

THE BLUEPRINT

HABITAT WORKS TO BUILD GREEN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Volunteer Voices</i>	2
<i>Family Selection</i>	2
<i>New Board</i>	3
<i>Thrivent Builds</i>	3

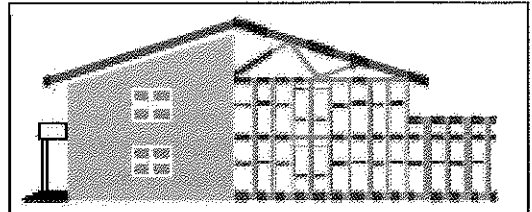
Special Points of Interest:

- **Thrivent and Lutheran volunteers are needed to participate in the 2009 Thrivent Builds projects. Are you ready to build a home with other volunteers and a local family in need of affordable housing? This project gives you the opportunity to change lives—including your own. Construction volunteers are needed for Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch volunteers are needed also. Work location is 7020 Platte Ave and the Sheridan Lutheran parking lot. Call the Habitat office at 477-9184 if you have questions or would like to schedule a date to provide lunch. Construction volunteers should also call 477-9184 the night before you want to work to verify the location.**
- **During National Women Build Week, May 2-May 10, women are challenged to devote one day to eliminate poverty housing. Habitat's Women Build program, underwritten by Lowe's, brings women from all walks of life together to learn construction skills and then use those skills to build simple, decent affordable homes.**
- **You are now able to donate to Habitat with your credit card (see enclosed envelope) and online.**

Green building...Habitat style is a matter of faith and stewardship (According to the non-profit group Architecture 2030, "unknowingly, the architecture and building community is responsible for almost half of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions annually." The residential slice of the building sector consumes 21%, just behind the transportation sector (27%).) How and where we construct housing are critical issues to consider as our health, economy and culture will feel the long-term impacts from our action taken today. Economically, cost-benefit analyses show tremendous long-term savings to homeowners and society when we design housing that is energy and resource efficient.

The green building movement (often referred to as sustainable) is something most everyone is excited about and supports, however, *affordable* building with sustainable materials and energy efficient components has lagged due to the sometimes higher costs involved. Habitat has always made every effort to build homes with low operating costs, providing Habitat families the obvious health benefits of living in a dry, clean house with affordable utilities.

Habitat's modestly sized homes of 1000 square feet fit families needs without wasting space. Our philosophy is to reduce waste,



Anatomy of a Green House

recycle everything possible and take advantage of energy efficiencies during construction. Locally, our affiliate is in the process of learning the most energy-efficient techniques and adapting them to Habitat's volunteer friendly, cost-conscious methods. We find ourselves often walking the line between being willing to experiment with new products and staying careful to spend donor dollars wisely.

The "Stenson House" to be built later in 2009, will focus on sustainable materials and energy efficient techniques, due to a generous contribution from our newest board member, Dr. Steven Egglund.

There is much that can be done with no additional funds but certain elements, while saving resource and energy expenditures in the long run, will require additional funding. If you would like to support this and future efforts to build "green" please consider a contribution today.

HABITAT ADDS DEMOLITION TO ITS VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

The ordinary Habitat scenes—volunteers with saws and hammers creating homes on empty lots—are changing. Now volunteers can be seen taking down neglected, run-down and doomed houses to make room for a new safe, decent affordable home.

The shift in Habitat's focus is a sign of the times and offers a glimpse of what the Habitat program can do in a

neighborhood threatened by deterioration.

The city of Lincoln has an agreement with Habitat that provides no-interest loans for the purchase of lots. This agreement has now been expanded to include properties that require demolition of an existing structure.

Some people may be skeptical or, at least puzzled, by the notion of Habitat tearing down

houses. This is an untested realm for volunteers, who have spent years hammering nails and painting walls in new houses, never thinking of taking one apart.

The move makes sense as volunteers will now remove reusable housing materials rather than send it to landfills. Also neighborhoods in danger of deteriorating beyond repair, can be helped.

Volunteer Voices: Just Call Charlie

By Marilyn Haley

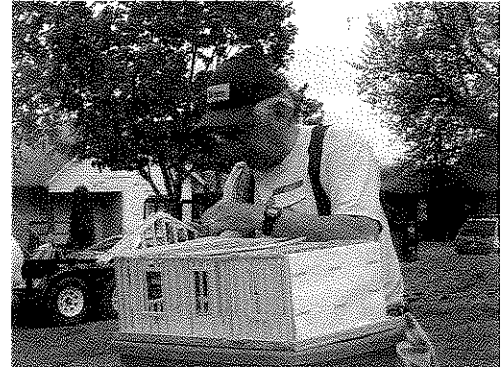
There is a missing door stop and some caulking that was not done at the Habitat house that was recently finished. Who could we call that would be willing to go back and complete these small but important projects—Charlie Horner—that's who. Charlie has become an invaluable volunteer, the 'small projects' guy, always willing to take care of the finishing details.

Charlie started with Habitat in August 2007 and enjoys working with the dedicated regular volunteers and the new ones that show up on work days. He responded to the Red Cross call for volunteers and spent three weeks working out of a Red Cross kitchen just east of Houston last September after Hurricane Ike.

Retired secondary science and English/German teachers, Charlie and Sigrid are from Colorado. Sigrid currently substitute teaches for LPS and volunteers at Lincoln Literacy. In addition to being Habitat supporters, Charlie and his wife Sigrid are active with the Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministries. They have helped rebuild flood damaged homes in several states including Louisiana. The Horner's have two children, Michelle who recently graduated as a medical assistant from SCC and son Michael who is a puppeteer with Paul Mesner Puppets in Kansas City, MO.

"Charlie is a real gem, and a valuable part of the ministry at our congregation," says Joyce Petry, Habitat board member and pastor of Antelope Park Church of the Brethren. "For our Palm Sunday worship, Charlie did the children's story. He made a paper bag puppet of "Hannah," the donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem. At the end of the story, he gave each child their own "Hannah" puppet. Charlie Horner is a real Renaissance man; he not only builds Habitat houses, he also makes paper bag puppets for our children. Charlie can always be counted on to help with any repairs to our buildings, and to do yard work and other tasks."

New Habitat homeowners also appreciate Charlie when he returns to take care of those pesky little tasks that are part of every building project.



Charlie Horner, demonstrates house construction for women's build volunteers.

My Family Needs A Home

The Habitat Selection Committee recently reviewed more than 25 applications, all from families needing a home. The volunteers on this committee work hard and their dedication is valued. The stories they hear and the decisions they have to make are often heart-wrenching because limited resources allow Habitat to build for less than 3%. The seven grateful applicants described below were chosen to partner with Habitat and have started working on their sweat equity hours and other requirements for their Habitat homes.

Duane S. is a single, disabled veteran living in a situation that simply doesn't meet the needs of his physical condition.

Semira O. works with disabled children and is a single mother of a son and a daughter. Her son also has disabilities and his condition makes living in the close quarters of apartment buildings problematic. The family currently lives in a house where the rent is too high so as soon as her lease is up, she'll have to search for yet another apartment.

Tuan L. is a single dad working very hard to give his four children a better life. They live in a small second story apartment with no safe place for the children to play. Rather than being confined to the apartment, this family will thrive with a home of their own.

Borok and May L. both work and attend school while

raising six children. They fear their children are in danger living on busy Vine street in a house with electrical wiring problems. The house they rent has very high utility bills and is crowded with several family members sleeping in a makeshift and unsafe basement bedroom.

Kheder and Jamila K. have four children and are currently living in a crowded home with a chronic roach problem. Safety is a concern since the house has lead paint and they do not feel the neighborhood is secure enough for their children to be outside.

Rose E. has five children. Her husband is unable to immigrate to the U.S. due to fighting in the Sudan. Rose is



Newly selected Habitat homeowners.

not only working, but is going to school. Her family will thrive in a home of their own in a safe neighborhood.

Rezahgal R. and her two children share a one-bedroom apartment. She works in housekeeping at a hospital and wants to make a better life for her children.

Habitat for Humanity Announces New Board Members and Officers

Nineteen community leaders have been named to the Lincoln/Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity 2009 Board of Directors. Dr. Steven A. Egglund has been selected as a new member of the board. The 2009 board officers are Michele Williamson—president, Matthew Minchow—senior vice president, DiAnna Schimek—1st vice president, Lois Gillam—secretary and Allan Lierman—treasurer. Those continuing their service on the board are: Doug Carpenter, Sarbani Chakraborty, Dean Christensen, Shawn Dontigney, Randy Johnson, Gretchen Kruse, Jay Marshall, Marcia Murray, Susan Napolitano, Joyce Petry, David Quade, Paul Schwartzkopf, and Bill Weber.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



Dr. Steven A. Egglund is the most recent addition to the LLCHH Board of Directors. He grew up on a central Iowa farm and attended the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Wisconsin. He spent 30 years as a professor and later as the Chairperson of the Department of Vocational and Adult Education at the University of Nebraska. Steve is now a retired Emeritus Professor of Education at UNL and, most recently, the retired Executive Director of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges in Schools of Washington, DC. He brings expertise to the Board in the realms of marketing, education, proposal development and real estate as well as a commitment to sustainable building and hands-on philanthropy.

When asked to describe his personal history of volunteering, his first response was that he had not done much more than an occasional holiday stint at the Lincoln City Mission. He then acknowledged membership and leadership on numerous non-profit boards of directors. These have included locally the Malcolm School Board, the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, and the Nebraska School Boards Association Board of Directors. He has also served in several national capacities

through the boards of the Association for Career and Technical Education, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, the national Marketing Education Association, and, most recently, the Newbridge Colleges of Los Angeles.

His first experience with Habitat was a few years ago as a volunteer truck driver for Habitat's ReStore in Alexandria, Virginia. There he developed a new appreciation for recycling and reusing a wide variety of building materials to the benefit of Habitat.

In addition to his membership on the LLCHH Board, he is a member of the Board's Family Selection Committee and spends Tuesdays as a "regular" as he says, "hammerin' for Habitat."

Recently, Steve made a very generous gift to Habitat for Humanity to be used to build a home in Lincoln. The gift was given in honor of his mother's Norwegian immigrant family from Iowa. The family included an architect, carpenters, a lumber yard manager and several farmers. They were, predictably, committed to thrift and sustainability before their time. The "Stenson House" will be the first concerted effort to construct a sustainable Habitat home in Lincoln including as many "green" and energy efficient elements as possible.

Thrivent Financial For Lutherans Awards \$159,088 for 2009

The alliance between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans continues to build hope for low-income families amidst economic difficulties as the mortgage crisis unfolds nationwide. Since 2005, it has given more than 1,000 families nationwide an opportunity to achieve the American dream of homeownership. In 2009 Thrivent will contribute more than \$24 million to help build another 314 affordable Habitat homes in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

Our affiliate has been awarded \$159,088, or 65 percent of the funds necessary, to build two homes in 2009. The homes will be built by area volunteers, of whom at least one-half will be Lutheran and one-fourth will be Thrivent Financial members. The Habitat partner families will also invest 400 hours of "sweat equity" helping to build their homes.

Building has started at 7020 Platte Ave for the Kur family—a single mother with two children. She works for a meat

processing plant. The second Thrivent home is being built on the parking lot of Sheridan Lutheran Church. It will be moved to 3319 X Street. The family partnering for this home has four children and they currently live in a two bedroom apartment that had snakes in it last summer. The parents are very anxious to move their children into a safe, decent home and are thankful to the volunteers and supporters that will make this possible.

Lincoln/Lancaster County Habitat For Humanity

144 N. 19th Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

Phone: 402-477-9184
Fax: 402-477-9190
Email: habitat@lincolnhabitat.org

We're on the Web!
www.lincolnhabitat.org

OFFICE HOURS

Every effort is made to staff the office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office is often staffed by volunteers. Please call before you come to the office to be sure someone is here.



Board of Directors

Pres: Michele Williamson
Sr. V.P.: Matthew Minchow
1st V.P.: DiAnna Schimek
Secretary: Lois Gillam
Treas: Allan Lierman

Doug Carpenter
Sarbani Chakraborty
Dean Christensen
Shawn Dontigney
Dr. Steven Eggland
Randy Johnson
Gretchen Kruse
Jay Marshall
Marcia Murray
Susan Napolitano
Joyce Petry
David Quade
Paul Schwartzkopf
Bill Weber

Executive Director:
Nancy Muehling

Administrative Assistant:
Sharon Orr

Editor: Marilyn Haley

L/LCHFH
144 N. 19th Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

Return service requested

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
Lincoln, NE
Permit No 1682

NANCY'S NOTES

BY NANCY MUEHLING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IT'S GARDEN TIME!

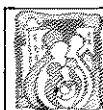
It's time to get out in the fresh air and sunshine, till up that garden spot to plant some vegetables and perhaps share some of your flowering plants with a friend or neighbor. This season is a beautiful sign of renewal and signals the starts of some very serious "digging and hammering" on our job sites.

There is a difference in our approach to construction this year.....in several instances we are demolishing dilapidated housing, clearing the lot, and building simple, decent houses. What a blessing this is to not only a Habitat partner family, but also to a neighborhood that is beginning to deteriorate.

More changes.....we will be needing a staff person to take over responsibilities of Marilyn Haley who plans to leave us to retire to "greener pastures" in South Dakota. The skills we are looking for are marketing and fundraising—a team oriented leader who can remain flexible in an environment of multiple priorities. This person must possess an interest in working with low-income families from diverse backgrounds, as well as volunteers of all skill levels. If interested, please send a resume to the Habitat office.

We have started a new "gardening" program for Habitat homeowners. We are organizing volunteers who have rototillers, gardening expertise, tools to donate, extra plants to share, or just free time. We will match them up with families who, for the first time, have a home and yard of their own and are eager to plant and harvest their own vegetables.

What a great opportunity, both for the volunteer and the recipients of this help, to celebrate this season. A helping hand can make a huge difference in the lives of so many people. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. ... "Whatever affects one, directly affects all. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be."



Community Services Fund

A Choice in Giving