



Lima Area, Inc.

A Quarterly Newsletter of Habitat For Humanity Lima Area, Inc.

Fall, 1998

President's Message

At our November Board planning meeting, we only chose one goal - to build three houses in 1999. That's right - three houses. How will we accomplish this feat?? We plan to rely on the two basic principles that underlie the whole Habitat program.

The first principle is "little is much if God is with you." Habitat firmly believes that God is able to take our puny efforts and multiply them to accomplish the gigantic.

We must do two things to assure that God will multiply our efforts. **The first is PRAY!!**

Habitat's second principle says that even though obstacles rise before us, if we come before God in prayer, an answer will be found.

All movements of God come after God's people have first prayed earnestly about an issue. We have many things to pray about if we are to accomplish our goal.

The second thing that we must do is to ask all of our volunteers and supporters to commit themselves to once again help Lima's Habitat group so we can meet this goal. Don't worry about success or failure, just be faithful to God's call and He will handle the rest.

Why is it important for us to commit our efforts to this goal?? According to John Maxwell, "Until I'm committed, there's a hesitancy, a chance to draw back. But the moment I definitely commit myself, then God moves also and a whole stream of events erupt. All manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings, personal and material assistance which I could never have dreamed would come my way begin to flow toward me - the moment I make a commitment."

Join together with us once again, make a commitment and let's watch what God and his people can do!

-Don McClure

Family Selection Team News

We commit to finding five partner families to help us build our next three houses. We also commit to working with the Family Nurture Committee to upgrade our sweat equity policy. Our biggest challenge will be to develop a policy that will cover potential partner families with disabilities.

We also commit to working with the Publicity Committee to find new ways to reach the families that we need to work with. We will also be working with several churches in the area in which we are building to hold Family Selection drives. If you would like to help us, contact Don McClure at 331-6027.

A Habitat Christmas Wish



- ❧ A joyous and happy New Year for Habitat's partner families and our supporters.
- ❧ Five new partner families in 1999
- ❧ 250 new Club 1000 members and 10 new churches to join and promote Club 1000 in their congregations
- ❧ A storage building for lumber and donated supplies
- ❧ A tool trailer
- ❧ Local building supply houses to help us develop a supply of tools to call our own - so we don't have to rely so much on our volunteers supplying theirs
- ❧ Local building supply houses to work with their suppliers to enable us to get materials as economically as possible
- ❧ Two churches or church groups to sponsor homes in 1999
- ❧ A construction supervisor - to supervise our workdays and train new volunteers
- ❧ An experienced office volunteer to handle filing and clerical duties
- ❧ Three minority Board members to help create a more culturally/racially diverse Board of Directors
- ❧ More volunteers to help our Church Relations, Family Selection, Family Nurture, Site Development, Public Relations, and Volunteer Recruitment Committees
- ❧ A Chairperson for our Construction Committee
- ❧ Home builders or local contractors to volunteer foremen to help lead Habitat work days

Give Ken Pulley, our Executive Director, a call and discuss ways that you can help Habitat to build three new homes in Lima in 1999.

Grace Youth Auction Benefits Habitat

Last year, Grace Mennonite Youth Fellowship in Pandora raised almost \$2700 for Habitat-Lima through an auction and matching gifts from church members and the Mennonite Mutual Aid Association. Their gift provided 22 Memberships in Club 1000 and was a tremendous achievement. Many probably wondered what they could possibly do for an encore!!

This year, once again, they decided to do another auction and donate half the proceeds to Habitat. The auction was held at the church on Saturday, November 7, and was an overwhelming success - raising over \$6000 (in total) and \$3009 for Habitat in Lima. Since then, we have also received \$500 from the Mennonite Mutual Aid Association on behalf of the Youth Group.

We cannot say enough to thank these dedicated young people and their adult leaders. They are truly a blessing and an example for all of us in carrying out our housing ministry.

Annual Planning Meeting

On Saturday, November 14, the Habitat Board of Directors and Executive Director met to lay plans for 1999 and beyond. The primary focus was on "What will it take to build three Houses in 1999 and get ourselves prepared for an even bigger schedule in future years?"

This focus generated almost 40 action items from attendees! These items were assigned to nine committees for action and provide a base for committee goals in 1999. It is an ambitious program; but with God "all things are possible."

As we proceed into the New Year, we will be sharing these plans with our Habitat Partners and praying that you will join with us to make them a reality.



Tithing Expresses Our Faith

Tithing is fundamental to the success of Habitat for Humanity, both in Lima and around the World. Just as many of our supporters tithe from their resources, Habitat-Lima shares its resources with others in need throughout the World. Ten percent of our unrestricted donations goes to Habitat International to support its Housing Ministry overseas. In 1998, we gave over \$6500.00, our largest contribution to date.

For every Habitat House built in the United States, there are 2 houses built overseas. In some countries our tithe this year could build three or four simple, decent houses. We are truly blessed with many generous and caring partners who support our work and make it possible to share our blessings with families in need in over fifty (50) countries.

**“Divinely we give;
and Divinely we receive
from the Storehouse of God”**



An Incredible True Story from Alliance, Ohio

One year ago our affiliate was fortunate to experience the glory of Habitat's Christian ministry. We were \$10,000 short of finishing our seventh house. Christmas was two weeks away, and we had disappointed the family who had hoped to move in for the holiday. Spirits were low. At the December meeting of the Trustees, we were faced with a dilemma: pay our \$2500 tithe or work on the house.

The Trustees unanimously voted to pay the tithe. It is our obligation to this ministry, they said. They left the meeting comforted by the thought that all of God's children are deserving of a home, and though we will not likely meet the family whose house is built with the tithe, the Lord loves them with the same benevolence for the residents of Alliance.

Two weeks later we received a phone call. It was an anonymous donor who offered us the funds to finish the house, and a knowledgeable contact person to administer his funds for the build.

His contact, Roy Koehn, worked with our site supervisor, Charles Eynon, and they finished the home quickly. Pastor Koehn has built two other homes with us since and is working on blueprints with our site supervisors and others. The blessing grows and grows.

In the month following our donor's windfall, foundation support rolled in by the tens of thousands. We were suddenly planning a five-house project that doubled the amount of tithe money we will be sending. That single tithe decision changed the dynamic of our affiliate. The Lord's blessing for having chosen our tithe catapulted us to a higher level of building ministry. Praise God!
(This article was written by Lori Van Houten, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Alliance, Ohio.)

Habitat Celebrates and Dedicates the Oprah House

On Saturday, October 24, over 100 people gathered to celebrate the completion of the Oprah House and to dedicate it to the new homeowner, Alice Gatewood. The celebration was held in a pitched tent, across the street from the new house.

Representatives from the Habitat Board of Directors, the Area Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the City of Lima, WLIO-TV, and South Middle School spoke at the gathering and gave praise to Alice and the many wonderful volunteers who built this labor of love. Pastor Earnest Stephens of the Fourth Street Baptist Church gave the Invocation and House Blessing.

The Oprah House was sponsored by the Area Evangelical Lutheran Churches, WLIO, and Oprah's Angel Network. God smiled on us throughout this project, as no workdays were canceled because of weather; and we had a beautiful, warm day for the celebration.





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Welcome to our Newest Board Members

Matthew Ziccardi

Matt is a Clinical Neuropsychologist with an independent practice on West Market Street, established in 1997. He has an undergraduate degree in psychology from Ohio State University and a doctorate in psychology from Wright State University. Before coming to Lima, he was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, DC. For several years, he was Latchkey Coordinator for the Council for Retarded Citizens of Franklin County in Columbus. Matt has done extensive research and writing in his field, and has had a great deal of experience in providing services to children, adolescents, and adults. On the Habitat Board, he serves as a member of the Volunteer Committee.

Vickie A Smith

Vickie, a native of Lima and 1976 graduate of Bluffton College, is the Creative Service Director for WLIO-TV in Lima. For 21 years she has been responsible for the station's public service announcements as well as commercial production. For 5 years Vickie was a radio talk show host; she has been active in a variety of youth programs; and she continues to be actively involved in Jester's Roving Players theatrical productions, most recently playing Sister Hubert in *Nonsense*. She also holds leadership roles in a number of civic organizations in the Lima area, including Cheryl Allen Center, the NAACP, the Democratic Party, the Black Catholics Lay Committee, the South Middle School PTA, and Lima's 5th Ward. Vickie and her two children are members of St Charles Catholic Church. On the Habitat Board, Vickie serves as Chairperson of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee.