

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THRIVENT AND HABITAT

A national home-building alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International will again help our affiliate expand its home building capacity. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided \$153,423 to build two homes in Sarpy County in 2006. \$174,530 will help build two more homes in 2007.

The Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity alliance brings together thousands of volunteers and provides financial support from Thrivent Financial. On December 18, 2006, the two international groups announced that \$24.5 million has been committed to build 355 additional homes in 43 states with families in need in 2007. Families like Marop and Akon Mamer of Bellevue, who purchased a Habitat home on December 1st.

Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County is looking forward to 2007.



Construction Chair Jim Arbuckle helps a volunteer put up trusses

“Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is providing Sarpy Habitat the opportunity to reach our goal of increasing house production. With the number of applicants we get each year rising, this funding is critical for our affiliate,” said Margaret Stamp, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County. “On behalf of Habitat volunteers and partner families, I want to thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for helping us build more homes in Sarpy County that low-income families can afford.”

Thrivent Financial became Habitat for Humanity International’s largest ally as a result of a four-year, \$105 million commitment to help increase the non-profit housing ministry’s homebuilding production. In addition, Thrivent Financial rallied its national network to work with more low-income families toward achieving Habitat’s mission of eliminating substandard housing.

In 2006, the first year of the alliance, 313 families in 43 states achieved the dream of home ownership - a projected six percent increase in Habitat’s U. S. home production.



Home now under construction at 2516 Rose Lane

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Board Members

John Taylor, Vice Pres.
Deb Stinn, Secretary
Bill Ernst, Treasurer
Jim Arbuckle
Pam Bails
Tim Burke
Steve Carmichael
Betty Cartwright
Jean Marie Faltus
JoAnn Fryman
Shellie McGlade-Kent
Kevin Ommen
Tom Richards
Kris Richt
Catherine A. Segelberg
Annick Smith
Mike Zens

Committee Chairs

Celebrations

Erlene Chloupek
Jean Hankins

Church Relations

Add your name here!

Construction

Jim Arbuckle

Development

Add your name here!
Grants, Ron Begg

Family Selection

Kris Richt

Family Support

Carol Teske

Rehab

Mike Zens

Site Selection

John Taylor
Ann Boepple

Volunteers

Office Manager

Blanche Deal

Staff

Executive Director

Margaret Stamp

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The birds are chirping, the flowers are growing, and Habitat hammers are pounding away. Spring is here and it's wonderful to see all of the progress the Construction and Rehab volunteers are making on the nine lots Sarpy Habitat owns on Rose Lane Road in Bellevue.

The other Habitat committees are also busy working away. The Site Selection Committee is seeking lots on which to build homes. Family Selection is about to choose new partner families and Family Support is helping the new partner families complete steps towards home ownership.

The Celebrations Committee is preparing for upcoming house dedications. Then we'll gather to celebrate another Habitat family purchasing a Habitat house. The Church Relations Committee is organizing and working hard to recruit new members to spread the Habitat mission to churches throughout Sarpy County. Office volunteers, who take turns working shifts so that a volunteer is at the office Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM, are certainly appreciated. Volunteers continue to tackle many more projects.

The result is that hundreds of volunteers are working diligently to provide simple, decent, and affordable housing for low-income families. And their hard work is getting results – 17 Habitat homes have been built and four more are expected to be built or rehabbed in 2007. A total of 63 people live in Habitat homes, 43 of whom are children.

Please consider supporting the mission of Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County through volunteering and/or donating. We have many volunteer opportunities and experience is not needed. Also remember that any amount donated will be appreciated by Sarpy Habitat. Just \$10 buys a box of nails and \$35 will pay for a bundle of shingles. A front door or shower stall can be purchased with \$250. Donations may be sent to: Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County, PO Box 1664, Bellevue, NE 68005.

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done.” – Proverbs 19:17.

Margaret Stamp, Executive Director

- 119 West Mission Avenue
- (402) 292-6560
- Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Web Site: www.hfhsarpy.org
- E-Mail: sarpyhabitat@qwest.net

Thrivent (Continued from Page 1)

In its second year, the alliance is again increasing Habitat's home construction by working with 256 Habitat affiliates to build 355 homes.

"Thrivent's partnership with Habitat for Humanity has provided the opportunity for Thrivent members to become more involved in helping others in their community," said Julie Ferri, Thrivent Builds Specialist, of the Nebraska Region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity brings together two national nonprofit networks of 1,699 Habitat affiliates and 1,362 Thrivent volunteer chapters. Locally, the Southeast and Southwest Douglas/Sarpy County Thrivent volunteer chapter will be helping with the homes.

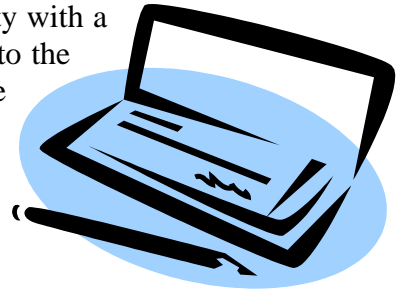
The need for an effort of this magnitude is great:

- More than 13 million U. S. households use at least half of their income to pay for housing.
- Millions more live in overcrowded conditions or housing with severe physical deficiencies, such as having no hot water, electricity, or toilets.

To learn more, visit www.thriventbuilds.com

Thank You Wells Fargo!

Wells Fargo Bank presented Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County with a donation of \$20,000 on April 10, 2007. The check was presented to the Board of Directors by Pam Bails, a Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Consultant and a member of the Sarpy Habitat Board. This donation was made through the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation. The foundation contributes financial support to nonprofit housing organizations when Wells Fargo employees volunteer to help renovate or build a home for a low-income family.



Habitat Board Initiates a Feasibility Study

The Board of Directors voted to undertake a study to determine the feasibility of conducting a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase land and building materials for future Habitat homes. The Cosgriff Company, an Omaha-based national firm, will conduct the study to answer several questions, including the following: What is the perception of Habitat for Humanity in Sarpy County? How aware is the Sarpy County community of the need for affordable housing? Who would be best qualified to lead a campaign? How much can be raised in a capital campaign?

Personal interviews will be conducted and a mail survey will be taken. Those on our mailing list will be asked to participate either in person or by mail. Our affiliate needs your feedback and appreciates your willingness to assist us in this study.

Thank you to members of our Groundbreakers' Club!!!

Members of the Groundbreakers' Club donate \$50 or more each time we break ground for a Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County home. We are grateful for the generosity of our Groundbreakers' Club members:

Carol Allman
Jim & Pam Arbuckle
Gerald and Nancy Becker
David & Karen Campbell
Duane & Marian Cheney
Robert & Susan Condry
Philip & Ruth Duffy
Thomas & Beverly Fleckten
Roger & Joan Givens
Lloyd & Ivna Johnson
Gloria Mills
Bill & Teri Radil
Mark & Cheryl Roth
Jon & Gale Stevens
David & Irene Wolfe

Cindy Arbaugh
Joseph H. Batorski
Timothy J. Burke
Col. Gene and Betty Cash
Rudy and Erlene Chloupek
Thomas & Zona Doerr
William H. Ernst
First Lutheran Church of Papillion
Lorraine Hahn
Jim & Catherine Miller
Gina Ogle
Robert G. Rausch
Gary & Nancy Scheet
Jim & Susan Tracy

Please consider joining our Groundbreakers' Club! Each time we celebrate a groundbreaking, you will be invited to break ground with us! Just fill out the following form and mail it to 119 West Mission Avenue, Suite F, Bellevue, NE 68005, to join the club!

Name: _____

Address: _____

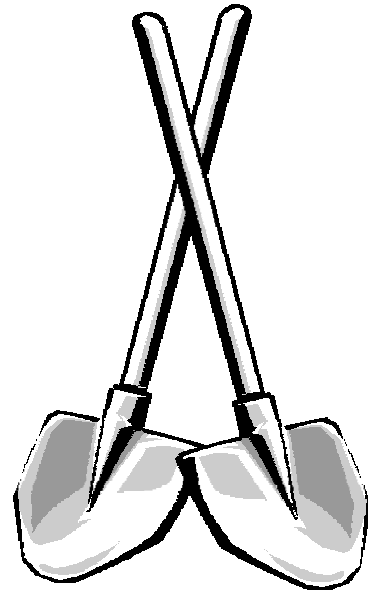
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

I would like to donate \$_____ per groundbreaking

Please check one:

- every groundbreaking
- one house per year
- two groundbreakings per year
- three groundbreakings per year
- four groundbreakings per year



Due to the cold weather, we did not have our usual Groundbreaking Ceremony for lots three, four, and five on Rose Lane Road in Bellevue. Instead we had an "UnGroundbreaking," where Club members received gifts delivered to their homes.

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Honored at this year's dinner were Volunteers of the Year, Carol Teske and Kris Richt. Carol chairs the Family Support Committee, while Kris leads the Family Selection Committee. Congratulations to both these worthy recipients.

Thank-you plaques were also presented to Steffi Swanson and Bob Hovey, lawyers who do pro bono legal work for Habitat for Humanity. Also recognized was the Bellevue Garden Club that donates landscaping services and plants for each Habitat home.



The 2007 dinner was held on Sunday, February 25th, at First Presbyterian Church located at 1220 Bellevue Blvd. South. The event began at 5:00 PM and everyone brought a potluck dish to share.

Wish List.

- *Enclosed Cargo Van*
- *Drywall Screw Gun*
- *Stamps*

Since we are a non-profit agency, donated goods help us run smoothly and efficiently. These donations are tax-deductible.



Cars for Homes

Your car donation can help a family build a house and the hope of a better life! Car donations help Habitat for Humanity build houses in partnership with families in need of decent, affordable shelter. Donate a car, truck, boat, RV, or other vehicle to Habitat's Cars for Homes vehicle donation program by calling 1-877-277-4344 or visiting www.carsforhomes.org. Be sure to ask that your donation be credited to Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County!



Join us in the Parades

Erlene Chloupek is recruiting volunteers to represent this affiliate in area parades by walking/riding with our parade entry. Volunteers are needed on June 2nd for the La Vista Parade, on June 16th for the Papillion parade, and on August 25th for Bellevue's Arrows to Aerospace parade. For more information or to sign up, call the office at 292-6560.

Our Mission Statement:

Habitat for Humanity International and the Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County affiliate work in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.

TEA AND “PURSES”

By Margaret Stamp, Executive Director

I would like to thank everyone who supported our first ever Tea and “Purses” fundraiser. This event was held on December 9, 2006, at First Presbyterian Church in Bellevue.

When I came up with the idea for this fundraiser, it was early November and I was not sure if we could pull this event off in such a short time. But then a wonderful committee was formed under the leadership of Board Member JoAnn Fryman. The committee members were Blanche Deal, Suze Pullen, Stephanie Russell-Heller, Lorraine Hahn, and I. Each committee member took on a role in organizing this event and the result was an event that looked like we had months – not weeks – to organize.

For those of you who weren’t part of the crowd of 160 people in attendance, I will provide some of the details. The Church allowed Habitat for Humanity to use their large banquet room and kitchen at no cost. The room was beautifully decorated with poinsettias, a large lighted wreath, and a Christmas tree.

The event featured tea, snacks, and 29 purses filled with mystery prizes that we auctioned off. Todd Andrews from the KETV Channel 7 News Team served as our Master of Ceremonies. He did a wonderful job of entertaining the crowd, choosing a purse to try on that matched his suit.

Former Springfield City Administrator Sandra Powell set a holiday mood when she read “A Cup of Christmas Tea” by Tom Hegg aloud to the crowd.

We were blessed to have Auctions Solutions LLC of Omaha donate their professional auctioneer services to Habitat for Humanity. The auctioneers, Mark Beacom and Shayne Fili, did a wonderful job of auctioning the purses, which sold for prices ranging from \$55 to \$165!

By the end of the two-hour event, we had raised a little over \$4,000 and those in attendance were raving about the wonderful afternoon they had spent with Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County would like to thank everyone who donated prizes, purses, and time for this event. I also want to thank all of the volunteers who worked at this event, from refilling tea pots, to collecting tickets, to cleaning up. I especially would like to thank JoAnn Fryman’s family because her husband, Jeff, and their children spent hours setting up the event, working at the event, washing dishes, and cleaning up.

Most of all, thank you to everyone who supported Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County by attending Tea and “Purses.” And we look forward to next year’s fundraiser.

Thank you to those who donated purses:

Diva Girl	Eileen Smith	Roberta Behm
Purse Mart	Lorraine Hahn	Carol Greer
Avenue	Anne Mathiesen	Susan Condry
Lois Richardson	Patti Schutte	Christine Tate
Stephanie Russell-Heller	TerriLynn Creations	
Suze Pullen	Material Girl	

Did You Know?

- ✓ Habitat was **founded in 1976** by Millard and Linda Fuller.
- ✓ More than **225,000 Habitat houses** have been built worldwide.
- ✓ Habitat affiliates are in **every state** in the United States.
- ✓ Homeowners have a foreclosure rate of **less than 1%**.
- ✓ Habitat for Humanity is listed in Worth Magazine’s “**America’s 100 Best Charities.**”

YOUTH PAGE

Although construction volunteers need to be at least 16 years old, youth ages 15 and under are finding many creative ways to help Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County. Take a look below at what young people are doing to help.

Lee Borytski, a ninth grader at Bellevue West, is hoping to earn his Eagle Scout Badge through our affiliate. Borytski, whose goal is to one day become a chef, made lunches for Habitat volunteers on March 17, 2007. Lee was responsible for rounding up volunteers to cook and serve the food, with the main dish being chili. Lee raised \$474 to purchase the food and supplies and to donate \$100 to Habitat.



Eagle Scout Advisor Dudley Baker, Lee Borytski, Mike Zens and Jim Arbuckle

Kelly V. Phillips has earned the Gold Award from Girl Scouts because of volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County. Phillips, a junior at Papillion/LaVista South High School, created a project to help rebuild in areas destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Phillips went to Biloxi, Mississippi with five peers and two chaperones late last summer. Our affiliate used donations from a Hurricane Katrina fundraiser to finance the trip. Phillips will receive the Gold Award on May 14, 2007, at the Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center in Omaha.

Fifth graders, Taryn Auten and Robbin Scoggins, were awarded the “Youths for Sarpy Habitat Award” after their Girl Scout troop donated a quilt, soaps and other items to Mendie Cleveland and her two children. Mendie purchased a Habitat home in 2006.

Brownie Troop 3680 served lunch to the construction crew on Saturday, April 14th. The Troop also donated \$50.

Black Elk Elementary School collected food for the Marop Mamer family. The Mamers are a Habitat partner family who purchased a home in December of 2006. Their 14 year-old nephew, Niak Chekoj, has lived with the Mamers since leaving Sudan. He did a presentation for the students at the school on what it was like to live in Sudan.

Betz Elementary School held its second annual “Bowl to Build” on Saturday, April 21st to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County. Students collected pledges based on how many points they scored in the game. This year the students were encouraged to bowl on a team with a parent or guardian. Special thanks to teachers Mr. Baker and Mr. Campbell for organizing the event.

The Word on Wednesday youth group at First Presbyterian Church in Bellevue created a baby blanket for a Habitat partner family. The children, in grades Kindergarten-6th grade, made the blanket, placing fabric hearts inside with prayers for the baby written on them. The blanket was presented to David and Rhianna Clark who have three young daughters. The Clarks purchased a Habitat home in December of 2004.

Executive Director, Margaret Stamp, read a Habitat for Humanity children’s book, *Building Friends* by Ronald Kidd, to the young children in the Word on Wednesday group. The book taught about friends, working together to build safe housing, and about the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

DONATIONS

In December of 2006, donations were made to Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County for the following:

In Honor of:

Ron and Mary Begg
John and Han Will

In Memory of:

Esterine Witten
Lee Vieselmeyer

May brings Mother's Day, a special time for families. It is a special time for Habitat families as well. This year we have several mothers who are working with Habitat for Humanity to build a better home and life for their families. Mothers like Lora, a single mother of two young girls, who works a full-time job and is putting in the necessary 250 hours of sweat equity required before she can purchase a Habitat Home. Lora is completing her sweat equity by volunteering at the Habitat build site and taking required classes on budgeting and home maintenance. Lora is working hard to provide a home with a backyard for her two daughters.

What better tribute to your friend, family member, or colleague than a gift that lives on in service of others? In honor of friends or loved ones, your gift to Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County helps us to reach those in need while recognizing someone you hold dear.

To make a donation in honor of or in memory of someone, just fill out the following form.

A contribution of \$ _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

In Memory of:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

In Honor of:

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mail this form with check or money order to: Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County, P.O. Box 1664, Bellevue, NE 68005. An acknowledgement of your donation will be mailed to you.