



# friends & neighbors

## Foundation, Walls Spring Up in Elmwood

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### SPREAD THE WORD!!!

Please help spread the word. Habitat needs land donations!



*Elmwood had its Ground Breaking Ceremony on August 12, 2007. Left to right: Site Supervisor, Keith Larson, future Homeowner, Terri Hartung and Family Support Partner, Jodi Pulk.*

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**A good name is more desirable than great riches, and high esteem, than gold and silver.  
Rich and poor have a common bond; the Lord is the maker of them all.**

Proverbs 22:1-2

### BOARD MEMBER BIOS!

Ever wonder who keeps the St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity running? Each board member devotes much time and effort to keep the organization building houses for those in need.

Check out pages 4 and 5 to see what each one said when asked about their service: What they do, what motivates them and the best thing about volunteering.

FALL 2007

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Newsletter

## Big Dollars Bring Broad Smiles

*The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), granted \$30,000 to the St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity in late July. The money will help pay for land where Habitat is building a home for a disabled Homowner and her family.*

*Left to right: SCVHFH Executive Director Amy Muzzy, WHEDA Community Relations Officer Bryan Antony and former SCVHFH board and Fund Development Committee member Dave Ihle.*



### Baldwin House



*The Battah family and volunteers made a whole house worth of progress since breaking ground in May. On what once was an all asphalt lot, sits a two-level Habitat home with garage. Other than a bit of landscaping, workers will be busy inside the home until late October or early November. Pictured: left Adil Battah & right Faiza Quran*



### Prescott House

*Sanding in the bathroom...*

*Volunteers from Bethel Lutheran Church usually come to the Prescott home on Thursdays and will probably be doing trim work soon. Pictured are future homeowner, Molly Cunningham (bottom) and her Family Support Partner, Pat Holte (top).*

**THANK YOU to all our donors.**

*Our heartfelt gratitude to everyone listed. It is only through your generosity that we are able to succeed in our mission of providing simple, affordable housing to those in need.*

**Business Partners**

Anderson Computer Services  
Anderson Heating, Inc.  
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota  
Dairy Queen Brazier, Prescott  
Digital Dynamics  
First National Bank, Prescott  
Hausner Plumbing  
Keller Williams Realty  
Monarch Paving Company  
Rodli, Beskar, Boles, Krueger & Pletcher, S.C.  
Steiner Plumbing & Electric, Inc.  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
United Way of St. Croix Valley

**Church Partners**

Family of Christ Lutheran Church  
Mount Zion Lutheran Church  
Rush River Lutheran Church, Youth  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

**Gifts In Honor**

Of Joel Palmquist from Mike and Rae Farley  
Of Betty Wojtowicz from Ernest & Roberta Bazey  
Of Betty Wojtowicz from John & Janet Wojtowicz

**Matching Gifts**

3M Corporation  
Thompson West  
Thrivent Builds Gifts

**ANNUAL APPEAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

*Please consider a gift to the St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity during our Annual Appeal. We ask that you give what you can to help build homes for those in need.*

*From real estate and people power to newsletter printing and office supplies, we appreciate all donations of time, talent and treasure.*

**Our Donors**

**Individual Partners**

Harold Ammerman  
Anonymous  
The Raheem Battah Family  
Doug and Judy Fahrendorff  
Rev. James Dabruzzo  
Gordy Falkofske  
Robert Gustafson  
Nicholas & Inga Karolides  
Stuart Krueger  
John Levi  
Sandy Lomnes  
Pat McCann  
Kathleen Milano  
Francis Ogden  
Tom Schmidt  
James and Cheri Shumacher  
Timothy Stenerson  
Carol Stephan  
Albert & Margaret Timmerman  
Roger Ware

**Grants**

Andersen Windows Corporation  
The AnnMarie Foundation  
Foundation Grant (anonymous)  
Bike & Build, Inc.  
Edina Realty Foundation, Prescott  
Edina Realty Foundation, River Falls  
Habitat for Humanity International  
THRIVENT BUILDS HOMES  
WE Energies through WI Energy Corp. Foundation  
WHEDA Foundation

**HABITAT NEEDS LIST:**

Habitat appreciates all donations of people's time, talent, treasure and tools! Keep in mind that monetary gifts are tax deductible. Our specific needs this fall:

**BIG TICKET ITEMS** - buildable lots, laptops for work sites, fundraising volunteers and a volunteer to coordinate and recruit volunteers, four-color newsletter printing.

**SUPPLIES** - Copy paper, file folders, first aid kits, paper cups, napkins, paper cutter.

Please call the SCVHFH office to arrange for drop-off of donated items.

## OUR BOARD MEMBERS

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Newsletter

**DALENE CRANDALL**, a real estate broker, started serving Habitat six years ago and holds the board's treasurer position. She is involved with Habitat because "I remember what it was like as a child to not know where my family would be living" and wants to help others in the same position. Dalene finds the accounting work challenges her and she wants to give back to the community.



**JIM HAUSCHILD**, partner in a fabricating company, got involved with Habitat three years ago and serves as a vice president and construction supervisor. He feels his family has been blessed and thinks everyone should share. Jim enjoys working with volunteers and giving people a first or second chance at being a homeowner.



**MARK JOHNSON**, a university disability-services coordinator and former mental health counselor, joined the board this year and chairs the Family Support Committee. He and his wife lived in "rudimentary" housing, saving for years to build. Mark says, "we realized how much it benefited our family to have a home." He believes getting involved with Habitat is a great way to give back to the community.

**STUART KRUEGER**, a law-firm partner, had been doing public service work for SCVHFH and got onto the Habitat board two years ago. He also serves on SCVHFH's Mortgage Compliance Committee and says he got involved because he thinks everybody ought to do some kind of public service work. "Stu" said, "it's gratifying to see Habitat's work make a difference in someone's life; it means and does more than sending a check".



**KEITH LARSON**, a retired Spring Valley school teacher, joined Habitat 7 years ago and is often site supervisor during construction. Keith enjoys the home-building camaraderie and feels he always learns new skills from working with others.

**JOHN LEVI**, a financial consultant, has been volunteering eight years and chairs the Church Relations Committee. John feels volunteering is very rewarding and loves giving back to the community. He says, "the best thing about serving is getting to meet families and working side-by-side with them on their new home."



**JAY LIVERMORE**, a retired engineer, jumped into Habitat work about four years ago and serves on both the Family Support and Church Relations Committees. He says, "the job(s) allow me a small way to return the health and happiness that have blessed my family." Jay thinks seeing the joy on a new homeowner's face makes the work worthwhile.

**MORRIS MARSOLEK**, a retired product-development manager, belongs to the Church Relations Committee and has worked for Habitat for 10 years. He enjoys being able to provide affordable housing and more importantly, to create community involvement. He loves giving and the opportunity to inspire volunteerism in the new homeowner.



## OUR BOARD MEMBERS



**PATTI MCCANN**, mother of four and advertising professional, serves as the St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity President. She joined the local board three years ago and has been doing Habitat work for a total of 15 years. Patti also belongs to the Public Relations, Construction, Family Support and Church Relations Committees. "There are many ways to give back because I am grateful for what I have been blessed with. Habitat is one way for me to do that," she says. Patti loves working with the homeowners and their families and the volunteers who give their hearts.



**FRANCIS OGDEN**, a retired civil engineer/land surveyor and business owner, has been with Habitat for 11 years and serves on several committees: Site Selection, Fund Raising and Construction. He says, "I just want to do it" and enjoys working with friends in the organization to make things happen.



**JOEL PALMQUIST**, a carpenter, began building Habitat houses 23 years ago and chairs the Construction Committee. A couple spoke at his church and inspired him by uprooting themselves to start a Habitat in Utah. This made Joel think "there must be something to this..." He says, "the homes make a special difference for children." He likes seeing everyone work together - homeowners to be, their loved ones and volunteers.



**NANCY PARLIN**, retired professor with a Ph.D. in Sociology, became a board member 6 years ago and started the university Habitat Chapter 17. What she likes about Habitat: "It's very concrete, you actually provide housing..." She thinks of the children who without a Habitat home, would move around and change schools often. "I think that is the most important thing."



**ROGER PAVLIS**, a retired engineer, began with Habitat this year and serves on the Construction Committee. He says, "the organization is just good and it provides affordable housing for people who wouldn't otherwise have a house." He likes seeing the homeowners' joy when they get a home as well as working with them and the volunteers.



**PAUL RAMBERG**, a former dairy farmer, helped establish the St. Croix Valley Chapter 11 years ago, now serving on the Construction Committee. Paul says, "I volunteer to challenge myself and help others; and, it keeps my building skills sharp."



**PETER STACY**, college professor and former prison superintendent, joined Habitat's board 2 years ago. He says, "the work is consistent with my social-work profession, which removes barriers that may interfere with people fully participating in our democratic society." He enjoys providing individuals with a greater sense of belonging and more opportunities to feel valued.



**GLORIA WAHRENBROCK**, local business owner, started with Habitat 10 years ago. She chairs the Site Selection Committee and is past president and treasurer. Gloria loves working with people, especially children and says, "I got involved because I believe it's important to use our abilities, talents and gifts to help others and getting involved locally has the greatest impact."

# Construction Update

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Newsletter

*All six homes that were started in 2007 will be completed by the end of the year or early 2008. Joel Palmquist says, "volunteer manpower drops a bit in the fall, but progress always continues."*

**BALDWIN** — *Contractors will be busy installing heating and duct work inside the now-finished frame. Outside walls should be finished by the end of September then comes insulation, drywall and plumbing rough in.*

**ELMWOOD** — *Crews poured the foundation and completed outside walls for this two-level split home and expected to finish the upper frame by mid September.*

**HAMMOND** — *Busy builders hung drywall, finished taping and expected to start painting inside during September. That clears the way for finishing work: Trim, doors, cabinetry, floor covering and insulation.*

**PRESCOTT** — *Volunteers are dry walling, taping, sanding and painting.*

**RIVER FALLS** — *Build teams have hung the drywall in both sides of this twin home. Sanding, painting, trim and finishing should go quickly on the single-level structures that have slightly less square footage than an average Habitat home.*

## FAMILY SUPPORT PARTNERS

### Partnership worth supporting

*Habitat's Family Support Partners fill a need most new homeowners truly require: Someone to talk to. A caring, knowledgeable person they can call with home-related questions as they embark into unfamiliar territory.*

*Family Support Partners can be a couple or an individual willing to take on the job of developing a rapport with the soon-to-be-homeowners and acting not only as their mentor but also as their SCVHFH liaison.*

*Family Support Partners usually plan a ground-breaking or house-blessing ceremony; encourage and monitor the family's progress toward their required sweat-equity hours and escrow payments; give advice during the family's first year occupying their new home; and generally make themselves available for support and advice.*

*Family Support Partners Committee Chairperson, Mark Johnson said, "I estimate the time commitment at about five hours per month, including one regular, monthly meeting with other Family Support Partners."*

*Volunteers can expect frequent activity during the six-nine months of building with decreased activity during the family's first year in the home. After new homeowners move in, meetings typically stop unless they request one.*

*Mark said, "All these things become very rewarding experiences for all parties."*

**To volunteer as a Family Support Partner, please call or e-mail Mark Johnson: 715-425-1595, [mark.r.johnson@uwrf.edu](mailto:mark.r.johnson@uwrf.edu)**

### Family Support Partners - 2007

*Sharon and Gerry Afdahl  
Myren and Karen Cowles  
Mike and Pat Holte  
Mark and Kathy Johnson  
Jay Livermore  
Jodi Pulk*

## Golden Nail Ceremony Held

### River Falls House



### Hammond House

*Most of the exterior work on the Hammond site of Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity is complete. Volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church, including homeowner Nancy Norman (raking), painted interior walls on Sept. 15 while a group from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls worked on building a retaining wall.*



Left to right: Future Homeowners, Olivia & Chris Siedow with sons, Joel & Evan & baby daughter Leanna with Family Support Partners, Mark & Kathy Johnson. Olivia shares, "It will be wonderful to have a payment we can afford and a house with a backyard."



Left to right: Future Homeowners, Lori Koester & daughter Michelle with Family Support Partner, Jay Livermore. Lori shares that "it is a challenge, there are no words to describe what it feels like to see everyone working as a team."



Evan and Joel Siedow aim for their Golden Nails!



Lori pounds in a Golden Nail to her future home!



Habitat for Humanity, along with a generous donation from Thrivent Builds Homes, fosters a partnership with homeowners, creating affordable housing in local communities.

## Family Highlight

Current homeowner Chelsei VanNurden shares...

*"First, I should tell you a little bit about my family. I am a single parent of two beautiful daughters, Alexis and Macie. Alexis is my oldest daughter and has cerebral palsy. Macie is my youngest and full of energy.*

*I have always dreamed of owning a home, but never really thought it was possible. Raising two children on my own has been a challenge, of course one that I love. I came in contact with Habitat for Humanity last summer and decided to try to apply for a home.*

*When I received the phone call that I was selected to receive a home, I couldn't believe it. It was something positive happening to my family. Something we needed so badly.*

*The place we were living at before was not accommodating to our family situation. It was not a healthy and safe place to live. It was so exciting to work on my new house. I really feel like my heart is in that house.*

*The day we were able to move into our house was so rewarding. Knowing that I was part of making it happen meant so much to me. My children and I enjoy our home each and everyday. We are truly grateful for the opportunity that was given to us. Life is much easier having a home that meets my daughter's needs. God has truly answered our prayers. I will never be able to thank Habitat for Humanity and all the wonderful volunteers that came to help enough.*

*Words could not express my appreciation for what they did for me. I am proud to be a part of the Habitat family."*

**Extra: Chelsei was recently married - Congrats Chelsei!!!!**



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