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**Building Houses.....  
Building Hope**

**A Quarterly Newsletter of Habitat for Humanity-Lima Area, Inc.**

**Spring/Summer, 2009**

### **HFH-Lima Board of Directors**

Bruce Hilty, President  
*Site Selection Committee*

Mel Hathaway, Vice President  
*Construction Committee*

Jane Brown, Secretary  
*Church Relations Committee*

Marilyn Taylor  
*Family Support Committee*

Charles Roby  
*Construction Committee*

Francis O. Oruma  
*Resource Development Committee*

Melinda Hobler  
*Family Selection Committee*

Marcel Wagner  
*Board Development Committee*

Karen S. Miller  
*Board Development Committee*

Joan Nunnally  
*Family Support Committee*

Carol Blass

### **Affiliate Staff**

#### **Construction Managers**

Andy Chappell-Dick  
Dwight Hartman

#### **ReStore Staff**

Chuck Eichelberger  
Stan Bauman  
Pete Marriotti

#### **Staff Accountant**

B. Emanuel Goode

#### **Executive Director**

Lavon J. Welty

## **Habitat Lima Recognized with Two Awards**



Two new mementos grace the window sill in the Executive Director's office, each symbolizing a special recognition and award accorded to our Lima Habitat affiliate during the past several months. The first was a "Community Impact Award" given by the Dominion East Ohio



foundation and *Inside Business* magazine.

The Allen County Chamber of Commerce is the source of the second, naming our affiliate as a finalist for the 2009 Non-Profit of the Year for Allen County.

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## **2009 Builds: Lima (Reese Ave.) and Delphos (W. Wayne St.)**

As we closed out 2008, Shane and Ashley Harter and their three children, Zoe (6), Zane (5), and Zaria (1) felt like they were receiving a very special Christmas Present. Their Thrivent Financial for Lutherans / Lutheran churches sponsored house was dedicated Sunday, December 14,

2008 with closing the following Friday. It was a festive atmosphere as Christmas decorations brightened the celebration. Their house was the fifth house built under Thrivent/Lutheran Sponsorship by our Lima affiliate. It was also the third house the affiliate built in Delphos.

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 **Habitat for Humanity®** | **ReStore** — See Page 3



## ***On my mind...from the Executive Director***

***Lavon J. Welty***

**O**ur accountant, Manny Goode, recently put together a four-year financial summary for the years 2005-08. It is a fascinating document telling much about the experience of the affiliate during these years.

The four-year summary covers a time when the affiliate built sixteen houses giving sixteen families the opportunity to own their own home who otherwise would not have enjoyed this privilege. This was made possible by the generosity of many persons in the area. The report shows that more than one million dollars has been donated by individuals, businesses and churches. An additional \$150,000 has come to the affiliate in grants and in the first six months of operation our new ReStore has generated \$35,500.

For an affiliate of its size and geographical location these figures are impressive. Equally significant is the fact that more than \$98,000 was sent as a tithe of our donations to Habitat for Humanity International for house builds in Guatemala and Africa. The staff and Board of Directors are grateful for the opportunities to serve in this housing ministry.

These have been good years for the affiliate. During these years we were the recipient of an estate distribution amounting to \$325,000. We also were very privileged to be granted funding for five houses through the Thrivent Builds program through the Lutheran church that brought more than \$220,000 to the affiliate. These donations funded nearly half of the houses we built in the four years.

We can only express gratitude for these two revenue sources. Yet the reality is that if we are to continue averaging four houses a year let alone increase capacity we must find alternate sources to replace these funds. No one has informed us that they plan to die and leave a sizable amount of money to us!

The Thrivent program will continue for another two years but for 2009 only one house will be funded in Lima. The only word for 2010 is that the program will continue but with fewer houses. Given our past experience we can have some confidence that we will be funded for at least one house in 2010. Nothing is assured beyond that.

As I look into the next four years it is very obvious that we face very significant challenges if we are to maintain our current level of programming. After grants, mortgage payments, and gen-

eral contributions we must raise approximately \$54,000 for each house—a total of \$865,000 over the next four years!

We can be assured that the ReStore will grow in its capacity to generate funds. The experience of the next year or so will provide a good picture of how much the store can actually generate. For the present, I am hoping that ReStore revenues will contribute no less than \$2,000 to the income budget of each house. This would require a net revenue of \$32,000 if we build four houses each year. Along with the ReStore staff I believe that this is a modest goal, one that we will surpass as we continue to see it grow.

Two new initiatives have been started in the past several months that will also help as they develop. The first is contracting with Rochelle Twinning to develop and grow Club 1000. Rochelle was formerly the CEO of LACCA, the community action agency in the Lima area. Consequently she is well acquainted with the community and is well-known in the community. This special fundraising effort developed in the late 90's has maintained a "membership" of approximately 125 individuals and families who have faithfully donated their \$10.00 per month. Many of these simply donate annually sending in their \$120.00 while others send quarterly or biannual donations.

Contracting with her, Rochelle is our Board's signal that they believe that many more can be found to make a similar commitment thus significantly increasing the funding that comes from individuals. 1000 members could fund two houses annually!

The second initiative is a new cooperative arrangement among churches in the Lima area. Called an "APOSTLES BUILD" it seeks to bring twelve churches together to sponsor a house with finances and volunteers. In the past we have had strong church support with individual churches or smaller groups of churches. We are finding, however, that raising the needed funds by a single church or even three or four is very difficult. A twelve church cooperative effort has made this more possible in other locations and we are eager to see it happen here.

There is little doubt that funding our program will be a major challenge in the future. We ask your prayers as we face this challenge. As always we will be deeply grateful for the trust you place in as you send your financial support to us.

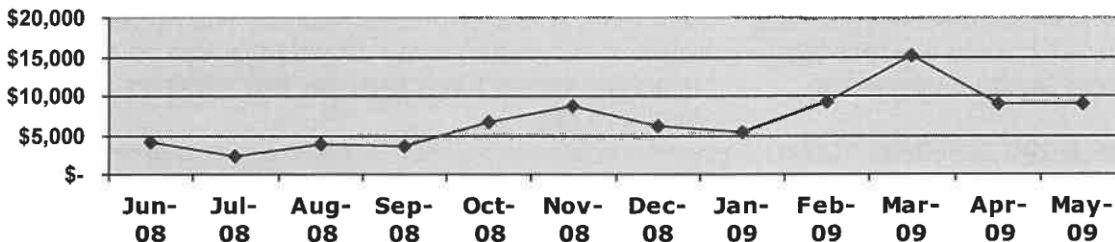


# ReStore

After twelve months of operation the Habitat for Humanity-Lima Area ReStore growth continues at a steady and positive rate. Donations continue to grow in number and quantity providing more opportunity to involve volunteers the overall operation of the store.

Our customer count grows each week resulting in increased sales and dollar amounts taken in. The chart below provides a picture of the ReStore's sales experience. The Restore staff was thrilled to break the \$15,000 mark in sales in the month of March!

Awareness of the ReStore's existence has been heightened by the traditional avenues such as advertising and appearances on local television shows such as the 12:00 noon news show on WLIO-TV hosted by Holly Geaman. Craigslist has been a good way to inform interested persons of what is available in the store. Perhaps the best way of getting the word out is "word-of-mouth"—one person telling another. It is not unusual to hear a first-time customer calling a friend on their cell phone to tell them that they should come to the store as soon as possible to check out items for their projects.



Over the first twelve months of operation the store has received an average of 65 donations a month. Many are items that come from home remodeling projects such as cabinets, sinks, doors, and windows. Other items are from individuals for whom those items are no longer needed. In almost all cases these items would have been sent to a landfill had they not been donated to the ReStore. In fact, an accepted formula applied to our experience indicates that more than 55 tons of items have been diverted from local landfills.

The ReStore has received larger donations

from area businesses. One local financial services business donated office furniture including lateral filing cabinets and desks. They also donated a large conference table and chairs that are now in the affiliate Board room. Another plumbing store in Lima closed and gave their entire remaining inventory including four Jacuzzi bath tubs!

A new initiative has been to "deconstruct" houses. The Allen County Commissioners negotiated with us to remove useful items



Store Manager Chuck Eichelberger and Interim Floor Manager examine a new porch light donated for sale to the ReStore.

in seven houses that stood in the way of the Eastown Road extension. Typical items such as kitchen and bath fixtures, windows, doors, and light fixtures were taken out and brought to the ReStore. Overhead garage doors and water heaters were salvaged from several of them. One had a room with a rough sawn wood on its walls. Fairly easy to remove, it brought to the store more than 800 board feet of lumber. No one is really sure what kind the wood was! Within a week it was sold!

The question is often raised as to who can shop in the ReStore. And the answer is...You Can! The ReStore is meant to serve the public and especially those who are concerned about how much is

wasted in our society. It is for all who find satisfaction in doing their home updating and remodeling with materials that are good quality that would oth-

erwise be thrown away.

While the ReStore needs customers, it also needs volunteers to help as a way to keep costs lower. Our greatest need at the moment is for people who can do regular weekly or bi-weekly shifts staffing the cash register. Call Chuck Eichelberger at 419-222-4257 if you would be willing to help out in this way.

If you have not yet stopped by to see what all is taking place, do so soon. Be prepared for a surprise! You will see high quality items that you may find it hard to resist for your home!

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For the past fourteen years Dominion East Ohio Gas Company has given special recognition to non-profit agencies that make a difference in their communities with their annual Community Impact Awards. Organizations recognized have undertaken economic and social revitalization projects, often with limited resources, that have helped to reshape the social climate in their neighborhoods. The 2009 awards were formally announced in the March 2009 issue of *Inside Business* magazine and given in a March 3 luncheon at the Stages Restaurant at the Cleveland Playhouse in Cleveland, OH.

Nearly 100 entries were submitted for consideration by a panel of judges. All these organizations have worked hard to make their community a better place to live, work and play. Habitat for Humanity-Lima Area, Inc. is pleased and honored to be among the thirteen organizations honored in the 2008 as a Community Impact Award winner for our work in developing the Habitat Center.

Our affiliate was recognized for occupying a vacated space—empty for nearly four years—and transforming it into a center that serves as a hub for all affiliate activities including affiliate offices, a building materials warehouse, and a ReStore.

Chuck Eichelberger, ReStore manager, and Lavon Welty, Executive Director, were on hand at the March luncheon to receive the award. Each winner was given a beautiful fused-glass art piece and a \$6,400 gift for ongoing affiliate work. Special thanks goes to Dwight Hartman who gave primary leadership to the renovations needed to make the building at 123 E. Wayne St., Lima usable, to Chuck Eichelberger who wrote the business plan for the ReStore and now manages it, and to Rochelle Twining who volunteered to write the material that was submitted to the competition.

Then on May 27 a large crowd gathered at the University of Northwest Ohio Event Center for the Seventh Annual Awards Gala sponsored by the Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce. The gala featured a fine dinner catered by Lock Sixteen Catering and a program announcing the winners of special awards recognizing outstanding achievement in six different categories. Habitat for Humanity-Lima Area, Inc. had been nominated by Chamber member Fidelity Builders Supply, Inc. for consideration as the 2009 Non-Profit of the Year in the Chamber service area, one of more than a dozen nominated.

To be considered the agency was required to describe in detail the services provided and how it benefited the community.

As with the Dominion Foundation Award, we focused on the significance of the step we had taken in moving our operations to the Habitat Center and the opening of the ReStore as part of that move. The centralization of our services in one location to better serve our clientele was a major emphasis as was our new effort in the ReStore to recycle and re-use house-hold items, thus performing a vital environmental service in keeping useable items out of landfills.

A panel of judges reviewed the materials submitted and narrowed the field to three finalists and then eventually to a single winner. While our affiliate was not the final winner of the award, to be named among the top three was a very significant accomplishment. Senator Bill Harris, President of the Ohio Senate along with Senator Keith Faber, Majority Floor Leader, sent greetings: "This special accolade offers all associated with Habitat for Humanity the unique opportunity to reflect on the success of the past and to look with optimism to the future." They go on to say that "The organization has contributed greatly to the area's well-being and has set a shining example for others to emulate."

The Board and Staff are proud to have received both of these special recognitions. We are fully aware that without the strong support of the larger Allen County community we could have never achieved the success these awards denote. The credit belongs to all those who have volunteered their time and energy in building the forty houses that are now homes to individuals and families who otherwise would never have enjoyed the opportunity of homeownership. It also belongs to all whose conscience will not let them merely throw very useable items out as trash but rather are eager to see them used to enhance and beautify the homes of others in the community. It belongs also to all who financially support and pray for this ministry. Thanks to all!

**Memorial Gifts....**in memory of Philip K. Clemens, pastor of Pike Mennonite Church who died March 1, 2009, totaling \$500.00 were received from the following:

Jeff & Chrissy Lugibuhl, Pandora, OH  
 Marilyn Hartman, Elida, OH  
 Roene Seyer, Elida, OH  
 Wilbur & Delores Bauman, Normal, IL  
 Earl & Wilma Hofstetter, Elida, OH  
 Robert & Joyce Suter, Pandora, OH  
 Dave & Karen Emans, Pandora, OH  
 Francis & Mary Geiger, Pandora, OH  
 Fred & Edith Troyer, Elida, OH  
 Tim & Chris McCarthy, Bluffton, OH  
 Clair & Della Lucas, Ft. Jennings, OH  
 Doyle Prehiem, Santa Fe, NM  
 Jacob & June Landes, Goshen, IN

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As this house was being completed planning was underway for two more houses. The first would be located at 1145 Reese Ave. in Lima, the second of four houses that our affiliate is building in the Whittier Place development. After some weather-related delays this house was started in mid-March. It is being built with partner family Pam Ashford and her two sons, Tyler (8) and Daris (6). It is the sixth house that area Lutheran churches and their financial services organization, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans are sponsoring for our affiliate. Dedication for this house took place on Saturday, June 20.

The second house is located at 709 W. Wayne St. in Delphos. This house is sponsored by the Delphos Area Ministerial Association and a major grant from the Allen County Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP). Carla Lanteigne is the partner family for this house. Carla is the mother of two children, Cierra (10) and Aiden (3). The fourth Habitat house to be constructed in Delphos, we are looking toward a mid-August completion and dedication.

### 1145 Reese Ave., Lima



### 1080 Superior St., Delphos

### 709 W. Wayne St., Delphos

