

Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County

Habichat

Fall Edition

October/November 2007

In this issue :

- Honeoye Build
- Canandaigua Dedication
- Church Relations News

Board of Directors :

Co-Presidents:

Bill Van Dusen
Becky Steele

Board Secretary Chairperson / Family Partnership:

Gail Burr

Treasurer:

Greg Schwarz

Church Relations :

Becky Steele

Family Selection:

Bill Sherry

Corporate Relations :

Mark Pohlman

Construction:

Bob Virkler

Site Selection:

Dave Wink

PR/Media Specialist:

Brian Miles

Honeoye build is complete!



Three years in the planning, five months of construction and we can celebrate that our Honeoye build is complete. The process was a long one. Assembling the steering committee, planning the project, raising the necessary funds, purchasing the property, selecting the family, raising the necessary funds, designing the house, publicity, permits, raising the necessary funds, scheduling the build, construction of the house, final dedication, did I mention raising the necessary funds. All of these aspects of the project required dedicated volunteers. We had plenty of people who volunteered to join the many committees, to organize fundraisers, to build the house, to supply food and drinks and to continue to encourage us to keep moving forward. The Honeoye build was an amazing group effort!!

The construction of this house for me was more than the committees, the fundraisers, the build, and the dedication, it was the people. The people I had the chance to meet, the new friendships I was able to make and the existing friendships that grew stronger. I never expected that by volunteering to be a part of a project like this, I could grow so much in my appreciation of others who were donating so much of their time and energy. Throughout this project my faith grew stronger and I new God's blessing was a part of this, that we the volunteers were the benefactors of this build as much as Gail and Sarah were.

With this project coming to completion I would like to say thank you to all my fellow members of the steering committee, to all the crew leaders and support staff of Blitz Week, to our home owners Gail and Sarah, to all the unnamed volunteers who were a part of the Honeoye Habitat Build, and to my wife Beth for all her encouragement and support.

Get ready for the next build, volunteer and change your life.

-Bob Stowe

Bob and Beth are owners of "Stowe Construction" - home builders and remodelers in the Rochester Area and the volunteer Construction Managers of the Honeoye HFH Home.

Home – at last

By: Hilary Smith, and courtesy of Messenger Post Newspapers

Cake, punch, songs, hugs, prayers and sunshine were abundant on Sunday afternoon, as about 75 people came together to congratulate Gail and Sarah Howard on receiving the keys to their new home.

The 1,236-square-foot, three-bedroom house at 8512 Brookview Drive — a project coordinated by Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County — was built by the efforts of several hundred volunteers, who hammered and spackled, painted and sanded the structure together during one busy week in July and a series of Saturdays thereafter.

The Howards themselves were among the builders, required by Habitat to contribute 250 hours of work toward the project. About 30 of the construction volunteers were among the well-wishers at Sunday's party.

Gail Howard tearfully accepted the keys from Habitat co-president Bill Van Dusen and a commemorative Bible from co-president Becky Steele, as she thanked the builders, community members, and God.

"God, you've taken a broken person, made me whole and given me a home," said Gail.

The Howards beamed as they ushered guests into the nearly-finished but still unfurnished house. Only the floors remain to be completed, and the Howards hope to move in by the end of October.

The pale green house has a welcoming, white front porch with a cross and American flag hanging over the front door. A hand-painted cornerstone bears the Habitat for Humanity logo.

Inside, personalized accents abound, such as Gail's specially-requested, extra-tall kitchen countertops and Sarah's electric-green bedroom walls.

The energy star-certified house is outfitted for affordable operation and energy efficiency, thanks to its high-quality insulation, energy-efficient appliances and a radiant-heating system that runs hot water through pipes under the floor.

"You won't find a house in Richmond that's less expensive to own and operate," said Van Dusen during the ceremony.

Soon-to-be neighbors can't wait until Gail and Sarah move in for real.

"Everybody loves Gail, everybody knows her around here," said the Habitat chapter's Webmaster, Brian Miles.

"Gail and Sarah will be a wonderful addition to the neighborhood," added neighbor Nana Ferguson, who had opened her own Brookview Drive home to volunteers for snack breaks and water while the Howards' house was under construction.

Perhaps the chocolate and vanilla sheet cake, cut and passed out by Girl Scouts from troops 60, 788 and 218, offered the day's sweetest words of welcome: "May this home be filled with peace, love, joy and hope forever," it read.

How to help Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County hopes to build its 12th project next year and is looking at a site in Geneva. Volunteers will be needed once construction begins, and in the meanwhile, the group is seeking volunteers for fundraising and other tasks. Donations are always welcome as well. For more information on how to volunteer or donate, visit the chapter's Web site at www.hfhoc.org, e-mail info@hfhoc.org or call (585) 425-8960.

Hilary Smith can be reached at (585) 394-0770, Ext. 343, or at hsmith@mpnewspapers.com.

Canandaigua Dedication

By: Gail Burr

On July 22nd, it was with teary eyes and a grateful heart that Christine Ketchum, with her 2½ year old daughter Samantha, accepted the Bible and house keys to her new home from construction leader Dave Wink and retired Reverend Fred Magley.

The occasion was the dedication of the newly remodeled and refurbished Habitat home at 116 Phoenix Street in Canandaigua. After Bill Sherry lit the dedication candle, symbolizing the presence of Christ in the home, Becky Steele, Co-President of HFHOC, led the attendees in the Litany of Dedication. The blessing of the home was given with Eric Weaver, Pastor of Caring Ministries of Crosswinds Church, officiating. A moving musical selection performed by Mike O'Brian from The United Church of Canandaigua followed. Christine stated, "I really want to thank all of the people for their hard work and the effort they made in getting my home ready. God bless everyone that helped make it possible." Later, at the closing on the house, Mary Lou Havens, Christine's sponsor from HFHOC, stated, "it was a wonderful experience to be with Christine at the closing on her newly refurbished home. I would like to ask that everyone continue to keep Christine and Samantha in their prayers as they start their new life in their very own home."



Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County Church Relations News

By: Ken Allen

The Church Relations committee of the Habitat for Humanity-Ontario County would like to announce a continuing outreach to all the Churches throughout the county. The church relations committee is in the process of updating the information as to the number of churches of the county and any pertinent information concerning the church, i.e.: Street address; Telephone numbers; email addresses; and contacts within the churches.

The Church Relations committee would like to reach out to all subscribers to the Habichat Newsletter. If you know of anyone interested in contacting local churches or are a Church desiring to have the Habitat story & its mission given to your congregation. Please contact Habitat office (Tel: 585-425-8960), or Chairman of the Church Relations committee (Ken Allen-585-398-3918, or kenneallen@usadatanet.net). A team of individuals will gladly arrange for a presentation.

On the Geneva front, several members of Habitat met with a group of Geneva Churches in an attempt to build a union of churches to support through prayer, labor and finance a new Geneva Home-build in 2008. Pastor Jimmy Carter, of the Faith Community Church of Geneva, is trying to introduce the churches of Geneva to the important mission work needed & available in our local communities. A mission of reaching out to those in need of Safe, Reliable housing. People of all walks of life reaching out to work side by side with the prospective home owner to provide good housing. A unity of churches working together to do God's work in our communities.

We were wondering.....

With the kids back to school, maybe you are finding that you have an extra hour or two in your week. Maybe you have been trying to find something that involves doing something productive and exciting, making a difference in peoples' lives, and still get the kids off the bus. Then take our questionnaire to see where your talents rest.

	YES	NO
I am very good at organization	()	()
I have very good people skills	()	()
I love meeting new people	()	()
I have many great ideas	()	()
I can make phone calls from home	()	()
I <u>CAN</u> make a difference	()	()

If you answered yes to any of the above statements, then we would love to talk to you. **Habitat for Humanity Ontario County** is seeking individuals who want to make a difference in their community and to help us in our mission of ending poverty housing in this county, by volunteering a couple of hours a month. There are many opportunities available. Call (585) 425-8960, visit www.hfhoc.org, or email us at info@hfhoc.org, and leave a message to respond to this invitation and we will get back to you.

Hello,

My Name is Shannon Gerace and I am the special events/fundraiser coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County. Habitat will be running a two week fundraising campaign the end of November, in which we will be collecting orders from the Town Square fundraising book. This fundraiser allows Habitat to earn minimum 60% of the total sales and we would love for you individually as a group or as an organization to join us. Participants will be placed into categories and the group from each category with the highest number of sales will win a prize. More details on that to follow!

This is one of the easiest ways I can think of for you to help build a home for a family in need. You take a book, show it to some people, collect orders and the money, and return it to me. Your products will arrive for distribution about 10 days after that. If you would like to participate and help out this great cause please contact us by phone 585-425-8960 or e-mail info@hfhoc.org and let us know about how many people will need a packet. Please respond by November 15th.

Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you soon,
 Shannon Gerace
 Special events/fundraiser coordinator
 Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County

I am also looking for some volunteers who can help me to set up and run different fundraisers. This will require some gofer type duties and at most a few hours a month of your time. Please contact me if you can help out in any way!

HABITAT HOUSE NOW A HOME

By: Mary Ellen Quinlan

The Dedication and Open House for the newest Habitat for Humanity build at 8512 Brookview Drive in the Mill Creek Subdivision scheduled for Sunday, September 16, went off without a “hitch.” The day was sunny but cool, but new owners Gail and Sarah Howard did not have to worry about any heat being turned on as the numbers of supporters and visitors present that day filled the new house with so much warmth and love that it carried through each new room.

True to their Mission Statement, the Honeoye Steering Committee and building crew under the leadership of Bob Stowe created a “partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life” to build this house for the Howard family in their own community and surrounding neighborhood.

The Dedication was attended by the Steering Committee members, local Church pastors: Pastor Bob Morgan of the Calvary Church, Reverend Brian Krause of the UCC, and Father John Hayes and Deacon Roger Loomis of St. Mary’s/St. Matthews, work volunteers, supporters of the project, and Gail and Sarah’s friends from Honeoye Central School. Gail and Sarah were the center of attention as Co-Vice President, Bill Van Dusen of Habitat of Ontario County handled the introductions of all the people that had a hand in this building, and all the local clergy had a part in blessing the new dwelling. Gail was presented her Bible by Co-Vice President, Becky Steele, and Van Dusen gave her the coveted keys to her first home of her own, to which Gail replied, “Thank you Lord for taking a broken person and making me whole and giving me a home.” Beth Stowe, wife of Bob, performed a special song for the Howards entitled, “New Beginnings.”

After the Dedication, the tour of the house itself began as some 75 people inspected the progress. The 1,200+ square foot house has 3 bedrooms, a good-size living room, a kitchen with extra-tall countertops for Gail, a dining area, and a complete bathroom. All the appliances are in and heating requirements are completed. The rooms are painted and Sarah got to choose the colors. Gail got her countertops, but Sarah got the best color for her bedroom, lime green, which is very popular with teens. “This is a safe and affordable energy efficient house with very low maintenance.” states Russ Healy of the Steering Committee. He also added, “This energy star-certified house was relatively inexpensive to build, but we never compromised on any building supplies. It is one of the most energy efficient structures of its size. We even had enough left-over materials to build an accompanying storage shed that matches the house.” During the Dedication it was openly voiced by all Committee members and volunteer building crews that “the volunteer base has been phenomenal! We actually had to turn people away. This project appealed to all walks of life.” Russ Healy was absolutely amazed, “that this house is most near completion in just 2 ½ months! There were no unpleasant ‘snags’, only a total coming together of community to support Habitat and Gail and Sarah.”

Well, Gail and Sarah had a fun-filled afternoon showing off their new home. Refreshments were served to all who entered. Tops Friendly Market and Doug Kraft donated 2 beautiful sheets cakes, and Girl Scout representatives from troop numbers 218, 720, 788, and 957 served the cake and punch to all the guests.

The yard at the site is currently being overhauled and flooring will be laid soon. Gail and Sarah hope to actually move in by the first part of November. Habitat wanted this house to fit well in the surrounding community and neighborhood and Sunday’s event encompassed just that and the Howard’s wish for a home of their own.





**Fall Edition
2007**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF
ONTARIO COUNTY
PO BOX 778
VICTOR, NY 14564

PHONE: 585-425-8960
FAX: 585-425-4603
EMAIL: INFO@HFHOC.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.HFHOC.ORG

Looking for a Family

The Family Selection Committee is presently actively searching for a family that will occupy and own a home we will be building in Geneva in 2008. We have mailed applications to 25 families that indicated they were interested in a Habitat for Humanity home. To our disappointment we have only had one completed application submitted to us. So if you know of anyone that would be interested in acquiring a home, please have them contact us at 585-425-8960 and leave their name and phone number.

We would like to select a family now so they can be in on the early planning of the home and we will be able to plan for any special needs they may have.

- Bill Sherry