



NEWSLETTER
Fall 2008

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Annual Celebration

**Friday,
February 13, 2009**

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Maple and Douglas in Libertyville

Please bring a dish to pass. Habitat will provide chicken and beverages.

BUILDER

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BUILDING HOMES • BUILDING COMMUNITY

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Twenty Years – A Look Back and a Look Forward

As 2008 draws to a close, I reflect on our work this past year. A full block of homes fills the south side of Eleventh Court. Just a year ago, only one was complete. Visions of heavily bundled crews valiantly building in the snow fill my mind, followed by crew after crew industriously building panels in the warehouse when it was so cold for so long.

One warm afternoon in February, after months of relentless snowstorms and deep freezes, the sound of pounding filled the air at the site. It was like hearing birds chirping in the spring. Finally, we were doing what we do best — erecting walls!

Work continued all year as houses flew up. Hordes of volunteers framed and sided and drywalled and poured concrete and landscaped as summer turned into fall. One by one the houses were finished. As I write this, visions of sugarplums dance in the families' heads as they prepare for move-in and a chance to enjoy Christmas in their new homes.

THANK YOU to our 2008 House Sponsors: Thrivent Builds Homes, HCS, Glencoe Interfaith Builders, Presbyterian Partners, Youth United, Women Build, Citigroup Foundation, Hewitt, Baxter and New Trier High School.

THANK YOU also to our ongoing partners: the County of Lake, the City of Waukegan, Square D, Whirlpool, Dow, Hunter Douglas, Valspar, the AmeriCorps program, McKinney Steel, Fiore Landscape, Manhard Consultants,

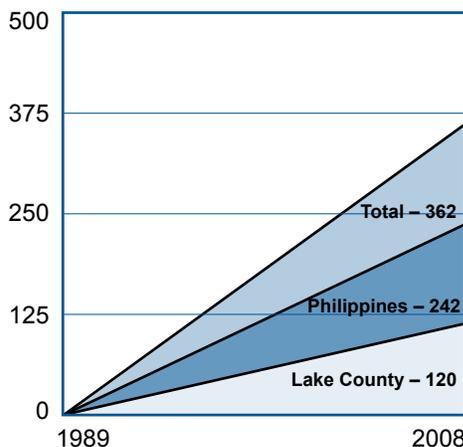
JMH Architects, Bleck Engineering, North American Title, and all those who have contributed time, talent, services, discounts and other support.

By year-end five more houses will be started, so we can work all winter. We welcome sponsors for the remaining seven homes on that block.

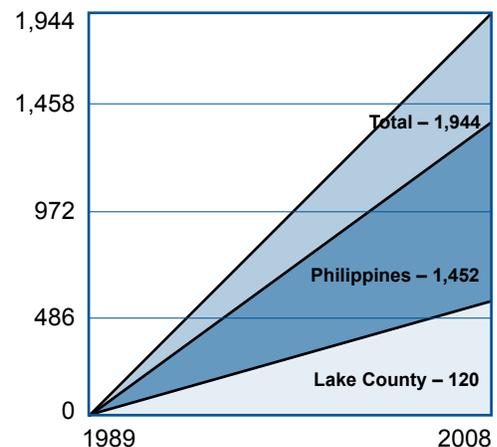
In 2009 we will celebrate our 20th anniversary. We've come a long way from a few strangers meeting at the public library trying to figure out how to create permanent housing solutions. In 20 years we've built 120 houses, providing housing for almost 500 people in Lake County. Our tithes to our sister affiliate in the Philippines allowed us to build 242 houses for 1,452 people in that country. Can you believe it? With your support we've built **362** simple, decent, affordable, healthy homes for **1,944** people. That equals 709,650 nights each year that Habitat homes shelter people because God allows us to do His work. We are truly blessed to be His hands and His heart through this ministry.

And we've only just begun! We are already looking for more land and getting ready for our next 120 houses. We invite you to continue your partnership with Habitat for Humanity for the next 20 years. We pray that you will continue your financial support so we can keep building. We pray you continue building with us. And we know you'll continue your faithful prayers as, together, we build His Kingdom here on earth.

Houses Built by HFHLC – 362



Persons Housed in HFHLC Homes – 1,944



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Habitat Builder

Writers/Editors Julie Donovan, Cassie Bertke
Layout Graphic Design Services

Newsletter design courtesy of Abbott

Mission

Habitat for Humanity Lake County is a Christian housing ministry which welcomes all people dedicated to building decent, affordable housing for families in need, while empowering families to help themselves. HFHLC builds partnerships with diverse members of the community which breaks down the walls that divide and builds a sense of community among all people. HFHLC seeks to make safe, simple, decent housing for all people a matter of conscience and action.

Subscribe to our E-Builder and receive news monthly throughout the year. This will help us stretch our funds. Contact cassie@habitatlc.org.

Let us know if your information is incorrect. If you received a duplicate or if you no longer wish to receive this print mailing, please let us know that, too. Thanks!

Where There's a Will

Through a creative and efficient partnership, our Habitat families finally found the will — to make their wills. *The John Marshall Law School* and the *Wills, Trusts and Probate Committee of the Lake County Bar Association* and the law firm of *Lesser, Lutrey and McGlynn* initiated a unique program to serve Habitat families. Ed McGlynn and his staff created a dynamic presentation focused on estate planning which they presented to three groups of families that were full of questions. Each did their homework and decided on their executor, guardians, beneficiaries, and those who would have power of attorney for health care and financial matters. In the fall, the attorneys and students returned to create wills and power of attorney documents with Habitat families. **NorStates Bank** offered families support to set up trusts.

Thank You...

to Professor Debra Stark of The John Marshall Law School and to Ed McGlynn and his firm and to the Wills, Trust and Probate Committee and to NorStates Bank for their vision, leadership and hard work in developing this program. This great support helps secure the future of each family and strengthens Habitat's long-term Homeowner Education Program. We appreciate all who partner with us to live out our mission of **Building Homes, Building Community and Building Lives.**



Ed McGlynn presents the Will and Estate Planning Class

Still Bringing a Smile

Don Bjoring, a good and faithful construction volunteer, helped build homes with us every Tuesday and Thursday for many years. Better known as "RePete" with his sidekick Pete Ellison, Don always had a wide smile and offered a kind word for everyone. After his death on July 14, we celebrated his passing, able to smile and offer our thanksgiving for his time with us. And we know he's still smiling today. Much love to you, Don, from your Habitat Family.



Don Bjoring working on a house

A Word From the Executive Director

*You are not to worry.
You have a Father who knows what you need.
Set your mind upon His kingdom, and all the rest will come to you...
Be ready for action...
Because the Son of Man will come
at the time you least expect Him.*

*Luke 12:29-40
(New English translation,
Oxford University Press)*



Not to worry? As wildfires, hurricanes and earthquakes destroy whole towns and villages – don't worry? As banks close, stocks fall and people lose jobs – don't worry? As people ask how Habitat will make it during all this mess how can I not worry?

I admit, sometimes I succumb to worrying after reading headlines or as I go home late at night with my desk still piled high. Suddenly I notice that my shoulders and neck are tight and my forehead is all scrunched up. I realize that I've been holding my breath.

Then, I stop. I take a long, deep breath. I smile. I stand up and stretch my arms up high. And then I pray. I praise God in thanksgiving for all He gives to me. I thank Him that I am here and that I am healthy. I thank Him for my family and friends and for all of you. I thank Him for the abundance He sends through our volunteers and donors.

Even when the headlines blare, I know that He is watching over me, over all of Habitat, and over all of you. He knows our needs. I don't need to put on a long face and go to Him with my wish list.

After I breathe, and smile, and stretch and pray, I get back to work. I focus on building God's kingdom here on earth.

I am ready for action. I prepare documents to find another piece of God's green earth on which to build more homes. I enthusiastically invite donors to the joy of making a permanent difference in the life of a family. I point-blank tell volunteers how their unique talents can be used to teach our Habitat families skills to become life-long stewards of God's gifts to them.

Each time the phone rings, or email comes in or visitors arrive at our door, I see God. I know that He continually blesses us through all of you.

Sometimes I have to search to find Him in what feels at first like an obstacle, but each time I am confident that I do not have to worry. With all these blessings surrounding us, I know that I have to be ready at all times for He is coming. He is here. In you.

As we close 2008, I smile broadly knowing that another 10 families will move in. I breathe deeply as plans for the next new homes unfold. I roll up my sleeves to arrange to talk with donors for sponsorship of another seven homes and for all of our needs. I confidently sign checks to continue our tithing donations to our sister affiliate in the Philippines so they can keep building His kingdom, too.

I pray for you. I pray that you will find a way not to worry and instead place your trust in God. I pray that you will take action in this season. I pray that you will count your blessings of a solid home, for your family and for your health. I pray that you will be generous so that, together, we will continue to build His kingdom, house after house after house.

May God's peace keep you free from worry and compel you to take action.

Julie Donovan

Welcome AmeriCorps Members

Please join us in a hearty welcome to Jon Flaherty and Jake Martin, our new AmeriCorps members for 2008-2009. AmeriCorps is a national program of service and we are honored to be blessed with two persons who will serve with us for 11 months as crew leaders and volunteer coordinators. They receive only a small living allowance but provide a great service to our organization!



Jon Flaherty Jake Martin

♥ 20 Years of Building Homes and Building Lives

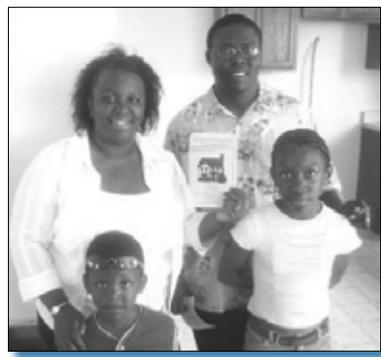
As we begin our 20th Anniversary Year, we celebrate the many successes of our families! As families complete their sweat equity they find hidden skills, talents and interests. They challenge themselves and each other to do more. Their children see not only the attempt, but also the success. Gradually families move ahead and become beacons of hope to each other. The entire community thrives and grows.

Mortgage Burning

It won't be long until our early families "burn" their 20-year mortgages. It seems like just yesterday that we built those first houses. Our partnership with our families lasts through the joys and sorrows of additional children and divorces, good health and illnesses, promotions and job losses, difficult children and graduations and more. It lasts through on-time mortgage payments and even through times when the payments are strained. Our staff and our Family Education Program supports the families as they mature and find ways to solve each crisis. We especially enjoy seeing them thrive. We look forward to celebrating mortgage burnings in the next few years with Terry, Henry and Janis and then also with Clara and with Diana and Jon!



3011 Galilee – Mortgage burning soon



Anisha and her family at their 2005 house dedication

Super Moms

We are so proud of our "students" — Habitat families that go back to school. Some re-started school while doing sweat equity and completing our Family Education Program. Norma advanced from school secretary to certified teacher in Waukegan schools. Laura bought her house in 2003 and works in the North Chicago schools and will soon finish classes as a certified teacher, then she'll begin her master's degree. Sabrina Patrick went back to school to study social work while her house was under construction in 2005. Tolise received her realtor's license. While Anisha's house was under construction, and then after she moved in, she finished Robert Morris College with a business degree, went on for an advanced degree and obtained her realtor's license and became a tax preparer. What an amazing group of people live in Habitat houses!

Super Kids

Jesus and his family lived in a small two-bedroom apartment. The overcrowding made it hard for the children to study, but Jesus and Margarita always supported their children's education. When they moved into their Habitat home in 1997, the children had more space to spread out and study. It paid off. Gabriela finished school in accounting and works for an accounting firm. Jesus Jr. studied business and works for CDW. Angelica will finish college this year and is working a part-time job. Jaime is in high school and will head for college next. Jesus worked in a factory over the years and is very proud of his children. Even with tuition bills, they always paid on time and have even paid ahead on their mortgage.



The Arias family in 1997



Melissa — her family's off-court coach

What a Team

Melissa Thomas coaches a great family team of four. Her sons Keith and Marquise are stars on their high schools' basketball teams. Keith's school's varsity team (North Chicago) went to state finals last year and he, personally, made All-State and All-Conference. Marquise plays for the Warren Township High School Blue Devils. Melissa's daughter, Detoia, is enrolled in a medical assistant's program and works as a nurse. Recent high school graduate Xavier continues his Walgreens career as a photo specialist. With her children growing up and doing well, Melissa is starting her second year as the assistant varsity coach of the North Chicago girls basketball team while holding down her job at Walgreens as a lead mail service clerk.



Five-Day Camp at Carter Crossing

Neighborhood Leaders – Building Community

Mark and Sharon Allard ran a Five-Day Club this summer in their Habitat yard. Teens from the Child Evangelism Fellowship served as leaders. Mark and Sharon invited children who live across from their Carter Crossing house. About 60 children showed up for the week for songs, prayers, snacks and bible verses. Mark and Sharon are always out in the neighborhood, walking with their three children, riding bikes and working in the yard. They have gotten to know many of their neighbors, especially the children. It is great to see the strong faith influence they bring to their community.

No More Gas Guzzling

As a group of families went through our budgeting education program, they analyzed their expenses in light of wants and needs. Maritza realized she was spending way too much on transportation. She traded in her huge gas-guzzler for a more fuel-efficient car. As she talked with her co-workers, she realized they all lived near each other. Now she drives them for a weekly charge. As a result of our Family Education Program, she not only reduced her gas consumption, she comes out a few dollars ahead every month.



Maritza waving — and saving — from her car



After growing up in his parents Habitat home, Jose bought his own house for his family

No Second-Generation Habitat

Jose was a hard worker when he helped his parents complete their 500 hours of sweat equity. He helped build the house and he helped in the yard. He even attended some of our Family Education classes. After moving in, he struggled to finish high school, especially American history. After graduation, he eventually married and became a father while still living with his parents in their Habitat home. One day, Julie Donovan spotted him shopping with his wife and daughter and he muttered in a very quiet voice. “My wife and I just bought a house.” “Where?” Julie asked. “In Zion,” Jose replied. This hard-working young (family) man was able to buy his own house – without Habitat’s help!

Senior Special

Theodora worked so hard. When we first met Theo, she had problems with her heart and her breathing. She struggled to keep up her own place. Still, she had to help her daughter, Sharon, who needed a walker due to a stroke and medical problems and lived in another place — in a basement. Then there was keeping up with Sharon’s three children. Once they all moved into their Habitat house in 1996, Theo’s mother moved in with her. So four generations lived under one Habitat roof. Now it’s just Theodora and Sharon and a grandson. Finally she is not only rested, but she looks great. Theodora learned how to use a computer and is finishing her GED and is having a great time focusing on her future.



Theodora with her daughter and grandchildren in 1995

There is no doubt about it. Habitat for Humanity not only builds houses and community — it builds lives. **We ask you to support our Family Education Program with your donation.** Your financial assistance allows us to not only build houses, but to provide the quality education and support that our families need to add to their success for the rest of their lives. Thank you so much for helping our families help themselves in such meaningful and tangible ways. Please continue your support.

Youth United – The Future Is Building

We will have three — yes, count them — three houses going up this year through the efforts of the amazing, creative, passionate and wonderful young people of our community. Through our **Youth United** program, students learn about poverty and housing needs and are empowered to do something about it!

New Trier High School students will build their ninth house after raising \$100,000 through their carnival, community outreach and other events. The thousand members of the senior class voted to build with India Nix, who is thrilled she will finally provide a decent place for her family.

GreekBuild is a new sponsor comprised of the 40 fraternity and sorority houses at Northwestern University. In the biggest all-Greek project ever, these awesome members are committed to raising \$100,000 and then building their house this school year! Karla Campos and Briana loved visiting campus to meet 2,400 new friends who are their sponsors!

The **Youth United** house is sponsored by an ever-growing number of schools and youth groups and in partnership with **CDW** and **Schneider Electric**. Bertha Turnipseed and her children, Wendy and Kersin, are already helping build their own house and look forward to having more space.

Isn't it amazing what the young people in our community can do? In the past 10 years, 14 houses have been built with 14 families through the awesome young people of our community! They are not fearful. They don't ask why they can't get this done, they just jump in and do it!

Construction volunteers must be **16 years old** to work on the site and we need one adult for every four youths. We welcome younger folks to arrange visits to the site to bring their donations and to go on a tour.

Thank you for supporting the Youth United Program: **Lake Forest High School, Stevenson High School, Mundelein High School, Lake Zurich High School, Warren Township High School, Grayslake North High School, Evanston Township High School, New Trier Township High School, Lake Forest College, Trinity International University, Northwestern University, Kellogg Graduate School of Management.**

We especially appreciate all those young people who support us through their grade schools, middle schools, church groups, youth centers, birthday parties and many other creative ways!

ALL high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, nursery schools, youth groups, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, church youth groups, Sunday school classes, vacation bible schools, after-school programs, and any kids are welcome to join in the fun (provided the construction workers are 16 or over)!

You can have fun and help raise \$100,000 so Youth United can keep on building. We welcome tooth fairy gifts, birthday party contributions, letter-writing campaigns, donations from dances and parties, and proceeds from leaf raking and snow shoveling. Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis and Exchange Clubs can help youth from their community be part of the build. Businesses and corporations who believe in the power of youth are welcome to provide matching funds and mentor our youth — our leaders of the future.



Briana dances with GreekBuild leader, Aaron

Don't be left out. Call today. Youth United needs YOU and your energy, your passion, and your insight. Contact jeff@habitatlc.org or 847-623-1020. You can also visit www.habitat-youthprograms.org to learn more about the hundreds of ways youth can be involved.

Nice Car

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV or motorcycle and help local families have a decent place to call home. Your donation is

tax deductible. It's quick and easy. Within days of your call, your vehicle will be picked up and the paperwork completed. This is an easy and great way to help Habitat build homes! Call toll free: 1-877-277-HFHI (4344) or visit www.carsforhomes.org.



Building on Faith

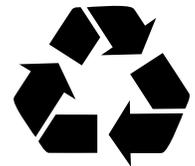
All churches and synagogues, mosques and temples are welcome to join Habitat to build a house together. We broke ground in late September on our Building on Faith House and excavation took place in November. You can help build the house through next summer. We also welcome your contribution to raise the \$100,000 needed for the house. Our thanks to Citigroup for their support so we could get this house started.



Recycle

Help us save paper, save money and go green.

In the coming year you can help us save several thousand dollars by drastically reducing our print mailing costs. We would love to email our news and pictures to you. Subscribe to our E-Builder and receive our news throughout the year. Contact cassie@habitatlc.org TODAY to submit your email address.



Your GREEN Holiday Shopping List

- ✓ Dear sweet husband – tools, pliers, screwdrivers, bungee cords, ratchet straps, toilet seat, cast iron pans for camping
- ✓ Loving wife – Hamilton roaster, large cooking pots, yard furniture, wooden craft items, Creative Homeowner Guides
- ✓ Needy college kid – Home Café 1-cup coffeemaker, travel mug for hot soup or stew
- ✓ Awesome teenaged son – jumper cables, gas can
- ✓ Beautiful teenaged daughter – hair products (LA Looks, Mane Tamer), candle holder
- ✓ Young son – sleds, Testor model cars and supplies, batteries for toys
- ✓ Sweet young daughter – polished jewels (stones) in velvet bags
- ✓ Deserving grandma – framed prints, new light fixture (you add a promise to install), clothes dryer, tin bread pans
- ✓ Hard-to-buy-for relatives – bird feeder, fondue set, toilet seat
- ✓ Family gifts – woodburning stove, decorative fireplace grate and tools
- ✓ Devoted pets – dental treats, Liquid Bandage, fur fighter
- ✓ Batteries – for toys and electronics
- ✓ Gift-wrapping needs – tape, scissors, holiday gift tags, brown shipping paper
- ✓ Christmas decorations – swag, ribbons

Make Your Holidays GREEN – Shop at the Habitat ReStore

Everything we sell is recycled and you can put it into reuse. You'll find something for EVERYONE on your list at the Habitat ReStore. We dare you to try it – and then see how happy you make your friends and family with your thoughtful and GREEN gifts.



Hand Tools



Testor Model Kits



Fireplace Screen,
Tools



Stones and Velvet
Bags

Location: 3545 Grand Avenue, Gurnee (¼ mile east of Route 41 on the south side of Grand Avenue)
ReStore Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Donations: Call 847-249-3160 or visit www.habitatlc.org for drop-off info. We have limited pickup service

And don't forget to pick up things for your New Year's resolution to **Get Organized!**
Use our coupon and **Tell a Friend** for even more discounts! You'll love our staff and you'll love our stuff.



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*Celebrating 20 Years
1989-2009*

362 Homes – 1,944 Lives