

Raising the Roof

Issue 3 ■ Winter 2005



Women Build is Growing !

This year Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg plans were to host the first Women Build in Winnipeg and construct a single house for a hardworking, low income family. The response we have received has been overwhelming; 300 women have already registered to participate in the build.



Due to this generous outpouring of support from the women of Winnipeg, we are now planning on constructing 2 houses during the Women Build. The homes are scheduled to be constructed May 28 to June 4, on a double sized lot on 230 Devon Street.

These women, of all ages, various backgrounds, and all walks of life; have joined together with a common goal of giving a hand up to families by providing safe, decent, affordable housing.

A very small percentage of the women actually had any construction skills, so Ken Vann of the Handyman Connection came forward and offered to teach the women some basic carpentry skills. The training sessions have been held on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings at the Habitat warehouse; they have been wonderfully received.

Each new session begins with safety on the construction site. "Whenever workplace accidents happen, it's because of carelessness or unfamiliarity with the materials" says Ken, as he explains the importance of proper clothing, work gloves, construction boots, hard hats, and don't forget that tool belt.

Ken moves from his safety talk to explaining how to properly use hand and power tools. After a short demonstration, the women have an opportunity to try and master their new found knowledge, hands-on.



We are still looking for sponsors for the Women Build. This is a unique opportunity to involve your company or organization, to participate in actually building the homes. Past participants have found this to be a profoundly inspiring, morale and team building experience. Please consider getting involved by putting this project into action. Help families get a hand up, not a handout.



A Message From Our Chair



Sylvia Main
Chair, 2004-2005

As we welcome in 2005 we do so with a heavy heart as we acknowledge the suffering that has occurred as a result of the recent tsunami disaster

in southern Asia. With over 160,000 people dead and millions of people displaced we offer our prayers to the survivors as they put their lives back together.

David Hughes, President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Canada indicated "Habitat's call to action will focus on providing shelter and housing for those affected by the catastrophe". Hughes believes there will be a time in the future when we will be called upon to send volunteer teams to help with reconstruction efforts and to assist in distributing much needed supplies.

For Habitat Winnipeg the start of the New Year allows us to reflect on our mandate of providing safe, decent, and affordable housing for families in need within our own community. In

Tsunami

Habitat for Humanity International's initial response plan calls for transitional and permanent housing projects in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand, to house some 25,000 families in a first-phase effort and tens of thousands of families in the long term. Habitat for Humanity offices in each of the

2004, fifteen families became new homeowners through their partnership with Habitat Winnipeg and our Chapters. Here is what some of our partner families said about their experience: "Habitat has helped to make our dream of home ownership become a reality"... "Now it's going to be a good life" and "The experience has been overwhelming".

Homeownership is a blessing to nearly one million people worldwide who are now living in Habitat for Humanity homes. For many families owning a home can provide benefits beyond the physical one of having a roof over your head. Donald Haurin, Professor of Economics at Ohio University, and a respected scholar in the area of homeownership and its consequences, identifies other outcomes of home ownership. Positive results such as: better academic performance among children, higher self esteem, and stronger neighborhoods because families feel more connected due to their stable housing situation.

Our homeowner partners for 2005 are already well on their way to completing their sweat equity. They are committed and focused on their goal of becoming

new homeowners. In addition we have some exciting new ventures on the horizon. One such event is the *Women Build* in Spring 2005 which will encourage the involvement of women in the construction of Habitat houses. We look forward to providing an opportunity for women to learn construction in a supportive environment.

To make all of our projects come together, we need sponsors and committed volunteers. There is a place for you as we put our 2005 plan into action. Perhaps you'd like your company to be a sponsor on the first ever *Winnipeg Women Build*. If you are an actively driven individual that enjoys the outdoors and thrives on challenges, consider registering as a cyclist for our 1,000 mile *Cycle of Hope* fundraiser.

I encourage you to step up to the plate to help make something happen in our community. Please get involved and find out first hand the effect Habitat for Humanity is making in the lives of Winnipeg families.

Sylvia Main
Chair of the Board of Directors
Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg

affected countries are also working to develop plans based on existing partnerships and ongoing assessments of needs.

The immediate priority is to help families move out of the overcrowded, diseased and crime-infested camps and other temporary shelters and into transi-

tional housing. The timeline for the building of transitional housing will differ in each country, depending on the circumstances. New houses are already under way in Sri Lanka, and repairs are under way in India.

Family Profile

“Dwelling in the present”

Ruth Hiebert was living in Manitoba Housing at Inkster and Keewatin in the fall of 1990, when her eyes were attracted to an ad about Habitat for Humanity looking for potential homeowners. She sent her application into the Habitat offices located on Church Street. Her application was accepted, and a short time later she signed her Habitat partnership. Ruth helped on various building projects and worked part time in the Habitat office in order to accumulate her sweat equity.

It was a hot day in July 1992 when Ruth and her 3 children, Patty 9, Greg 8, and Vanessa 4, moved into their new bungalow on Angus Street. Suddenly the kids had their own rooms, a backyard, and a space to mature and grow, Patty is finishing her 4th year at the Asper Cen-



tre and is looking forward to a career as a Chartered Accountant. Greg is with the Army Reserves and is presently enrolled at the Law Enforcement Institute, with his eyes clearly focused on a career as a police officer. Vanessa works part-time doing

data entry and is completing grade 11 at Elmwood High School. After she completed her sweat equity back in 1992, Ruth was offered a full-time job in the Habitat office where she worked until June 1998. Ruth left Habitat for a career change, and is presently employed at a brokerage firm as a Client Service Associate. And what family would be complete without Gizmo, their friendly, hairy, 3 and half year old Lhasa Apso/Shih-Tzu cross.

Ruth's path to her dwelling wasn't easy, facing life's chal-



lenges and struggles. However, living safely in her Habitat home has brought both a comfort and a sense of security to this family. Ruth feels that her Habitat home was truly a gift from God.



Sponsor for the Day

This year is the beginning of a new sponsorship program for Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg.

On Thursday to Saturday from July 21 to October 15 a different corporate sponsor will be featured each day. A sign up sheet will be available to the sponsor months before the actual chosen build day, stating exactly what projects they will be assigned to (up to 20 individuals per day).

We would ask the company to pay the staff while working on the build, plus a donation of \$5,000 to HFHW.

This will allow the company the opportunity to participate hands on. Providing the staff an avenue to participate in an enriching activity while building teamwork and increasing company morale.

What other benefits will the company/organization receive?

- Visibility and public relations
- Team photo in the Free Press
- Company logo sign (Onsite)
- Recognition at Sponsor Dinner
- Lunch/breaks provided
- Framed collage
- \$5,000 tax receipt

If your company/organization is interested in becoming a **SPONSOR FOR THE DAY** Please contact Al Leighton aleighton@habitat.mb.ca

Christmas in Our Own Home

By Dan & Elaine Skubovius

One cannot really put into words the many feelings you have in owning your own home.

The wonderful feeling you get when you set up your same old crooked Christmas tree in your new front window and somehow it looks amazingly different better somehow! The feeling you get when you climb up on a ladder and hang that string of lights from your very own eavestrough. There is such happiness in the simple act of hanging that

wreath on your door and finally setting that welcome mat out on your new front stairs. A joy that is so complete that you are content to just stay at home. Even to eat Sunday lunch at home when it was a regular occurrence to be invited out. A pure pleasure in hosting a family Christmas dinner for the first time instead of going to their house. They come to you! What an amazing feeling to be able to give to others and have your house really become and feel like a home. A home where anyone feels welcome. A home filled with love and peace. That has always been our prayer. Aside from the obvious pleasure & joy we have described, there

is also an overflowing amount of thankfulness in our hearts. Thankfulness to all the people that have worked so very hard to make our dream come true. I know it has been said many times, but it has been overwhelming.

So, to all the volunteers, thank you.. By so selflessly giving to others, you have enabled us to also give. You have provided us the thrilling opportunity to be able to be a blessing to others in our very own home!

So thank you Habitat! And thank you everyone! For you have truly given us a wonderful gift.

Cornerstone Community Church Welcomes New Residents to Transcona

Early in 2004, we began to hear reports that Habitat for Humanity was building 8 homes in 8 days in the east of Transcona. By the time of the actual build we were unable to be part of the construction process, but still wanted to show these new families a "Welcome sign".

Our Womens' Ministries group took leadership and suggested a gift box for each home consisting of some very basic 'first home' needs, i.e. dish soap, boxes of tissue, towels, toothpaste and such. We approached our local Safeway store for some strong boxes to carry the things and they obliged and added a Gift certificate from the store for each box.

Some of our men then added some simple tools like screwdrivers, box cutter knives and flashlights. Our children's church added a child's pack with colouring pages, pictures and a crayons provided by Boston Pizza. We topped this all with a "Welcome to our community" letter from our church.

On November 20, after our monthly Men's prayer breakfast a group set out to deliver the boxes to the 8 new homes on Kildare. As we knocked on the various doors we were delighted to find all 8 families at

home. The response was, to say the least, overwhelming. The families received us with open arms, smiles, tears, and invites for coffee.

The response was such that we are now talking about joining the volunteer's ranks for next year's build.

Ron Hagglund
for Cornerstone Church



Faith Relations

LUTHERAN YOUTH CHOOSE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Every second summer, 1500 teenagers from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) gather to worship, fellowship, learn and choose a mission project to support. For the two years following that Gathering, ELCIC churches all over Canada rally behind their youth group's focused enthusiasm and concern.



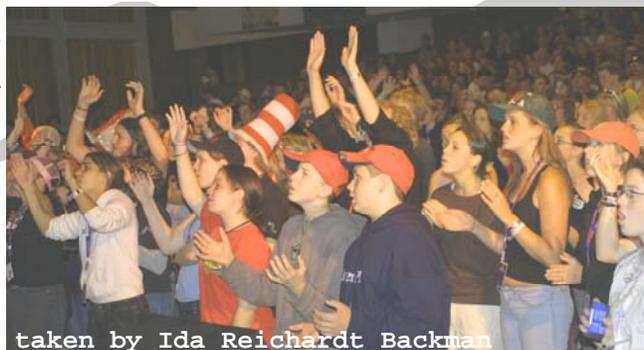
The National Youth Project for 2004-2006 is called Mission Possible: Building Hope. If that sounds like a movie title - well, these *are* teenagers! If it sounds like a Habitat catch phrase, that's because the Lutheran Youth have decided to

build a Habitat house!

The goal of MPBH is to learn more about Habitat for Humanity, to get involved and encourage others to volunteer, and finally to sponsor at

least one house. That house will be built during the summer of 2006 in Winnipeg, the site of the next ELCIC National Youth Gathering. Part of the build will happen concurrent with the Gathering. Youth and their adults will volunteer on the site. If they raise more money than is needed for one house, the funds will be shared with other Habitat affiliates across Canada.

The youth are already building - awareness, and while they aren't raising walls just yet, they are raising funds. Faith Relations Coordinator, Al Leighton, has already met to make initial plans with the project's national coordinators, Hank and Barb Fast. These two long-time Habitat supporters,



taken by Ida Reichardt Backman

together with other experienced local volunteers will promote and coordinate the Summer 2006 Mission Possible: Building Hope Build.

If you'd like to get involved, want more information, or can offer leadership to local churches, they would be happy to hear from you. More information can be found at <http://youth.elcic.ca/> Choose "National Youth Project".

National Coordinators: Hank and Barb Fast, hbfast@shaw.ca
 Synod (Regional) Coordinator: Ken Steinke, ksteinke@winnipeg.ca

WHAT'S UP WITH CYCLE OF HOPE?

An enthusiastic group of 50 cyclists will cycle from Nashville, Tennessee to Winnipeg from July 1st to 17th 2005. To date, we have 42 cyclists registered. Since November 2004, we have had three Meet and Greets to get to know new cyclists, learn more about how Habitat functions and become acquainted with Habitat home owners. At our next "Meet and Greet" we will have a clinic to assist on fund-raising ideas. In early spring before the snow melts, we will host clinics on fitness, nutrition and bike maintenance. When the snow is finally gone, training rides have been planned as well as a cycle-tour of Habitat homes.



Most cyclists consider a trip like this a challenge, to achieve a personal milestone. This two-week ride helps to build decent affordable homes in partnership with hardworking, low-income families. Finally, the cyclists can expect a fun-filled ride. The Nashville destination is motivating, the route will be fantastic, and the planning committee is working hard to make this the best Cycle of Hope ever!

Cycle of Hope Committee

The Construction Corner

Lots to Build in 2005

As we anticipate the upcoming season the one important question begs an answer, where are we going to build?

Every year we are faced with the same question, and each year it's becoming harder to find affordable building lots within our city. Good news! We have acquired property on Pandora and Redonda Street in Transcona. It's a large lot that allows space for 6 houses this year with room for future development in 2006. The blitz build will be held on this property from July 9 -16 "rain or shine", and after last year maybe I shouldn't have mentioned rain.

We will also be constructing 4 houses in the North West area of the city which will be built during

the summer. The homes are to be constructed on Aikins, Airlies, Polson, and Toronto Street.

We can't forget the Women Build where we expect 300 women to join together on May 28-June 4th to put up 2 houses on Devon Street

We have new and exciting house plans, new sponsors, and of course new homeowners, making an exciting season, full of changes and surprises.

If you wish to volunteer for the build and have yet to register, I'd encourage you to get your application in early so you won't be disappointed.

Register online at www.habitat.mb.ca or email syoung@habitat.mb.ca

Helping Habitat to build a better world

Going onto a build site, working and sweating alongside other volunteers and the future homeowner, and then seeing lives changed is to truly experience the power of Habitat for Humanity's mission. It is difficult to imagine that anyone—former president, top business executive, celebrity, or Mary and John from down the street—could attend a house dedication service and not be moved to involvement. There is nothing quite like being present when the keys to their new home, along with a Bible, are handed over to a family that never expected to know the security of decent, affordable shelter, let alone homeownership.

From my rural boyhood, when I often spent the night with black neighbors who lived in unheated and dilapidated shacks, to my years in the White House when I saw the plight of the homeless and those trapped in poverty housing worldwide, I have known that shelter matters. And I know, as a Christian, that I have a responsibility to serve where I can, that as I treat "the least of these," I treat my Creator.

Jesus was a carpenter, and a builder. Through Habitat, we have been privileged to become builders, too, not only of houses, but of families, lives and hope. Combined with our work at The Carter Center, where we focus on peace-building and health-building, Rosalynn and I have found great joy in serving those who have too few advocates, too few friends, in this world.

As long as we are able, we will keep on building, hammering out love and hope and houses, doing what we can to help Habitat for Humanity build a better and more caring world.

Jimmy Carter

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The Volunteer Zone

You are invited to **GET INVOLVED!**

Re-Store

Our home improvement outlet centre, which raises funds for Habitat is recruiting volunteers who can commit to regularly scheduled hours, whether it is a few days a month or a few days a week. We are currently seeking volunteers in all departments.

Committee Work

Get involved at the committee level – Builders Ball, Faith Relations Committee, Women Build.

Blitz Build

This year we are planning to build 12 homes. The blitz build is July 8 – 16th and the post build is July/August.

As you can see, there is a lot of activity happening this summer and we need your help. To find out how to get involved or for more details, please check the web-site (www.habitat.mb.ca) or email syoung@habitat.mb.ca

Thank-you! Sue Young Manager, Human Resources

Playhouses For Hope

Playhouses provide an amazing place for kids to play in an imaginative world of fun and adventure. Whether it's a place for a tea party or a fortress for play, these structures give kids the space they want to play in, and moves all of the noise away from direct earshot!



The planning and construction of this year's playhouses are well underway. The five exciting creations will be on display at St.Vital Centre from March 12th to the 20th, with the draw being held on Sunday, March 20th at 4:00 pm.

Tickets for the draw will be available at St.Vital Centre at a price of \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

So come out and Support us!

Thank-you to our House Sponsors



Cycle of Hope
Cyclists 2004



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