



HabiChat

Habitat for Humanity Fall, 2005 Newsletter

HABITAT UPDATE:

Since our last communication, Lisa Wehr's house (CCH4H's 15th house) has been completed and Lisa and her son, Tyler have moved in. The house was CCH's first go at using a standardized plan and it went extremely well. The home is a great addition to the community and Lisa will enjoy it for many years to come.

The Board has been working very hard these past few months. We are proud to add two new members to the Board. Molly Daniel and Dr. Mike Benson joined the board this past quarter. They bring a variety of new talents and skills to an already talented board and their presence and commitment are greatly appreciated.

Habifeast, which was held on October 29th, was a tremendous success. Well over 300 people attended and were served a delicious dinner of "Poorman's Filet", baked potatoes, coleslaw, rolls and cake. They were wonderfully entertained by Motherlode. The EIU Women's Basketball Team helped out by serving the dinner. Everyone in attendance agreed that attending Habifeast made for a great evening. In addition, it was a very successful fundraiser, the proceeds of which will go toward building our 16th house.

Our wonderful volunteers hard at work for Habifeast.



Just a few of the many who enjoyed the 2005 Habifeast.

Other successful fundraising events were sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Charleston with their annual Alternative Gift Market, and EIU's PR Techniques class (Terri Johnson's class) worked hard on coordinating fundraising events with Pizza Hut and Monical's Pizza.

'TIS THE SEASON..... by Cal Smith

This is the time of the year when those of us adequately housed—and not the victims of hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, etc—have much to be grateful for. We at Coles County Habitat for Humanity are aware of a great need for additional help for not only Americans devastated by repeated natural disasters, but for people in crisis areas worldwide. And we are doing our best to donate to both national and international efforts to insure That victims literally have a roof over their head during these trying times.

The holiday season is traditionally a time of generous giving. As you are making your list of worthy causes, we urge you to remember that Habitat for Humanity is on the front lines in building new homes or restoring damaged homes throughout the world.

Please send your much needed contributions to Coles County Habitat for Humanity. Our address is P.O. Box 945, Charleston, IL 61920.

We will do our very best to see that such donations are used wisely to build new homes where needed and repair or rebuild those that have suffered severe damage. We ask that you share the spirit of the season by remembering the words of a Master Builder who might say today, as He did over two centuries ago: "If you have helped those most in need, it is as if ye have done it unto me."

From the Ground Up: by Ann Siverling, President of the Board

It seems that lately I am staying quite busy for Habitat for Humanity by speaking at different organizations about Habitat for Humanity, our Coles County Habitat (CCHFH) chapter, our history, our present and our future. I truly enjoy speaking for groups because I get to meet so many people and I get to spread the word about Habitat for Humanity. (As an aside, if you are part of an organization that would like to learn more about Habitat or get involved with or partner with Habitat for Humanity, I would love to come and speak to your group. Just give the Habitat office a call and we can set up a date for me and my “traveling PR box” to appear at your group!)

Most recently at one of these meetings, I was asked by one of the people attending, “How do we get new people to volunteer with Habitat? How do we get them to actually show up and help out?” I shared with this person that the MOST effective way to get someone involved is to (sometimes literally) take them by the hand and say “Come on, we’re going—let’s go build someone a house!” If you are receiving this newsletter, if you are reading this newsletter, then you must already have an interest in Habitat for Humanity. So grab someone, bring them with you and get involved in Habitat for Humanity.

One of the misconceptions about Habitat for Humanity is that the only time we need volunteers is when we are actually constructing the house. Another misconception is that only people who know what they are doing can build on the house. Both of these things are completely false. CCHFH’s goal for the next year is to build THREE houses!!! In order to accomplish this, we will need lots of volunteers, starting now, already to do preparatory work, fundraising work, public relations work, encouraging churches to get involved and administrative work around the office. We are also going to need lots of volunteers (trained and untrained) to actually build these three houses. So, find someone, grab him or her, get both of you involved, and let’s build houses. Let’s take some serious step to alleviate poverty house in Coles County!

SAVE THE DATES: Calendar of Meetings and Events:

Blessings Banquet:	December 2, 2005
Board Meetings:	Third Tuesday of the Month Wesley Foundation
Annual Golf Tournament:	June, 2006 TBA
Application for Homes Deadline:	December 21, 2005

In Search of Lots.... by Roy Lanham

In order to reach our vision of providing decent and adequate housing to three families a year, we are in need of securing lots from all over Coles County. And so, I turn to you—benefactors and believers in Habitat’s mission to provide housing—to keep your ears and eyes open. If you hear of or see any lots that are available please do not hesitate to contact the Habitat office at 348-7063. We will try to pursue every lead.

As an aside: the lot ideally needs to be 70 feet wide by 110 to 120 feet deep. It also needs to have utilities already run to it or be near by. We are seeking lots that are donated, from tax sale rolls, from land swaps or purchased outright.

Thinking About a Gift? Does your company match?

The Fund Development Committee for Coles County Habitat is always looking for ways to double our money. While many companies in Coles County do not offering a matching gift program, some do. We hope to have a list in the next newsletter, but between now and then take a moment to ask someone in the personnel or business office at your company if they have a matching gift program. If they do, please ask for a form and send it in with your check. We will do the rest. Your gift will double in size and help a family in need realize their dream of home ownership.

With all the natural disasters that have recently occurred and the great need for rebuilding all over the world, it is easy to overlook the need in our own backyard. Please remember Coles County Habitat for Humanity in your giving plans.

Did you know.....?

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) works with the Construction Occupations programs within Illinois prison and Federal Penitentiaries to facilitate the production of housing for low-income families. Since 1995, juvenile and adult prison inmates have helped to construct over 400 homes through the LSSI *Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives* program.

Housing components are constructed entirely within the prison walls. Incarcerated persons are taught how to assemble exterior walls, roof trusses, kitchen and bathroom cabinets and storage sheds.

The advantages to the builder are that it saves time and money, a new home can be erected in a fraction of the time, the completion of the home requires less on-site labor and LSSI contributes a portion of the material costs. In addition, inmates are able to make a positive contribution to society and learn a trade at the same time.

Coles County Habitat has partnered with LSSI since 1995. Since 1998 Taylorville Correctional Facility has built the walls for our houses and Greenville Federal Penitentiary has built the cabinets.

This program is another wonderful example how people, working together, can improve communities and the lives of people in need.

Standardized House Plan by Mike Elam

Since becoming a board member with Coles County Habitat for Humanity, I have seen several changes. In the past, Coles County Habitat has only been able to build one house a year. This motivated group knew it was time to step up its efforts. The need is there and we knew we needed to do a better job. Out past president, Sharon Monroe, and her husband, Ron, left us with a challenge. That was to build more houses for families in need of better housing and to build them quicker. We set a goal to build at least two house a year, which would double our current pace.

It all began as a vision. The board saw a need and stepped up. The biggest hold up we saw was organization and planning. When we put our heads Together, the standardized plan was one result. Now all our houses are laid out with the with the same floor plan. Each home is single level, three bedroom, two full bathrooms and 1072 square feet of living space. All houses now come with central air conditioning, a feature the board decided on to reduce future utility bills for the homeowners. I could go on and on, but you get the idea.

With the help of many professional, that goal has been envisioned and come into focus. With the help of Don Hance as architect, Tim Parker on construction supplies, Butch Thompson as foreman of construction and

many others too numerous to mention, the first house from this plan has been built and turned into a home. With an ambitious build schedule of twelve weeks, this house was completed in record time. Lisa Wehr now proudly owns this home located at 114 12th Street. Stop by and check it out.

We are now ready to build the next house and see it transform in to a home for a family. I'm certain that it will be built with just as much efficiency. Contact the Habitat office or one of the board members or any of our proud volunteers for information about how you can help.

Come out and see for yourself, catch the fever!

Coles County Habitat for Humanity
P. O. Box 945
Charleston, IL 61920

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MISSION STATEMENT: Coles County Habitat for Humanity's (CCHFC) mission is to improve our community by providing affordable, owner-occupied single family housing to low income families in Coles County.

Our office is located at 2202 4th Street, Charleston, IL 61920. The phone number is (217) 348-7063.
Normal business hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

I want to be Part of Habitat for Humanity!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- I would like to be on the Board
- I would like to help with Fundraising
- I would like to help with Publicity
- I would like to work on the Newsletter
- I would like to help with Family Selection
- I would like to help with Family Support
- I would like to help find Building Sites
or Houses to Rehabilitate
- I would like to help with Construction
- I would like to own a Habitat Home
- I would like to make a
donation of \$ _____

Detach and Mail to:
Coles County Habitat
P.O. Box 945
Charleston, IL 61920