Nevill

The 80th birthday of Fred C. Roeder

Robert, Mary & Jeff Roeder

Partner Families



Pam Schnetzler



Ann Hughes and children



Randall and Grace Goins

Interested in Becoming a Volunteer?

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville needs volunteers for landscaping and upcoming summer builds. Habitat coordinated a two-week mini blitz for May 10-23, during which the building of three homes began. But more volunteers are needed throughout the summer months. No skills are necessary — just a willingness to get involved.

The Southwestern Indiana Master Gardener Association led landscaping efforts at New Haven, the Habitat subdivision built in partnership with tornado survivors, and needs volunteers to assist them during May and possibly later.

We are also in need of office volunteers and construction crew volunteers. Please contact Aimee Haas at (812) 423-5623, ext. 33, or email her at ahaas@evansvillehabitat.com if you or someone you know is interested in helping in the office or on site.

Habitat To Participate in Parade of Homes in June

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville will participate in this year's annual Southwestern Indiana Builders Association's Parade of Homes, June 7-15. The home chosen for the tour, 4618 Inspiration Street, is being sponsored by Industrial Contractors. It is located in New Haven, the neighborhood where several families who lost their homes in the 2005 tornado have relocated. This will be the third home Industrial has sponsored and will be occupied by partner family Shannon Murray-Gentry.

The Parade of Homes is an opportunity for area residents to tour new homes and become acquainted with the latest housing products and services, such as landscaping, lighting, flooring and design services. Professionals affiliated with the housing industry, from builders to mortgage lenders, typically are on hand to answer questions visitors may have.

The Habitat for Humanity home is a 1,200-square-foot "cottage style" home with three bedrooms. Habitat's 25-year, no-interest mortgage helps low income families own homes.



Volunteers work to complete the Industrial Contractors home in April in preparation for the annual Parade of Homes.

Little children, let us not love in words or tongue but with actions and in truth. — 1 John 3:18

What's Going On at Habitat

Homeownership Pre-Applications Now Available

Please stop by the Habitat office during business hours for more information.
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Habitat Looks To Add Wednesday Crew, Tuesday Crew and Concrete Crew Members

Are you retired or semi-retired? We would love to have you join one of our regular volunteer crews. No experience is necessary, and it's not a requirement to volunteer every week. Contact Aimee Haas for more information about how you can give back to the community by working with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville.

Need a Speaker?

We'd love to share our inspiring stories with your organization.

Who We Are

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville is a non-profit Christian ministry whose mission is to build and sell simple, decent houses to hardworking families in partnership with individuals, churches, businesses, and civic organizations who share our vision.

What We Do

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville works with families whose income is less than 60 per cent of the area's median household income. To qualify for homeownership, a family must demonstrate a need for housing; have the ability to repay a 25-year, zero-interest mortgage; contribute 300 hours of sweat equity to build their own home and help other families build theirs, and attend homeownership classes to learn skills in home maintenance and financial management. No-profit loans and houses built principally by volunteer labor make mortgage payments affordable for low-income families.

Where We Work

Founded in 1984, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville currently serves families in Vanderburgh and Posey Counties. A tithing program enables Habitat for Humanity of Evansville to contribute to homebuilding in Jordan and Botswana (in southern Africa).

For more information about Habitat For Humanity of Evansville go to www.evansvillehabitat.org or call (812) 423-5623.

If your household receives multiple copies of this newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact the Habitat for Humanity of Evansville office at (812) 423-5623. Thank you!

Scott Wittman
Jodi Uebelhack
Steve Titzer
Stephen Thomas
Monica Stinchfield
Sandy Smith Jones
Kathy Schoettlin
David Sanders
Leanne Pritchett
Lu Porter
John B. Phipps
Rev. F. P. Miller
Julie Mehrtenger
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