



HAMMER TIMES



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Recent Dedications

Women Build

Over 800 women picked up hammers and power tools last summer to build a Habitat for Humanity house with the Brown family. The Brown family received keys to their new home and a brighter future at their home dedication Saturday, September 19, 2009. Women built the house as part of Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program, which encourages Habitat to move families out of substandard housing. Prior to building, volunteers participated in six how-to clinics provided by Lowes, which provided hands on training for volunteers.

Habitat broke ground on the project in May of 2009. Over 30 Diva teams were created to make up the 800 plus volunteer force. Divas not only gave their time and talents to the project, they also helped sponsor it through monetary donations. Other home sponsors include the Tammy Stratman-Brown Charities, The City of St. Charles, Lowes, The Home Builders Association of St. Louis, Laclede Gas, IBEW L.U. 1, Plumbers and Pipefitters L.U. 562, Sheet Metal Workers L.U. 36 and the Floor Layers L.U. 1310.

Thrivent Build

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, volunteers, Habitat for Humanity representatives, Thrivent Financial representatives and members, St. Peters officials, and, of course, the excited partner family gathered at the Enclaves at Eisenhower in St. Peters to honor the hard work, the generous financial backing and the community support that made this home possible. The homebuyers—Brad and Marilyn Rush and their five children have completed over 350 hours of "sweat equity" helping build their home.

This new home is a result of an alliance between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, this alliance has resulted in the construction of hundreds of decent, affordable homes across the country since 2005. Thanks to its 2.6 million members who own financial products with the organization, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is able to contribute to the improvement of communities like St. Peters. The Thrivent Builds alliance also engages volunteers—members of Thrivent Financial, members of area Lutheran churches and members of the community at large—to work alongside the partner families to build these homes.

United Methodist Coalition

Habitat board members, staff, St. Peters officials, sponsors and United Methodist Coalition volunteers gathered at the Enclaves at Eisenhower in St. Peters for the dedication of the Daniel and Felicity Morrison home dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 3, 2009. The Morrison home is the first of three pledged to be sponsored by the United Methodist Coalition (UMC) and Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County. The UMC has committed to provide \$195,000 over the next three years to build three homes, in addition to volunteer labor from local Methodist congregations. The UMC sponsored and built one of the eight homes in the Ashland Meadows development in Wentzville in 2008.

Volunteers with mental and/or physical disabilities participated in the build and demonstrated their true abilities. Groups from the St. Louis Jewish Community Center's Life Skills Group and Community Living came out for team build days.

Blitz Build

About 50 Catholic Holy Family Society members, staff and Trustees spent the weekend of November 12, 2009 building a home for a military mother, Carla Lowe, and her 3 children. The project marked the 16th collaborative build between the Catholic Holy Family Society and Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County, however, this was the first blitz build for Habitat of St. Charles County!

Volunteers arrived at the site that Thursday morning and spent two and one half days building the exterior of a 3 bedroom

home, which includes a basement and attached garage. All volunteers are members of Catholic Holy Family Society, which is a member-owned life insurance organization with a commitment to fraternalism and volunteerism.

By the end of the day on Thursday, volunteers had the exterior walls in place along with roof trusses. On Friday morning they finished off sheathing the roof, began shingling and siding and installed windows and doors. Saturday was spent finishing up any other details. In addition,

Catholic Holy Family Society also presented Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County with a donation in the amount of \$5,000 to help with building costs.

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County is proud to partner with the Catholic Holy Family Society to provide the Lowe family with a safe, decent and affordable place to live. Other home sponsors include Immaculate Conception of Dardenne Prairie, Laclede Gas and the IBEW L.U. 1.



December 13th, 2009 marks the Habitat St. Charles ReStore's 2nd Anniversary. In the second year of operation the ReStore has raised over \$191,000 and has diverted over 286 tons of building material! In 2009 we also saw our deconstruction program run full swing. The St. Charles ReStore participated in 22 home deconstructions that contributed to more than 75 tons of diverted material and over \$30,000 in funds raised.

Our New Truck

Jason Antcliff, owner of ARC Solutions, recently donated a 12-foot box truck to Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County's ReStore. Immediately the generous gift began paying dividends for the ReStore. Assistant Manager Scott Lightle and a ReStore associate picked up their first donation using the truck, which con-



sisted of a full kitchen cabinet donated by an area resident. The donation was coordinated by new community partner—Signature Kitchen and Bath of St. Peters. "We are pleased to begin giving our client's an opportunity to donate their useful cabinets to such a worthwhile program," said Bill Lucas VP of Sales for Lami Wood Products of St. Peters.

"Many new doors have been opened for the Habitat St. Charles ReStore through the donation of the box truck and the partnership with Signature Kitchen and Bath," says Andrea Hughes, manager of Habitat St. Charles ReStore. "These donations are pivotal in allowing the Habitat St. Charles ReStore to divert more waste from local landfills; in addition to helping raise funds for the Habitat St.

Charles affiliate to build more decent, affordable homes". The Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles ReStore is a local store that sells donated new and used building materials to the public at 50-90% off original retail values.



Rotary Club Awards \$5,000 Grant

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County recently received a \$5,000 check from Michael Moloney with Premier Wealth Management Group to help Habitat for Humanity further its mission of building affordable homes in St. Charles County.

Mr. Moloney, founder of the E. Walter Haustette Foundation, specifically asked that the funds from the foundation be donated in recognition of Ron Hollis, a St. Charles Rotarian and founder of Habitat for Humanity in St. Charles County.

"The funds could not have come at a bet-

ter time," states Ashlee Johnson, executive director for Habitat for Humanity in St. Charles County. "We are in need of financial support now more than ever as we begin to build more homes and impact more lives," Johnson said, referring to the Ashland Meadows and Enclaves of Eisenhower subdivisions in Wentzville and St. Peters, respectively. "We are grateful to our Rotary Clubs in St. Charles County, that continue to help Habitat fulfill its mission of placing deserving families into affordable homes." Without the support of sponsors and indi-

vidual donations, Habitat would not be able to continue to build homes for low income families in St. Charles County.

Mike Moloney, with Premier Wealth Management Group is pleased with both organizations; Habitat for Humanity and Rotary Clubs of America. "We are happy to help and support these great organizations; both organizations help to provide hope and homeownership to so many families in St. Charles County. In the last 10 years, 30 homes have built and 30 lives have been changed because of the program."

2009 Celebration of Trees Gala

Celebration of Trees provided a great opportunity to acknowledge 2009 Award Winners!

They were:

Golden Hammer

Mike Weeks

Silver Hammer

Bob Higgins - Metro Plumbing

Bronze Hammer

New Frontier Bank

Builder Award

1st Financial Federal Credit Union

Kindness Award

97.1 FM Talk

Committee Volunteer of the Year

Anita Sandage

Construction Volunteer of the Year

Gary Springer

ReStore Volunteer of the Year

Marilyn and Dave Gibbs

A special thanks is extended to all Habitat supporters who helped with the event including the amazing Ameristar staff, GM Women in Manufacturing, Habitat development committee and board of directors, Skip and Eileen Cassoutt, tree decorators and of course all who attended and helped raised funds for local families.

On Thursday, November 12, 2009 Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County and General Motors Wentzville Assembly Plant once again joined forces to host the 9th Annual Celebration of Trees Dinner Gala in Ameristar's Discovery Ballroom. The annual event helps kick off the Christmas season in grand style and provides an opportunity for County residents, guests and friends to support the affiliate. Over 300 attendees enjoyed culinary delights prepared by Ameristar chefs. Many participated in the silent auction, bid on 18 uniquely decorated Christmas trees and enjoyed the music of the season performed by talented singers and musicians.

Thanks to the many sponsors and supporters made this event a night to remember. They include:

Silver Bell sponsor: Bill Davis, Inc.

Red Bow sponsor: American Sewing Machine Co.

Tree and Table sponsors: Detailer's and More, 1st Financial Federal Credit Union, Baue Funeral Homes, and the United Methodist Church of the Shepherd,

Tree Sponsors: Ameren UE, Meyer Real Estate, The Hoffman's, Friend of Habitat, New Frontier Bank, the Rotary Club of St. Charles, SSM Health Care,

Table Sponsors: HFHSCC Family Advo-

cate Committee, Volunteers and Friends, Brooks Family and Friends, Johnson Family and Friends, Hearts and Roses / Cadon Technical, Metro Plumbing, American Sewing Machine Co., Neil and Anita Sandage, Barnes Jewish St. Peters, Jim and Vicki Durney, Mark and Amy Hadcock, Biologix, Dan and Sarah Sise, Laclede Gas and Jim and Sheila Franke, Blaine and Lisa Vaszily, Assured Title Co., and Mike Weeks - Rudy Beck and Associates

Star Sponsors: Bob Davis American Family, GHP, JDS Masonry, Luetkenhaus Properties, Geoff Orf, Becky Povich, Bob's Transmission and D'Alessandro, Inc., Kathy Kilo-Peterson, Commerce Bank, Colleen Gilbertson, Tom and Heather Hebson, JLJ Technology, Miriam Mahan, Troy Robertson and Tri-County Labor Club.

Beverage Sponsors: Krey Distributing and Vintner's Cellar

Media Sponsor: St. Charles Media Group - please check out upcoming issues of the St. Charles Magazine and the St. Charles Business Magazine for event coverage.

Entertainment: Evidence, Matt Borchers, Reid Smith and Bone Daddy and the Blues Shakers!

Home Builders Association Donates \$7,500 to Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County

2009 HBA President Dan Barnard of Greater Missouri Builders (left) presented a \$7,500 donation to Ashlee Johnson, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County, on behalf of the Home Builders Charitable Foundation. The funds supported the "Divas Building Dreams" Women Build for a single mother and her daughter. The "Divas Building Dreams" Women Build is a program that has been designed by Habitat that encourages women to volunteer in an effort to empower women everywhere to address the problem of poverty housing for themselves, their families and their neighbors.

This build marks the first-ever Women Build project for Habitat St. Charles. The HBA is a local trade association of nearly 1,000 member firms representing the residential construction industry. The Home Builders Charitable Foundation, the HBA's charitable arm, is a non-profit



organization dedicated to providing housing assistance to people or organization with special shelter needs.

OUR MISSION

Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God's people everywhere from all walks of life. Its purpose is to develop communities in which God's people can live and grow into all that God intends.

Missouri AHAP Tax Credits Now Available!

If you are a business owner and subject to Missouri state tax, you may donate to Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County and receive a 55% tax credit on your donation. In addition, you could receive a federal tax deduction if you are in the 35% tax bracket - some could get 90 to 95% in total tax deductions! Donors must be a business, owner of rental property or royalties, a credit institution, an insurance company, or a public or private foundation to be eligible. Visit the Missouri Housing Development Commission site at www.mhdc.com for more information. Please call Ashlee Johnson at (636) 978-5712 to inquire about eligibility. AHAP tax credits are limited, don't miss out on this amazing opportunity and donate today!

Happy New Year!

We are happy to announce that in 2009, Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County launched a \$6 million, 60 home initiative entitled, "A World of Hope, It Starts at Home." This campaign is one of the most important endeavors in Habitat's history and its success insures that Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County will continue to meet the needs of the families without a home.

In addition, through this campaign, Habitat for Humanity will impact families by providing a safe, secure, stable environment through a home, but it will also impact the families by:

- *Improving Health Conditions – Habitat is taking families out of sub-standard, sometime hazardous living conditions and placing them into new, clean, sustainable homes built to the guidelines of the NAHB Green Building Initiative*
- *Providing Education – Habitat St. Charles is partnering with Lindenwood University to provide scholarships to all eligible homeowners and their children*
- *Homeownership – Statistics have demonstrated the many multi generation benefits of homeownership including; Homeowners are more likely to offer a more stimulating and supportive home environment for their children and transfer management and financial skills necessary for homeownership to their children. Homeowners are happier and more satisfied with their lives and their choice to purchase rather than rent. Homeowners are friendlier and more socially communicative with neighbors, and have increased self-esteem, personal security and personal health.*

At Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County, we have already been blessed to impact the lives of 41 families in St. Charles County over the last 12 years. Through our "World of Hope, It Starts at Home," campaign, we plan to build 60 homes over the next 5 years for low income, deserving, hard working families. Not only will this campaign impact the lives of approximately 250 individuals through improved health, educational opportunities and homeownership, but it will also impact our local economy as well; by creating tax payers and customers who will frequent the local grocery stores, restaurants and other retail establishments.

A World of Hope, It Starts at Home. . .It can start with YOU! You can make a difference today through a:

- *A Financial Contribution: become an investor in HFHSCC and help impact lives*
- *In-Kind Support: building materials, labor, land*
- *Volunteer: help build it!*

We hope that you can join us in our affordable housing efforts, and remember, it's not just about building homes, it is about transforming lives and entire communities!

Blessings to you,

Ashlee Johnson

Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County



Volunteer Opportunities

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County would not be able to provide low income, hard working families with safe, decent and affordable housing without volunteers, in-kind donations and financial investments. In 2009 approximately 1,500 volunteers donated their time and talents to Habitat. Here are a few ways to get involved:

Financial Investment or Sponsorship - levels available. Please visit our website to donate on-line or call.

Construction Volunteer – donate time to build site. We work Wednesday through Saturday 8am – 4pm

In-Kind Donor - donation of building materials and/or services

Committee Member – most committees meet once a month to plan, discuss and organize

Lunch Provider - provide and serve lunch for volunteers on-site

ReStore - help with customer service, merchandising, and unloading of donations. Store hours are Tuesday – Saturday 9am – 5pm

Fundraiser - helping raise funds through an event, including a 2x4 sale, nickels for nails collection, fellowship breakfast, fish fry, bake sale, bingo, trivia night, auction, etc.

Advocate - tell your family, friends and colleagues about Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County and how to get involved.

Visit our web-site at
www.habitatstcharles.org or call (636)
978-5712 today!