



Home Notes

Winter 2009

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Turn Your Donation Into \$55,000 with Help from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Opportunities like this don't happen often. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has selected Grand Island Area Habitat for Humanity to receive a grant to build Home #55 — provided we can raise 25% of the cost to build (\$18,407).

Your donation of \$20, \$50, \$100, or more will help us reach our goal and not only receive the Thrivent Builds grant of nearly \$48,000, but also over \$7,300 from the local Thrivent chapter and Lutheran congregations. That means your gift will help secure over \$55,000 for our home building effort.

Your contribution towards our financial obligation may be made by sending a check to P.O. Box 1001, Grand Island, NE 68802 (indicate Thrivent Build). Lutherans may donate through the Twin Rivers Thrivent Chapter or their church (indicate Grand Island Area Habitat project).

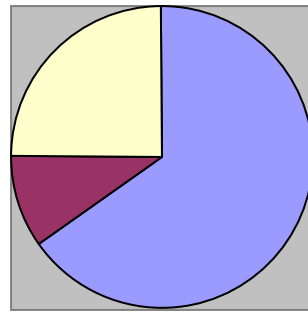
Through your support, Grand Is-

land Area Habitat for Humanity has already helped 52, low-income families out of inadequate housing and into homes of their own. Three more families, including the Thrivent Builds family are awaiting their homes. This may be our last opportunity for this generous grant.

Thank you for your past financial and in-kind support, volunteerism and prayers for projects like this one. TOGETHER we build homes, lives and a better community.



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided a majority of the funding for home 46, shown left.



- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- Twin Rivers Thrivent & Lutheran Congregations
- Habitat for Humanity Supporters

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A Brush with Kindness:

Program to Help Low-income Homeowners with Improvements

Recently, our Board of Directors voted to begin a new Habitat program called "A Brush with Kindness" (ABWK). This program will assist area low-income homeowners who struggle to maintain the exterior of their home. ABWK will focus on exterior painting, window caulking and minor exterior repairs.

It is part of Habitat's nationwide Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, which is designed to revitalize the appearance of neighborhoods, encourage connections within the community, and most importantly, help preserve affordable housing stock.

ABWK will follow our core model of giving a hand up to low-income families. Families will be selected based on their level of need, willingness to partner and ability to pay a no-interest loan based on the cost of repairs. All work will be performed by volunteers, working alongside the homeowner whenever possible.

Applicant families will be asked to rate their level of need and list what improvements they feel need to be done to the exterior of their home. Projects could be as simple as caulking windows and painting trim, to bigger projects such as scraping and painting the entire home.

The sweat equity hours required from ABWK partner families will depend on the size of the projects. We expect most projects to be completed in just a few days,

and sweat equity hours will be based on the cost of each project. If a family is unable to work on their own home due to physical limitations, the hours could be completed in other ways. They may be able to work in the office, or a family member could volunteer to complete the hours working alongside the volunteers.

Payments made by ABWK partner families will be put into a revolving fund that will be used to serve more families. Our Fund for Humanity is made up of mortgage payments made by our partner families, and the ABWK will follow this same model. Therefore, each family we serve will have a hand in serving more families in the future.

We plan to open the application period for this new program next summer, and complete projects in the fall. As with the application period for home-ownership, we expect to see more applicants than we are able to serve.

Currently, we are looking for volunteers to serve on the ABWK committee, plus agencies, churches, or businesses to serve as collaborators. All backgrounds and talents are needed for the committee which will oversee this new branch of our mission. We will also need experienced painters or contractors to oversee each of these short-term projects.

Contact Allison at our office if you are interested in this exciting new project, or if you want more information.



"Be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."
I Corinthians 15:58

Christmas Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 6, 1-2:30 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church's
Family Life Center (east side of building)



10,000
cookies for
sale for just
\$6 a pound!

2nd Annual

Build a Dream Dinner & Auction

Heartland Events Center—February 27th

Enjoy...
Elegant Meal
Raffle
Silent & Live Auctions



Make the Dream of a Home a Reality!
Proceeds will help build our 54th home

Construction Updates

Aurora Build

When we first set out to build a home in Aurora, little did we know that the search for a site supervisor would be so difficult. But thanks to Chief Custom Homes (formerly BonnaVilla), we have been able to move forward with our 2nd home in the community.

The partnership came to be with a simple first step. At Chief's annual picnic, while collecting aluminum cans, the conversation arose about our overall construction progress. When Chief learned of our needs in Aurora, a meeting was set just days later. A tour of the facility was impressive and the representatives from the company were very accommodating and supportive.

Once the meetings were over and the plans drawn to our specifications, Chief Custom Homes put our project on their line.

Because of our need for community involvement and the partner family's



need to complete sweat equity hours, Chief Custom Homes agreed to build the shell of the home, including a completed roof, electrical work roughed in and drywall hung. Volunteers and the partner family will complete the con-

struction under the direction of Building Committee member and first time Site Supervisor, Randy Gunn.

We also have received support from Steve Stirn and Eagle Crest Homes who moved and set the house on its foundation and MRL Crane Service who provided the cranes.

Picture below, left shows the first half of the house being set on the foundation.

Energy Star Certification

Even though energy efficiency has been part of our building practices for years, recently we have taken it to another level.

In an effort to have our homes Energy Star Certified, we began including new processes on Home 50. Home 52 is the first house to have the energy star inspections which occur before drywall goes up and at the completion of the home.

Energy Star Certifier, Gene Knaggs from Kearney, has been offering advice for several months and doing the inspections.

On October 29, Knaggs and his wife Julie conducted a "blower test" which shows the tightness of a home and indicates potential energy loss. In addition to air transfer, Knaggs assesses the efficiency of appliances and the heat pump.

Because so many components are involved in a home being certified, Knaggs has to input his findings into a computer program. We will know soon how we fared, but if Knaggs comments are any indication, the Chavez's home will have very low energy bills.

Home Dedicated

On October 31, our 52nd home was dedicated and the keys turned over to the Santiago and Reyna Chavez family. As with all Habitat home dedications, a Bible from Habitat International and quilts from Faith United Methodist and a member of their quilting circle were



Above: Amos Anson leads a walk through of the home.



also presented.

On the day of the dedication, a walk through of the home with the family was conducted to go over things such as water shut offs, electrical panels, ground fault interrupters, and more. During the walk through, Santiago and Reyna were all smiles, especially when their two year old made new discoveries in their home.

"She is so excited," commented proud father, Santiago, but added, "I can't stop smiling."

Later in the day, the couple shared that this day they felt the blessing of Habitat so personally, "We are walking on air".

Donations Aug. 11-Nov. 2

Gold

Cans for Habitat
Salad and Silver

Bronze

Aurora Lions Club
Aurora United Methodist Church
Cornerstone Bank, Aurora
First Presbyterian Church
Joe and Ann Ford
Heritage Bank, Aurora
Ralph and Christine Klein
Raymond Petersen
Skagway/Home Federal Car Show

Copper

Anonymous
Patsy Baren
Barb and Duane Becker
James Benesh
Leo Bonneau
Al Chambers and Ann Chambers,
in memory of Harold Chambers
Alice Clark*
Contryman and Associates
Dan and Anne Daly
Doniphan Cedarview Cemetery
Evangelical Free Church
Tammy & Galen Gerdes
Justin Graybill
Gwen Griffith
Kurt Haecker
Hamilton Relay in honor of World
Habitat Day
Connie and David Hansen**
Dana Jelinek, In honor of Bob Wagner
Linda Kroeker
Deb Martinez
Messiah Lutheran Church, Aurora
Leslie Nylander
Page United Methodist Church Women
Robert Petersen
Presbyterian United Church of Christ,
Aurora
Don and Barbara Reeves
St. Pauls Lutheran Church Bike Rally
VaLon Stelk**
United Methodist Women
Gene and Bob Willis*
Wolf Foundation*

Gifts In-Kind

Ace Hardware
All Industries
Associated Staffing
Barb Becker
Melinda Bellew
Chief Custom Builders
Conestoga Mall
Copy Cat Printing
Dow Corporation
Eagle Crest Homes
Equitable Bank
Fairbanks Grand Island
Faith United Methodist Quilters
Honeycutt Drywall
Hunter Douglas
Dana Jelinek
Kelly Supply
KDSI
Kramers Auto Parts & Iron
Kriz Davis
Mayer, Burns, Koenig and Janulewicz
MDM Pest Control
Mettenbrink Farms
Mid-NE Disposal
Mid-NE Land Developers
Nelson Furniture and Flooring
Platte Valley Winnelson
Pump and Pantry
John Rood
St. Mary's Catholic Church
St. Stephen's Community Center
Sanitary Outdoor Services
Sherwin Williams
Steve Stirn
Todd's Stump Removal
Valspar Corp.
Wayne Cyclery
Whirlpool
Gene Willis
Winfrey Plumbing
Wood River United Methodist Church
Yale Locks
Yard Works!

* - Carpenters Club, pledged givers

** Hope Builder, thru HFHI

We regret and errors or omissions. Please contact us with changes or additions.

Event Raises \$10,901

In its eighth year, the Annual Salad and Silver event, held on September 17, was another huge success. There were 36 tables hosted by individuals, churches, organizations and businesses. Ticket sales totaled \$3,653; event sponsorships were \$1,425; the raffle brought in \$1,415; and dessert auction raised \$4,409. Expenses were held to a minimum thanks to sponsors, in-kind donors and event leaders.



Above: Mary Ellen Damratowski, Reyna Chavez and Marilyn Williams were some of the volunteers who made salads. Right: The Looney Tunes table decorated and hosted by Elmer Feldotto.



Special thanks to our kitchen leadership of Nancy Schmerdtmann and Mary Ellen Damratowski, and the dozens of volunteers.

If you would like to be added to mailing list of potential participants for 2010, please contact us.

Building Locally & in Guatemala

Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the globe not only help those in need locally, they are also called to assist those in poverty stricken countries. Part of each affiliate's agreement with Habitat International is that we tithe on our undesignated financial donations. Tithes may be put in a global fund or designated to a country of the affiliate's choosing.

Tithing is so important to the ability of Habitat to serve those in high poverty countries that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans grants are contingent on an affiliate's tithing.

Because of the high need and low cost to build, our board has designated that our tithe go to Guatemala. In a letter from Habitat Guatemala, Gina Spigarelli offered her thanks, "Your support is greatly appreciated by the over 30,000 families who have thus far benefited from Habitat Guatemala's existence."

Since 1992, our affiliate has tithed to build homes in third world counties. Coincidentally, our affiliate was formed the same year as Habitat Guatemala. Currently in Guatemala, the cost to build a home is \$4,200.

Home-Owner Application Period Opens Early

The build schedule in 2010 will be a busy one due to land acquisition agreements and their build deadlines. Because of this, the application period for homes to be built in Grand Island in 2010 and early 2011 will open December 1.

Applications may be picked up at the office weekday mornings between 8 a.m. and noon, or by appointment. The office will be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1. This year we are introducing a pre-screening to help our selection process along. An early closing (date to be determined) will help us pick the family for Home 56 early enough so they may start their sweat equity requirement.

Applicants must meet low-income requirements, yet demonstrate the ability to pay a no-interest mortgage based on the cost to build their home. They must have been in the Grand Island Area Habitat for Humanity service area for at least one year, and be willing and able to partner with Habitat. Partnership includes 20 hours of home-ownership education and active participation in Habitat projects.

For more information, call 385-5510 or visit www.gihabitat.org.