



Raising the Roof

Spring 2008 Volume 13, Issue 1

Mission

Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County unites God's people to provide decent, affordable housing for families in need.

Message from the President

Greetings,

My name is Curt Willard and I'm the new board president of Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County. This June our affiliate celebrates its 10th anniversary serving the residents of DeKalb County, building decent and affordable housing. In the ten years we have come a very long way, but many challenges and needs of our Christian Ministry still lie ahead. As I sit here typing this message I just wonder what the future will bring in the next ten years. The group of dedicated individuals that formed this organization 10 years ago, and the many supporters and volunteers, have built an organization with a very strong foundation. So the future looks very bright.

In just a few short weeks we start our 9th build which will take place in the Village of Kingston, Illinois. We are very honored to be working with the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans group and 14 DeKalb County Lutheran Congregations. The Ground Blessing Ceremony will be May 18, 2008 and we invite all our friends, supporters and partner families to join us in this very moving experience. This is a start to changing many lives, from the family that we are blessed to serve, to the many contributors and volunteers that have blessed us with their support. Each and every build is truly a life changing event that only our Father above, the true master builder, has made possible. This will be a very busy summer, but we are excited about the opportunity that lies ahead. To the folks from Thrivent and the Lutheran Congregations, I send out a special Thank You.

I have mentioned the challenges that lie ahead for our local affiliate. If you are a home owner in this beautiful part of Illinois you fully understand that the cost of real estate has sky rocketed. Acquiring land that is both affordable and buildable has been a big challenge in the past few years for us. With the down turn of the economy and the turmoil in the housing industry it is both a bitter and a sweet event. While more land, in the months ahead, may become more affordable the list of residents that will need to be ministered through Habitat will increase. We ask for your continued support in your time, prayers and contributions. We also need for each and every one of you to be our eyes and ears when it comes to available property. So if you see or hear of anything that is available please let us know. Also keep in mind that there maybe some tax advantages to donation of property especially when it comes to offsetting capital gains or in estate planning.

Once again, the support of our friends, local organizations and volunteers has made this all possible and I Thank You for your continued dedication to Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County — past, present and future...

God Bless each and every one of you,
Curt Willard

Upcoming Calendar

Ground Blessing—May 18, 2008, 2:00 pm (see inside for details)

Family Orientation—the next session will be sometime in May—please call office for date

Board Of Directors

Curt Willard, DeKalb,
President

Steve Diedrich, DeKalb,
Co-Vice President

Keri Nelson, Sycamore,
Co-Vice President

Jennifer Mescher, DeKalb,
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Nyoka Polyak, Cortland,
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Ileana Brooks, DeKalb

Kevin Cobb, Sycamore

Dave Diaz, Genoa

Lori Golden, DeKalb

Carrie Ickes, Paw Paw

Gil Larimer, Sycamore

Jeremy O'Brien, DeKalb

*Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County,
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and
participating DeKalb County Lutheran Churches
Invite You to Attend the
2008 DeKalb County Thrivent Build
Ground Blessing
Sunday, May 18th, 2008
2:00 pm
324 West St.
Kingston, Illinois*

We Are Looking for Buildable Lots—Do You Have One

Do you have land that you don't know what to do with? Do you have a house that you are tearing down and want to sell the lot? Are you looking for an organization to donate land to but don't know who to contact? Do you have a need for a possible taxable contribution but don't know who to contact? If you answer yes to any of these questions we have the answer. Contact us—Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County. We are always looking for buildable lots in DeKalb County that can be purchased at a reasonable price or that a seller might be willing to donate to us.

If you have not thought about this in the past you may want to think about it now. Bequeathing is another great way to give to an organization of something that you aren't sure of what to do with when the time comes.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact us at habitat@tbc.net or 815-758-5055.

HFHDC Launches New Website

This winter, thanks to the help of Max Bushmakin, we launched our new website. This is a very exciting time for us and we are so happy to be able to have a new way of communicating to the public. Our site will have news of what's going, how to get involved, dates of upcoming events and building timelines, information on how you can get involved, and information on becoming a partner family. We are finalizing our site now but you can check it out and explore it, pass along the site address to all of your friends, family members, and co-workers. And make sure to visit us often, we will keep it updated as new information becomes available. Make sure to bookmark us in your favorites!

Visit Us Now!!!

www.hfhdcillinois.org

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County

Kevin Cobb

A little information about Thrivent Builds.....

What is Thrivent Builds?

Through **Thrivent Builds**, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will sponsor the construction of hundreds of additional Habitat for Humanity homes every year in the United States by combining the efforts of 2.8 million Thrivent Financial members with Lutheran congregations and institutions, communities, partner families and Habitat affiliates. More than two-thirds of the funding for each home will be contributed by Thrivent Financial, its members and local chapters. The remaining funding will be raised through the ongoing efforts of local Lutheran congregations and Habitat affiliates. Thrivent Financial is committed to helping its members show their care and concern for others. Since 1991, Thrivent Financial and its members have worked with Habitat for Humanity to build more than 500 homes, raise more than \$25 million and contribute more than 1.4 million volunteer hours in homebuilding time. Besides the unprecedented level of financial and volunteer support this new program will bring to Habitat for Humanity, what makes Thrivent Builds Homes different than these past efforts is the new era of collaboration between the two organizations. With Thrivent Builds more homes can be built in less time than was possible with past programs. In addition, all Habitat affiliates tithe (that is, take 10% of funds raised) to support building Habitat homes in other countries. Tithing from Thrivent Builds contributions will allow up to 500 additional homes to be constructed around the world.

Locally, the DeKalb County Chapter of Thrivent, the 14 Lutheran congregations, and Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County partnered to build the next Habitat home in Kingston. Thrivent has provided 65% of the funding, the Habitat affiliate 25%, and DeKalb County Lutheran congregations 10%. Half of the volunteers are provided by the Lutheran churches in the county.

Who is Thrivent Financial for Lutherans?

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a fraternal benefit society, formed by the merger in 2002 of Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood. The organization and its affiliates offer a broad range of financial products and services including life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, disability income insurance, bank products and more. As a not-for-profit membership organization, Thrivent Financial also sponsors national outreach programs and activities that enable its members to demonstrate their care for others through support of congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. At the local level, chapters and congregations provide service activities that benefit Lutheran congregations and their communities.

For more than 100 years, Thrivent Financial has been guided by its members' shared Lutheran traditions and Christian values. Today, these same traditions and values form the foundation of an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of those it serves.

(sources: www.thriventbuilds.com and www.thrivent.com)

Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County and DeKalb County Chapter of Thrivent will be partnering with the following participating DeKalb County Lutheran Congregations:

DeKalb:	Bethlehem Lutheran Church First Lutheran Church Grace Free Lutheran Church Immanuel Lutheran Church Trinity Lutheran Church	Hinckley:	Immanuel Lutheran Church
		Sandwich:	Our Savior Lutheran Church Salem Lutheran Church
Sycamore:	Salem Lutheran Church St John Lutheran Church	Somonauk:	St John Lutheran Church
Genoa:	Trinity Lutheran Church		
Kirkland:	First Lutheran Church		
Lee:	Calvary Lutheran Church		

Office Hours: Wednesday nights from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Hours subject to change without notice)
Please note—our voicemail is only checked during office hours, if you'd like a quicker response, please email us as email is checked daily.

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2300 Sycamore Rd., #44
DeKalb, IL 60115
Phone: 815-758-5055
Email: habitat@fbc.net
Website: www.hfhdcillinois.org

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**I am very interested in supporting the efforts of Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County.
I would like more information about volunteering for a working committee.**

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Selection | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Selection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Coordination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity/Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising |

Enclosed please find my tax-deductible gift: ___\$200 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$25 ___\$ Other

I am interested in making an In-Kind Donation of equipment/materials/land:

Name _____ Phone () _____
Address _____ E-mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please remove this address from your mailing list | <input type="checkbox"/> My information has changed, please see above for changes |
|--|---|

Please mail form to:
Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County
2300 Sycamore Rd., #44
DeKalb, IL 60115-2055

Or fax form to:
(815) 758-5525

Or Email your interests to:
habitat@fbc.net