

“I want to thank all the volunteers. My children now have a home and room to play. We are grateful to have been selected.” Nick Baker spoke for his family at the House Dedication of his new home at 2406 Madison Street on March 13, 2011.

President of the HFH of Sarpy County Board, John “Mac” McLean, welcomed a crowd of approximately 50 people.

Pastor Russ Tompkins, Senior Pastor at St. James United Methodist Church, set the theme for the day. Bricks and mortar make a house, but a family makes it a home.

Carol Blood, member at large of the Bellevue City Council, welcomed Baker; his fiancé, Jennifer Guinn; and their three children to the community.



And a community project it was. Damon Reihl represented the First National Bank, which donated the land. Rosemary Grala, sponsor for the family, introduced them, saying she enjoyed this, her first experience, serving as a sponsor. Jim Arbuckle from the Construction Committee presented the keys to the house and an American flag. Rudy Chloupek gave the family a quilt donated by the ladies of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Finally Jon Costello, Executive Director of HFH, while presenting a family Bible, also welcomed the Baker family to Bellevue.

THANK YOU

Groundbreaker's Club
Bellevue Garden Club
Apollo Heating and
Air Conditioning

Avery Electric
A-Relief
First National Bank
Hunter Douglas

Lowe's
TSI Mechanical and Glen Stinn
Whirlpool Corporation
Yale Locks

BOARD PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

John "Mac" McLean - President

Dave Snavely – Vice President

Sarah Doohen - Secretary

William (Bill) Ernst - Treasurer

Executive Board

Jim Arbuckle

Betty Cartwright

Eugene Cash

Jon Costello

Gail DeBoer

Martin Delahanty

Kevin Hensel

Laura Miller

Bill Swick

Mary Swick

John Taylor

Sue Tonn

John Watson

Another year has gone by in what seems to be a blink of an eye. What a year it has been for Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County (HFH-SC)!! A number of exciting activities have taken place to enhance our affiliate and it couldn't have happened without YOUR help!

Our volunteer ranks have really grown over the past 12 months because these men and women believe in our mission; a mission to provide quality homes for Sarpy County families in need. Our volunteers witness the joy on the faces of the families, especially the children, when we dedicate and bless a new house and give the family the house keys so they can make the house a home. However, before we can dedicate and bless a home there is an endless list of things to do and that's where our volunteers have helped us grow over the past year. We have made significant gains in many areas like development, community partnerships, financial strength, HFH-SC activities, expansion planning, and most importantly improving the lives of many young families. These gains have made these past 12 months a year to remember.

Our development team has expanded by adding new members to our grant writing team. There is a renewed excitement regarding new and varied grant opportunities to support the construction of new homes. The fundraising efforts of our development team over the past year have been very helpful in expanding our activities, which has enabled us to move forward on breaking ground on our 30th home in May 2011.

In addition to our development efforts, we couldn't have been as successful this year without the relationships we've established around the community. Organizations like the Northrop Grumman, Lansky's, Apollo Heating and Cooling, Thanksgiving Lutheran Church and the City of Bellevue, have all been vital partners in our success. Their support and involvement have contributed to our ability to complete two new homes this past year and we look forward to their continued support. Additionally, we are very excited about our new partnership with Sarpy County's newest resident organization ... the Storm Chasers!

Although I am grateful for our development and partnership relationships, the work of our committee members and office staff are a crucial piece of our success. Committee teams like Family Selection, Family Support, Construction, Celebrations, Church Relations, and Finance have all contributed to our overall progress this past year ... and all these committees are comprised of volunteers!

I am so very thankful for all our volunteers and all of you who support HFH-SC's mission in so many ways. Thank you for helping us make 2010 one of the most memorable years in recent history.

I join the Board of Directors in thanking you for all you have done for Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County and would appreciate your continued support to help us make 2011 even more memorable than 2010.

May God continue to Bless you and your family.

John "Mac" McLean

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Is Spring finally here? Baseball games are under way and golfers are back on the links. Flowers are starting to grow and my lawn is showing life after a cold winter. And Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County construction volunteers are picking up their hammers and swinging away! Truth be told, they never put the hammers down and worked all winter long!!

I am thrilled for all the activity and progress we have made over the past 12 months. Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County completed two homes and a third home will be finished the end of April. That makes it 29 homes our small but mighty affiliate has completed! A total of 122 people live in Habitat homes, 84 of whom are children.

Also we have started excavation on another home near 19th and Sidney St. in Bellevue. We are planning on a groundbreaking ceremony on May 1st. Invitations will be sent soon. I hope all the volunteers and donors who made dreams of homeownership become a reality for these families are as excited as I am. We are breaking the chain of poverty one family at a time!

I want to thank all the volunteers who make our mission possible. Without your help on the construction sites, committees, and the Board of Directors none of this would be possible. Thank you and job well done!

A special thank you to the Groundbreaker's Club! Members of the Club have pledged \$50 or more each time we break ground for a Sarpy Habitat home. These pledges have raised over \$3,300 for the last two home builds!

In the next 12 to 18 months I to hope accomplish the following:

- Acquire land to build more homes in Bellevue, Papillion, Springfield, Plattsmouth, and Louisville.
- Increase resource development through grants, corporate partnerships, and fundraisers through special events.
- Open a ReStore. A ReStore is a retail store that accepts donated goods that are sold to the general public at a fraction of the retail price. The proceeds help local Habitat affiliates fund the construction of Habitat homes within their communities.

What will you help build? Please consider supporting the mission of Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County through volunteering and/or donating. 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.

Blessings,

Jon Costello, Executive Director



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 15 – August 31	Storm Chasers Concession Stand Fundraiser
May 1	Groundbreaking at 1720 Sidney St, Bellevue
May 14	Olde Towne Community Celebration
May 15	Fletcher House Dedication
June 9	Golf Fundraiser
June 24 – July 4	Fireworks Fundraiser
July 14	Storm Chasers HFH of Sarpy County Night



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Storm Chasers Concession Stand

Habitat For Humanity of Sarpy County is looking for volunteers to man the concession stand at home baseball games beginning April 15, 2011 and running through August 31st. Volunteers will be needed for afternoon or evening games. Ballgames are played at Werner Park located at 126th and Highway 370. We need teams of 15 or more people. Individuals are certainly welcome to volunteer and will be assigned to a team.

Habitat For Humanity hopes to purchase one or two lots with the money raised.

Golf Fundraiser

Calling all Golfers and Sponsors: Join your friends for fun at Willow Lakes Golf Course on June 9th. Shotgun start at 12:30 PM. See the flyer in this issue of the newsletter for details.

Fireworks Stand

Cashiers, stockers, and baggers are needed to make the firework stand a success. Lend a hand beginning June 23rd for setup and continue working through the July 4th holiday. Our fireworks stand will be at the same location as last year, just south of the Wal*Mart parking lot. Volunteers who can stay for overnight security are also being recruited.

CALL THE OFFICE AT 402-292-6560 TO VOLUNTEER

Help build it!

OLDE TOWNE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Race to Recycle

HFH of Sarpy County will be an integral part of the community celebration planned in Olde Towne Bellevue on May 14, 2011. Daylong activities will be centered around the Washington Park area.

Come from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM and enjoy a pancake breakfast provided by the Pancake Man. Tickets for adults are \$5.00. Children's tickets are \$4.00 with children under two admitted free of charge. All proceeds from the breakfast go to HFH of Sarpy County. Call 402-292-6560 to obtain advance tickets.

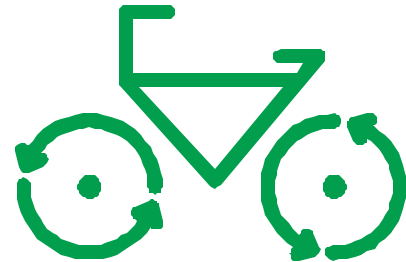
Race to Recycle, a bicycle race, will commence in Omaha and wind its way through Bellevue. Riders will be coming through Bellevue at 6:30 AM and coming back through between 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM. A water fight and smoke trailer, which teaches fire safety, will be sponsored by the Bellevue Fire Department. Emergency vehicles will be on display. A bicycle rodeo, bounce house, and scavenger hunt will add to the day's festivities.

The Farmers Market will open its season on May 14th. Farmers Market hours will be from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays during the Summer.

For further information, check out the following websites:

www.omaharace2recycle.com

www.bellevuenebraskafarmersmarket.com



MISSION STATEMENT

Habitat for Humanity International (HFNI) and the Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of Sarpy County affiliate work in partnership with God and people from all walks of life to build and renovate simple, decent, affordable housing and improve our communities so all people can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.

Contact Information:

Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County's office is located in Olde Towne Bellevue at 119 W. Mission, Suite F (9:00 to 3:00, Monday - Friday)

For mail: Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County, P.O. Box 1664, Bellevue, NE 68005

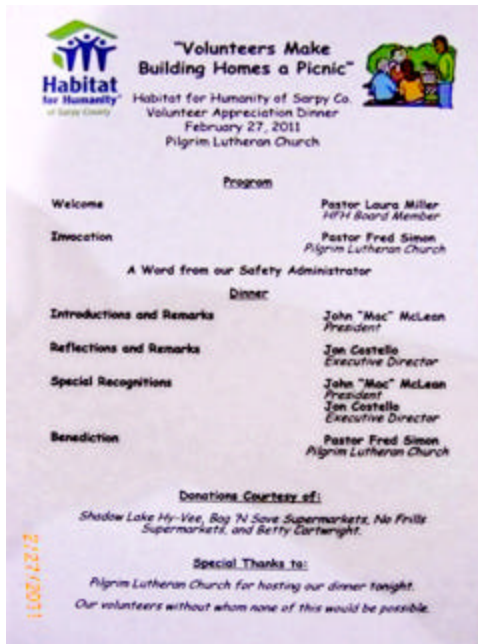
The phone number of the office is 402-292-6560

The website is <http://www.hfhsarpy.org>.

Jon Costello – Executive Director

Linda Johnson – Office Manager

Gerald "Jerry" Swanson – Construction Manager



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Over 50 people came together February 27, 2011, as Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County honored its many volunteers at its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Awards presented during the evening's festivities included Volunteer of the Year, Betty Cartwright; Corporate Sponsor of the Year, Apollo Heating and Air Conditioning; Donor of the Year, Thanksgiving Lutheran Church; and Office Volunteer of the Year, Linda Johnson.



Pastor Fred Simon of Pilgrim Lutheran Church welcomed the volunteers and invited the group to return next year. Habitat for Humanity is grateful for its many volunteers and always encourages even further participation in its mission to build affordable housing in the County.



UPCOMING HABITAT DATES

May 14, 8am-10am Pancake Man! Washington Park in Bellevue. Fundraiser for HFH-SC

May 15, 2pm Home Dedication for the Fletcher Family

May 16, 7pm Board of Directors meeting

May 21, 10am-12pm Volunteer Recruitment Day @ Old Towne Cafe

June 9, 12pm HDH-SC Golf Fundraiser @ Willow Lakes

June 20, 7pm Board of Directors meeting

June 24 – July 4 Firework Fundraiser, just south of the Bellevue Walmart

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County are again partnering to build another home in the county, the seventh. Representing Thrivent, Phillip Ristvedt spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony on May 1, 2011. Habitat broke ground on a home for Nyanchar Keka and her five children at 7409 South 18th Street in Bellevue. The parcel of land was kindly donated by Jeff Ging.

Pastor Pete of Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church led the group in the opening prayer and blessed the ground on which the house will be built. Mrs. Keka and her children attend the church.

Sue Tonn will serve as the Family Support Sponsor, representing Habitat. Mrs. Keka has also received support from Martha Turner, who works as an English as a Second Language teacher in a program associated with the First Baptist Church of Bellevue.

Nationally Thrivent committed 10.4 million dollars to build 164 Habitat homes in 2011. Locally, Thrivent has contributed more than \$500,000 over the years, in addition to volunteering on the job sites.



Vice President Bill Ernst, Ms. Keka and 3 of children and Phillip Ristvedt from Thrivent Financial. Thrivent is donating almost \$60,000 for this home. Thank you Thrivent Financial, this the 7th home they have sponsored!



Groundbreaker Club members Jim & Pam Arbuckle, Bill Ernst, David Wolfe and Gen Cash have the honor of being the first to break ground. Groundbreaker Club members pledge to donate money to HFH-SC every time a new home is being constructed. Thank you Groundbreaker's, your commitment is a blessing!

Golf Fundraiser supporting Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County

When: June 9th, 2011

Time: 12:30 pm

Where: Willow Lakes Golf Course

12301 S. 25th Bellevue, NE. 68123

What: 4 Person Best Ball, Shotgun Start

Cost: \$60 per player, \$240 per team

Golf Package Includes:

18 holes w/cart

Lunch

Tasty Beverages

Pin Prizes

Raffles & FUN

Dinner

To Sign up to play or Sponsor a Hole please contact:

John Taylor 402-291-5035

Jon Costello 402-292-6560

Please mail completed registration and check to:

Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County

119 W. Mission Ave., Ste. F

Bellevue, NE. 68005

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to participate as an _____ Individual _____ Foursome

Golfer's Names _____
