

# Raising the Roof



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### Holiday Wishes

The Board of Directors and Staff of Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg wish you all a special, blessed Christmas and holiday season.

We celebrate the birth of Jesus with anticipation and we look forward with hope to the coming year.

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## Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg



### First Annual Builders' Ball Raises \$60,000 to Build a Habitat Home!

The First Annual Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Builders' Ball was held as a Tribute Dinner to Olenka Antymniuk acknowledging her efforts as a volunteer over the past 10 years. The Dinner was a success through sponsors, ticket sales, and silent and live auctions we raised enough funds to build a Habitat home in 2004.

The future Habitat homeowners of this house are Amanu Torben-Joba and Hirut Abagero and their four children (more on page 3 about this family). Amanu shared a few words of appreciation at the dinner.

#### Thanks to our sponsors:

- Investors Group, Dinner Sponsor
- Aikins MacAulay & Thorvaldson
- Concord Projects
- Winnipeg Convention Centre
- Homenko Builders
- Steinbach Credit Union
- Security Decorating
- WPG-The Wealth Planning Group
- All Weather Windows
- The Loewen Foundation
- Palliser Furniture

Wallace & Wallace

Olympia Trust Company

Star Building Materials

Team Insurance Brokers

Assante Corporation

Speakers program included Doug Martindale, Assistant to Minister Drew Caldwell, long time friend and Habitat volunteer, Deputy Mayor Dan Vandal brought greetings from the City, and Councillor Mike Pagtakhan shared his experience this summer volunteering our blitz build.

John R. Loewen, Chair of the Board of Directors presented Olenka with an award recognizing her years of volunteer service with Habitat. Olenka expressed her thanks for the award and shared her thoughts on volunteering with Habitat.

After the presentations, the silent and live auctions began and lively it was. The highlight was the Saskatchewan Rough Riders jacket that sold for a whopping \$1715! Thanks to all who contributed to the auctions and all who helped make the evening a success. Watch for information about the 2004 Builders' Ball in our next newsletter.

**Board of Directors**

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Jane Hiebert  
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 Construction Manager

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Bonnie Snow  
 Family Services Coordinator

Steve Dick  
 Manager, Volunteers/Human Resources

Paula Havixbeck  
 Manager, Marketing and Communications

**Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors**

Now's the time as 2003 draws to a close, we reflect on the year and our accomplishments. With your help, the Winnipeg affiliate of Habitat for Humanity has enjoyed considerable success in helping more families realize the dream of home ownership. Thanks to our Board of Directors for their contribution throughout the year in:

- Working on the Blitz Build
- Helping with the Tribute Dinner
- Volunteering for the Cycle of Hope
- Donating their time, effort and skills.

Your support is appreciated and I hope I can count

on you to help me complete next year's initiatives as well.

As we top off the year by spending time with family and friends celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and reflecting on what that means for us, know that the support you have lent to your Habitat for Humanity has made a direct difference to the lives of many this year. May God bless you all with peace, happiness and love this season.

Thanks and best wishes,  
 John R. Loewen, Chair, Board of Directors

**Fifty Houses in Three Years—That's our Goal  
 Message from the CEO**

We just completed our 100th home and our plans for the future are ambitious. Unquestionably, the need for affordable housing is perhaps far greater than it was 15 years ago.

We have over 60 families who have qualified for partnership and are working on their sweat equity.

The Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Board of Directors has approved in principle a goal of building 50 houses in the next three years.

Can we do it? We have 15 years experience, dedicated volunteers committed and experienced staff, we think we can, we know we can.

Thanks to the many volunteers who worked on this year's Blitz Build and all who contributed to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg.

Best wishes for the holidays and for 2004,  
 Ken Bishop, Chief Executive Officer

**Construction Committee Wraps Up a Great Year**

One thousand cups of coffee, two thousand Tim Horton's donuts and two large Danny's Whole Hog Barbeques later, it seems our very successful Yvon Dumont 2003 Winnipeg Habitat for Humanity Build is nearing completion. Ten new home for families in need have reached or nearly reached completion and in all aspects one would have to consider this year's build a complete success. Consuming the coffee and donuts were over three hundred hard working and dedicated volunteers. Building supplies and products were donated from countless local and national Habitat sponsors. Despite the occasional downpour, record-setting heat waves, a rookie Project Manager, and drive-by water balloon raids, our level of completion and quality of construction is something we should all be very proud of.

Our Habitat families are all well established and settled in their homes. I even spotted a

couple of decorated Christmas trees emphasizing the happiness that comes with home ownership and the first Christmas in a new home.

With the 2003 build behind us, 2004 will be here before the dust settles on the tools. Plans are already underway for 15 new Habitat homes. Dates and details of next year's build should be available early in the New Year for those important summer holiday time decisions. Book early! This is going to be a great year to participate.

On behalf of the Construction Committee, management and staff, thanks to all for your dedication and commitment. We wish you all the best to you and your families for the holiday season and good health throughout the year.

Wayne Sage,  
 Project Manager

## Helping People in Need, One House at a Time

What does it mean to build houses for people as a Christian organization? Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg has built 100 houses so far, and we're planning to build 50 over the next three years. Habitat's true legacy is that lives have been changed, which has been accomplished through its mission—providing safe, decent, affordable housing for people in need. This is an organization that strives to mirror Jesus' compassion for people in need. So one might ask, what does it mean to be a Christian organization?

We focus our efforts on building the structure, its foundation, walls, supports, fixtures. Building houses is something we can quantify. The materials of life are what Habitat really hopes to impact. Habitat strives to promote a "housing ministry" for all people. A decent house is a launch for which families can address other needs in their lives including growing healthy communities and safe neighbourhoods for children.

Abraham Maslow, an organizational theorist captured human needs in a hierarchical model. The very basic needs, physiological needs must be met before

any other needs in the chain can be pursued. The next being safety, then social, self-esteem, and self-actualization. Once the basic housing need is addressed, families can focus on a higher level of needs being met. Basic, affordable housing helps meet the physiological, safety and some social needs. The self-esteem and self-actualization needs include the need for faith.

Habitat for Humanity's founder, Millard Fuller, says Habitat's position is Christian—not denominational or doctrinal. Fuller says it is not necessary to exclude Jesus to include others. "If a person is in need, it doesn't matter what they believe. They're in need." Habitat volunteers and homeowners have found that the "theology of the hammer"—the belief that people, regardless of their religious beliefs, can work together building houses for people in need.

This ministry has kept Habitat for Humanity going for 16 years.

## First of Fifteen Habitat Families of 2004

The future Habitat homeowners from the funds raised by the Builders' Ball are Amanu Torben-Joba and Hirut Abagero and their four children Rosa (18), Damme (16), Biya (14) and Hirko (18 months).

Amanu and Hirut immigrated to Canada from Ethiopia in July 2000 after being in a refugee camp in Djibouti. Amanu works as a teachers' assistant and Hirut works for Palliser Furniture. When they came to Canada their three eldest children had to remain in Africa with various family members for over a year. "It was the hardest thing we had to do," says Amanu, "leaving our children to hopefully find a better place to live." Since moving to Winnipeg, they've lived in numerous apartments. "It's difficult," says Amanu, "our last apartment was a one-bedroom suite and it was very tight. We couldn't find much in decent neighbourhoods and a friend suggested I check out Habitat for Humanity. We filled out the application and we were so excited



The Torben-Joba/Abagero family, the first of 15 Habitat families that will own a home in 2004. Their home is funded by our First Annual Builders' Ball.

when we heard the news that we qualified. I feel like we just work and work and can't get ahead but we finally got a break."

I'm overwhelmed by the support of the people at the Builders' Ball and I'm grateful. I understand so much more about Habitat and we'd like to say thank you to all the people who attended—for having such motivation to do something good for people." Amanu says it would have taken a very long time, if it were possible at all to ever own a home. "I have a new strength and it feels good to have the community behind us. We can focus on other aspects of our life."

Please help more families for next year's build (15 houses) by donating to Habitat for Humanity. Complete the enclosed return envelope and mail it today. This holiday season, make Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg your charity of choice. Your contribution goes a long way to helping more families have new opportunities in life.

### Habitat Re-Store

Al Leighton  
Re-Store Manager

Bob Solvason  
Assistant Manager

### Re-Store hours

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday : 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays and holidays.

### The Re-Store accepts:

Windows (not wood sash)

Lumber (over 4 feet)

Doors

Electrical

Door hardware

Lighting

Miscellaneous hardware

Appliances (fridges, stoves, hot water tanks, furnaces, dishwashers, washers, dryers (in working order))

Office furniture

Cabinets

### The Re-Store does not accept:

Carpet

Old curtains and hardware

Call before bringing something down if in doubt



The Cycle of Hope has raised over \$1,000,000 for Habitat for Humanity. Cyclists cycle 1,000 miles and raise \$2,000 or more.

*"We hope to help make this year's Playhouses for Hope a huge success," Larry, Clodhoppers candy.*

## Cycle of Hope—Denver, Colorado

The Cycle of Hope will be cycling from Denver, Colorado to Winnipeg in July 2004. An information session was held on Saturday, November 22, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. at the Habitat offices, 75 Archibald, second floor. Subsequent sessions to be announced. For more information about the Cycle of Hope or for a registration form, call the Habitat office at 233-5599 ext. 200 (Jane).

## Playhouses for Hope

The Playhouses for Hope will have seven Playhouses for 2004. We have a few new sponsors and a number of groups interested in building a Playhouse.

Clodhopper's Candy, a new sponsor, is funding three Playhouses. Having won a playhouse last year, Larry from Clodhoppers says, "we were so excited about winning a Playhouse and want to contribute back."

To date, confirmed to build playhouses for 2004 include the Student Architectural Soci-

ety at the University of Manitoba, the Girl Guides of Canada, and 17th Squadron, National Defense.

The **Playhouses for Hope** will be on display in the **St. Vital Centre** March 21-April 3, 2004. Raffle tickets will be \$2.00 each. Draw date is April 3, 2004.

Groups building a playhouse have been asked to be imaginative building approximately 8 x 10 feet preferably modular so set-up and transportation is easier.



## New Re-Store and Offices

The new Re-Store at 60 Archibald (right across the street from our current location) will be open in March 2004. The new Re-Store will have 20,000 square feet of merchandise space and parking, on a paved lot for 80 vehicles! Watch SHAW television to

see Meg Ruffman working in the Re-Store.

We are looking for volunteers to work in our Re-Store preferably with a knowledge of lumber, electrical, or plumbing. Contact Steve at 233-5599 ext. 204.



## What's on Sale at the Re-Store?

New windows and doors, various sizes and styles of kitchen cabinets, miscellaneous plumbing fixtures, hardware, and a selection of furniture items including a few hutches,

headboards, and there is an ample selection of interior and exterior paint in various name brands.

## Speakers Bureau

Our Speakers Bureau is a group of volunteers who are knowledgeable about Habitat for Humanity. Habitat can make a presentation to your company, faith community, community

groups, schools, service clubs, and agencies. To book a speaker call Paula at 233-5599 ext. 208.

## 2004 Volunteers—Blitz Build

Building 15 homes in 2004 we are in need of a number of volunteers with experience in the following areas:

- **Crew Leaders**—skilled carpenters with an ability to lead people. Previous experience on a Habitat build is an asset;

- **Electricians**
- **Plumbers**
- **Finishing Carpenters**

Call Steve at 233-5599 ext. 204.



Check out the listing of volunteer positions available in 2004.

## Building on Faith

The **Faith Relations Committee**'s mandate is to keep congregations informed of Habitat for Humanity's vision and invites congregations to share in the Habitat mission. The **Building on Faith** program is part of Habitat for Humanity's effort to emphasize partnerships with faith groups. The focus of **Building on Faith** is to involve all faiths.

### Building on Faith opportunities:

- Family support for a new Habitat family.
- Devotions before breakfast/lunch during Blitz Builds.

- Provide lunch one day during the Blitz Builds.
- Construction volunteers and committee members for our Faith Relations Committee.

If you are interested please contact our office for more information. Someone can come and speak with your group to help you learn more about how to help. Call Steve at 233-5599 ext. 204.

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*The Faith Relations Committee informs congregations of Habitat for Humanity's mission to provide safe, decent and affordable housing to people in need.*

## Thanks to our 2003 House Sponsors

During 2003, 10 homes were built helping 10 families have new opportunities in life. Thanks to our house sponsors.





## *Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg*

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Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

### **Building Homes Building Hope**

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## **Upcoming Events**

Here's a fun event for the all ages that's free! The **Crosseyed Rascals**, a local Christian Comedy group that focuses on humour, is holding a free show at the Gas Station Theatre on December 5, 2003. Show times are 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 to 10:30 p.m. The **Crosseyed Rascals** have chosen Habitat for Humanity as their charity of

choice. All donations to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg. Please join us at the show and consider making a donation at the event. Although it's free, you still need to pick up a ticket available at Hull's Book Store.



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## **Great Fundraising Success**

A special thanks to Mark and Chantelle Rzepka who hosted an open house/housewarming for the trades who worked on their newly built house in Pritchard Farm Properties built by Morrison Homes.

Instead of gifts, the Rzepka's asked guests to bring a donation to Habitat for Humanity. Habitat staff and volunteers were on hand to collect do-

nations and provide information. Nearly \$10,000 was collected and the Rzepkas matched their guests' donations. In total \$20,000 was donated to Habitat through this event. Thanks to Morrison Homes and Olenka Antymniuk, past chair of Habitat's Board of Directors for the idea and a very special thanks to Mark and Chantelle Rzepka for their generosity and support.

