

Raising the Roof

ISSUE 7

SUMMER 2006



When Barry Talbot brought up the idea of sponsoring a Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg home with his Freightliner Manitoba Ltd. partners Rod Snyder and Ken Talbot, the idea was quickly embraced. The Habitat idea was then presented to the rest of the Freightliner team and was met with swift enthusiasm and love. Staff members were quick to jump on board and commit their time and energy to such a worthwhile project.

It is the modus operandi at Freightliner Manitoba Ltd. to get involved with Manitoba charities on a regular basis. The Freightliner team of employees and management feel that although there are many people in need throughout the world they would like to help closer to home. By working on projects locally the Freightliner staff are able to see the results of their endeavors firsthand and get to meet the actual people they are helping. Staff consider the opportunity to help local families a privilege



and the smiles at the end of a project are indeed a fantastic reward.

Throughout the sixteen-year history of Freightliner Manitoba Ltd., the company and its staff have become involved with many great causes. In addition to Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg, another favorite is the Christmas Cheer Board. Each year through the generosity of Freightliner employees, the season is made very special for several Winnipeg families. It's quite a sight to see Santa pull up with a huge Freightliner truck full of goodies!

The 2006 Freightliner Manitoba Ltd. Habitat home will be located on Redonda Street but

what many people don't know – is that this is not the first Habitat home that Barry Talbot has sponsored. With a strong commitment to his Winnipeg roots and Charleswood upbringing, Barry sponsored Habitat homes in both 2004 and 2005 under the alias of "Charles Wood."

With the Freightliner leadership exhibiting generosity of spirit alongside financial support for local causes – it's no wonder that the Freightliner team has embraced the 2006 Habitat project with great joy and passion. Catherine Gilman, Finance Manager for Freightliner Manitoba Ltd. says, "We know that in building this new home, a family's life will be changed for the better. We are thankful for the opportunity to make a difference."

Freightliner Manitoba Ltd. has three Manitoba locations: Winnipeg, Brandon, and Steinbach.

"We should give as we would receive, cheerfully, quickly, and without hesitation; for there is no grace in a benefit that sticks to the fingers."

Lucius Seneca



**Sean Marek
Chair 2006**

Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses, so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.

A Message From Our New Chair

I am truly honored to be serving as Chair of the Board of Directors of Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg and would like to thank my fellow board members for electing me. As I write my first newsletter article, I am impressed with what has already been accomplished and I look forward to a great summer of Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg events.

During this past May, Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg hosted the first ever National Student Build. This event was organized by the students themselves and brought together young people from across Canada. With hard work, plenty of enthusiasm, and the generous funding support from the Richardson Foundation, 2006 Student Build participants were able to make a difference in the life of one deserving family.

Also during this past May it was my pleasure to be present at the dedication of the two Habitat homes on Atlantic Avenue. By witnessing the proud new homeowners receiving their keys, I know that Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg is realizing its mission of providing safe, decent, affordable homes for low-income working families.

It takes many initiatives to make our mission a reality. One such project is the 2006 Woman Build, which will run concurrently with our Redonda Street Blitz Build

(July 8th to 15th, 2006). The dedicated Women Build volunteers have taken responsibility for the entire project from fundraising to the actual training and construction process. Best wishes for a successful build!

One of the most anticipated Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg events is the annual Cycle of Hope. This year's Cyclists will leave for their Marquette, Michigan starting point on July 2, 2006. Their journey will see them travel over 1600 kilometers and arrive back in Winnipeg on July 15, 2006. Each Cycle of Hope Cyclist has committed to personally raising a minimum of \$2,500 for a combined event goal of \$125,000! We wish the Cyclists and support team a safe ride and thank you for your extraordinary efforts in helping Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg reach our fundraising goals.

The final event in our 2006 fundraising efforts will be our 4th Annual House Party and Auction. This year's party will be held on Friday, November 3rd at the Winnipeg Convention Centre and I encourage you to mark your calendars. Last year the House Party and Auction raised over \$53,000 and I know that with your support this year's party will be an even bigger success!

Housing and land costs continue to rise nationwide

and Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg is not immune: we have seen the cost of building a home almost double within the past three years. Despite all of our fundraising efforts we are asking for your help. This newsletter contains a pledge envelope and donations can also be made online at www.habitat.mb.ca I encourage you to give what you can to help us reach our goals.

Finally I would like to thank all the people who work to support the Habitat For Humanity cause. First, thanks to the volunteers who give their time on construction, Committees, the Board of Directors, and in the ReStore: Habitat could not function without your help. Also, thanks to those who make it happen, the dedicated staff of Habitat, it is a pleasure working with you. Finally thanks to our House Sponsors, Major Donors, and all those who contribute – your generous support makes it all possible.

Have a great summer!

Sean Marek

For more information on any of the Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg events mentioned above please visit us online at www.habitat.mb.ca

For more information on the Habitat Student Build program please visit www.studentbuild.ca

Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg's 2006 Cycle of Hope

Yes folks it's that time of year again – the 2006 Cycle of Hope has arrived!

The 2006 Cycle of Hope journey started on July 2, 2006 as the team traveled to the starting point in Marquette, Michigan. The Cyclists began the actual ride on the 4th of July and will arrive back in Winnipeg on July 15th. This year's route takes the 31 Cyclists through the beautiful southern shore of Lake Superior, with a total traveled distance of almost 1600 kilometers.

Upon arriving back in Winnipeg on the fifteenth, the Cyclists and Support Team's hard work will be celebrated with a Welcome Back Parade. Start time for the event will be 1:00 p.m., rain or shine. Everyone is welcome to come out and cheer the Cyclists on as they parade down Regent Avenue starting at Day Street.

The Cyclists have committed to raising a minimum of \$2 500 each and the event is expected to raise approximately \$125,000. All of the money raised by the 2006 Cycle of Hope will help Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg reach its goal of building eleven homes this summer!

Calendar of Events – 2006 Cycle of Hope

Sunday, July 2, 2006

Cyclists and Support Team leave Winnipeg by van.

Tuesday, July 4, 2006

2006 Cycle of Hope begins in Marquette, Michigan.

Saturday, July 15, 2006

Cyclists and Support Team arrive back in Winnipeg.

The Welcome Back Parade begins shortly after at 1:00 p.m., starting at Regent Avenue & Day Street, proceeding west on Regent and over the Nairn Avenue overpass. The Parade continues south on Archibald arriving at the Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg ReStore at approximately 2:00 p.m.

2006 Cycle of Hope Jersey



2006 Cycle of Hope Route Map



Interested in getting involved with Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg?

We are always looking for individuals, organizations, and businesses to help us realize our mission of providing safe, decent, and affordable housing for low-income working people. For more information visit us online at www.habitat.mb.ca or call 233-5160.



Did you know that Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg is able to accept donations online?

Use your credit card to make your donation via our secure website.

To make an online donation today, visit us at www.habitat.mb.ca

Unidentified Golf Course Object

What has two tires, lots of chrome, and was able to capture the attention of the 400 golfers who participated in the Manitoba Home Builders Association (MHBA) Golf Tournament held on Wednesday, June 7, 2006? If you guessed a new style of golf pull-cart, try again. The real answer is a very cool 49cc gas-powered Mini-Chopper!



This real-working replica of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle was spotted at the Pine Ridge Golf Club and its neighbour the Elmhurst Golf & Country Club. The Mini-Chopper isn't a vehicle one might normally expect to see on the green fairways of a

local golf course – but as a raffle-prize, its sparkling chrome seemed to fit right in with the energy of the day.

The Accurate Technology Group generously donated the Mini-Chopper in support of Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg and judging by the brisk ticket sales,

couldn't have picked a more perfect prize. Those attending the MHBA Golf Tournament were a passionate bunch and along with creative sound effects and some "Easy Rider" style antics – were eager to purchase tickets and support a great local cause.

Thanks to the generosity of The Accurate Technology Group and co-operation of the MHBA, Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg was able to raise over \$1700 from the Mini-Chopper raffle. The money raised will help Habitat fulfill its mission of building safe, decent, affordable housing for low-income working families.

What Does Your Donation Buy?

- \$3.00 One 2x4 Stud
- \$5.00 5lbs of Nails
- \$10.00 One 4x8 Drywall Sheet
- \$15.00 One Bundle of Roof Shingles
- \$30.00 One Bundle of Insulation
- \$100.00 Two Interior Doors
- \$500.00 Electrical Fixtures for the entire house
- \$1,500.00 Vinyl Siding Materials
- \$2,300.00 Floor Coverings
- \$2,500.00 Interior Finishing Materials
- \$2,900.00 Kitchen Cabinetry
- \$3,500.00 Windows & Doors for entire house
- \$5,000.00 One Entire Bedroom
- \$7,500.00 Exterior Framing Materials

To donate to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg, please find the enclosed postage paid envelope.



Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg Homeowner Profile: The Dershko - Lussier Family

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Charles Dickens's famous quote could have been written especially for Chris Dershko and Noel Lussier. As a young couple with three small children, seemingly random obstacles have often overshadowed the joy of being new parents. Medical issues, freak accidents, and difficult living conditions have all played a part in the family's uphill climb. But one thing remains clear – the Dershko-Lussier family has never given up hope that better times were just around the corner.

Medical crises such as the premature birth of their first child, Jeremiah, and later his diagnosis with cancer would have tested the hope and fortitude of most families. "Jeremiah arrived early and he weighed less than two pounds. So right from the start we were faced with our first child being really sick. It didn't seem fair that after he made it through being a preemie and was turning into a healthy toddler, we find out that he has cancer," Noel says.

While Jeremiah was enduring treatment for his cancer, father Chris had his own medical emergency in the form of a serious bicycle accident. "I was riding my bike on a trail at the park and I slipped off the path. My bike got stuck in some deep mud and I was pushing myself out when somehow I slipped and my ankle snapped. It was a serious break and I was off work for quite awhile," says Chris. "Not being able to provide for my family was one of the hardest things I have ever gone through."

Being a one-income household meant that Chris's accident and time off work from his job as a Sous Chef did little to improve the living

conditions of the young family. Money was tight and their apartment wasn't being maintained properly. With the ever-climbing cost of heat and electricity, any extra money seemed to disappear through poorly insulated walls and made saving money difficult. The news of a new baby on the way did little to raise sagging spirits and opportunities to improve their living situation seemed to be passing them by.



Once the couple's second son Gavin arrived, the unhealthy conditions at their North End apartment seemed to become worse by the day. With only one opening window and a leaky roof, the smell of mildew is often overpowering. There are parks within walking distance that can allow the family respite from the confines of their apartment, but with a recent rash of violent crime in the neighbourhood Chris and Noel are reluctant to venture past their locked gate. The tiny side yard has a few toys but there is no grass for the boys to play on. Dad has resorted to laying down a piece of artificial turf in a valiant attempt to try and protect his boy's tiny knees from scrapes and bruises.

In 2004, Noel initially heard about Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) through a brief television spot. Noel says, "I saw this segment

on Habitat and thought 'I need a home like that for my kids.'" Noel followed through on her idea of a new home and started the application process in 2004. Their application proved successful and the couple was approved to purchase one of HFHW's 2006 homes. Chris anticipates that his time on the upcoming July 8th to 15th Blitz Build along with Noel's hours at the Blitz's volunteer mess hall will complete their required 500 hours of Sweat Equity.

With the recent addition of the couple's third child – a daughter named Hailey, the November move-in-date is eagerly anticipated. Noel says, "Neither Chris nor I grew up in a home that wasn't rented. We will be the first homeowners in both our families and it's not just the idea of owning something – it goes deeper than that. This house will allow us to

plan for our children's future by building equity and paying more affordable utilities. We are already making plans to start saving for the kid's University education."

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Dickens's quote is no longer accurate when describing this young Winnipeg family. Even after a series of obstacles and difficult times, Chris and Noel feel that they have finally turned the corner towards a happier and better life. Through their own persistence and hard work along with the hand-up of Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg and its many volunteers, the dream of a safe, decent, affordable home is finally coming true.

Chris and Noel's new home at 147 Redonda Street was sponsored by Winnipeg law firm Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson.

**"Alone
we can do
so little;
together
we can do
so much."**

Helen Keller

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Shingle All the Way!

Sometimes a leap of faith ends up covering miles and miles of asphalt. Seth Kujat, a 23-year-old roofer, decided to spend his first year after college putting roofs on 50 Habitat homes – one in each U.S. state. He started in the New England region, and then, he says, “I just kept making lefts and tried to stay a month ahead of schedule. Before I started the trip, I had 10 builds in the New England area ready to go. As I would finish a couple of houses, I’d start making

phone calls to the next state.”

Kujat and his 1996 Windstar mini-van made the rounds of Habitat affiliates for 52 weeks, ending up this past May in Alaska. Through rain and sunshine, Kujat says his favorite experiences have been getting to know small towns and the folks who live in them.

While on his journey he also discovered that the challenges of a long road

trip taught him about the sustaining nature of faith. “I’ve learnt a lot about my faith. Your faith is enough to get you through any situation,” Kujat says. “Even if you don’t have all the pieces, your faith will get you to the end of the puzzle.”

Story taken from the June 2006 edition of Habitat World, a publication produced by Habitat For Humanity International.

Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg – Staff Profile Genevieve Cloutier – Intern Volunteer Coordinator

She’s only five feet one inch tall, but Genevieve Cloutier can move buckets of coffee like an Olympic weightlifter. As Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg’s Intern Volunteer Coordinator, the petite University of Manitoba student has proven that it’s more about heart than size. Her daily tasks can change at the blink of an eye and during the course of a one-week Blitz Build, she’s likely to meet and work with over 100 new faces.

The logistics of organizing such a large group of people are often challenging but the ever-changing routine seems to suit



Genevieve. She arrived at the Habitat Winnipeg office in April of 2006 through the Government of Manitoba Urban Green Team, a program that provides youth with career-orientated summer employment. Her daily tasks include preparing volunteer information

packages, organizing meals and refreshments for volunteers, and ordering the hundreds of t-shirts that the volunteers wear.

As a fourth-year Bachelor of Commerce student majoring in Human Resource and International Business, Genevieve feels that her summer position is giving her valuable experience while being rewarding at the same time. “I really feel good about coming to work in the morning. I’m able to use my education on a daily basis but at the same time I know that we are making a difference in people’s lives,” she says.

Thank you! 2006 House Sponsors



Please recycle
this newsletter!
Pass it onto a
friend, family
member or
co-worker.

Recipe for a Six Home Blitz Build

To create this amazing recipe for safe, decent, affordable housing you will need:

- Six hard-working low-income families
- Six generous house sponsors
- Plenty of donations from local community businesses and citizens
- Over 1300 enthusiastic volunteers
- A handful of dedicated Habitat For Humanity staff members
- Six vacant building lots
- About 244,740 nails
- Tons of lumber, concrete, and other various building materials
- Four portable potties
- A bit of media coverage
- Gallons of coffee and over 2000 bagels, muffins, and donuts

Mix all ingredients together over the course of a week. Homes will rise quickly, so be prepared for plenty of smiles and energy.



To see the above recipe being created, visit the south block of Redonda Street in Winnipeg from July 8 to 15, 2006.



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Building houses, building hope

ReStore Home Improvement Outlet

Want an economical way to fix up your home, cottage or office? Visit Winnipeg's ReStore for fantastic new or gently used building supplies. The ReStore also carries a wide variety of home furnishings such as sleigh beds, dining room tables and chairs, and mirrors. Be sure to drop in often because we receive hundreds of new items daily!

By shopping at the ReStore you are helping Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg meet its goal of building homes for deserving low-income working families. In addition to helping Habitat raise the money needed for building homes – you will help protect our environment by reducing the amount of reusable construction materials that end-up in our landfills.

Habitat For Humanity Winnipeg's ReStore is located at 60 Archibald Street.

ReStore Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Closed on Sundays

For details on donating items to the ReStore visit us online at www.habitat.mb.ca

