



HabiChat

Spring, 2007 Newsletter

FROM THE GROUND UP.....Rich Wandling, Acting President, CCHFH Board

One of the wonderful things about Habitat for Humanity is the opportunity to work with committed and caring people—from the many workday volunteers on through committee and board members working behind the scenes. One of these dedicated individuals is Ann Siverling who has served our affiliate as President since Fall 2004. However, to borrow from the title of a classic George Harrison album, “all things must pass,” and one of these is Ann leaving Coles County to take on an excellent professional and spiritual leadership opportunity as pastor of a Lutheran church in Minnesota.

Ann truly was a godsend to Coles County Habitat for Humanity, gladly stepping into our presidency when her predecessor, Sharon Monroe, was asked to take on leadership of a church in another part of the state. And now Ann assumes a similar opportunity, and one that will enable her to fully employ her unique combination of skills in the areas of leadership, wisdom and spirituality. On behalf of her fellow board members, I wish to thank Ann Siverling for all that she has contributed to our affiliate during this critical juncture in our local mission.

Along with thanking Ann for her leadership and service, I am also writing this letter to the friends of Coles County Habitat to discuss how we are addressing the presidential vacancy. The Board has decided that it would be best to forgo selection of a new president who would serve only for a very limited time period. With the Annual Meeting just around the corner—in August—the Board believes that we can move ahead smoothly through the Vice-President performing the “duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President to serve” (CCHFH by-laws). By taking this measure, we also can permit Marsha Blair and the Nomination Committee to have more time to develop a slate of Board officer nominees for the Annual Meeting. It is our sincerest hope that this transition works smoothly, and I must say it certainly is my hope—since I am the Vice-President being called upon in Ann’s absence. However, I really shouldn’t fret or worry, since I work with two excellent Board officers in Jim Craig (Treasurer) and Molly Daniel (Secretary); and ultra-effective office manager in Cindy Roberts; and a group of wise and hard-working fellow Board members.



It’s Time to Put on Those Running Shoes.....

Habitat’s annual 4 for the 4th run/walk is fast approaching. Start your Independence Day with family and friends at Morton Park. On July 4th, at 7:30 am, hundreds of runners and walkers will be stepping off to celebrate what makes our nation great: concern for other people. It has become a tradition in Coles County to make this day special with parades, backyard celebrations and fireworks. We would like to think CCHFH is becoming part of this tradition by giving our whole community a chance to enjoy our Nation’s birth and help local families realize their dream of homeownership.

4 for the 4th is a four mile run and two mile walk through Charleston. It begins and ends at Morton Park. The cost is \$15 for all people pre-registered by June 28. After June 28, the cost is \$20. Everyone who pre-registers is guaranteed a t-shirt. This is a timed race/walk and awards will be give to overall winners, as well as age group winners for the runners. The first three finishers of the walkers will also receive awards.

This is a fundraiser. And so, anyone securing \$50 or more in donations gets their registration fee waived, and will receive a t-shirt if they pre-register even if they don’t walk or run. All donations must be collected and turned in with your registration on or before race day. For a registration form, donor form or more information, please call Cindy at the Habitat office at 348-7063.





Introducing.....

Coles County Habitat for Humanity is proud to announce our newest family chosen to be a Habitat homeowner. Carrie Ward and her daughter Dru, age 6, will become our 18th homeowner.

Carrie was born and raised in Coles County and currently works with the developmentally disabled. Carries has a strong support system in Coles County as her family members live in Coles County as well. Carrie said that being chosen for a Habitat home is a "blessing from God and an absolute miracle." Carrie never thought she would have an opportunity to be a homeowner and she states that Dru is very excited about the Habitat house. She said that Dru is relieved that they are moving into a new house that would be safe and stable and a place they can call home.

Construction is planned for late spring or early summer in Charleston.

SAVE THE DATES: Calendar of Meetings and Events:

Dale Double Memorial Golf Tournament	May 19, 2007
Meadowview Golf Course	8:00 am
Rain date	May 26 at 1:00 pm
4 for the 4th Run/Walk	July 4, 2007
	6:30 am registration 7:30 event
Annual Meeting (open to the public)	August 21, 2007
SBLHC Education Center	6:30 pm
Habifeast	September 29, 2007
Dinner/Dance/Silent Auction	Saturday, January 26, 2008
Raise the Roof 2007 Fundraising	Ongoing
Regular Board Meetings	Third Tuesday of the Month
SBLHC Education Center	6:30 pm

Charitable Gifts...

A great way to support Coles County Habitat for Humanity is through charitable gifts! A charitable gift will provide the following:

- *The immediate benefit of seeing your contribution supporting Habitat
- *Potential income tax deduction
- *Value is removed from your estate

Monetary gifts can be made in a lump sum, pledged over a period of time or through regular contributions by payroll deduction or bank transfers. Be sure to check with your employer for charitable gift matching programs.

If you have any questions, please contact the Coles County Habitat for Humanity's office at 217-348-7063. Your charitable support will help in providing affordable housing to qualifying families in Coles County.

Straight from the heart.....

Habitat for Humanity Celebrates Mother's Day and a Mother's Dream

As I was reading for inspiration on the meaning of "mother", I found a fascinating article by Melanija Serdenlovska called "The House". It describes human's dwellings evolving through time in many distinct ways, from caves to palaces.

In Neolithic times, the Macedonians represented models of houses as the viscera of Goddess Mother. The symbol they used was the figure of a pregnant woman with her arms folded and placed over her abdomen making a roof over the precious content of her body. What a beautiful image describing a child's first home, **Mother!**

For me it is difficult to detach that ancient image of Mother Goddess from our dwellings. A house is Mother Earth's womb where we form our home. It is the place where our hopes and aspirations are created, our joys are felt, our families grow, our love deepens, our life begins, and where we endure the vicissitudes of life. It is what keeps us warm and safe, and protects us from extreme elements. It is the place where new generations grow and where parents teach their children their own moral principles and social norms. The home is the nucleus of cultures, of cities, and of nations where we create the vision of our future, and so we could continue to describe home, but I do not want to detract from my main objective: the celebration of mothers on this Mother's Day.

Mother's womb being the first home a living being experiences, and home being such a revered place, then we revere our mothers because they are the first source of nurture, of safety and of comfort. Mother continues to be the giver of tenderness and understanding through our lives. Often, mother is the sole provider of economic sustenance as well. A mother smiles or shed tears from her heart at a moment's notice. She wears multiple hats as she performs tasks for her family with passion. Mother is a blessing most of us experience.

Habitat for Humanity, through its volunteers, donors, and supporters, continues its Christian labor of love of helping to achieve a mother's dream: the ownership of a home for her family. I believe that the passionate comments of Lisa, Kendra, and Sonya, Habitat mothers I interviewed, represent sentiments of Habitat mothers everywhere.

- *"Getting our Habitat house made me feel blessed because it meant so much more than the building itself, it meant that my children could grow up feeling safe."
- *"I felt that my husband and I had finally given our children space in the world."
- *"I could teach my children the responsibilities of living in their own home."
- *"Children took ownership of their house for the first time, they expressed their creativity as they decorated their own rooms."
- *"For the first time they had a basketball court and a yard of their own to play in with their friends."
- *"For the first time they say "my house address is...."
- *"We are very proud of owning our home."

Mother Earth, Mother Goddess, mother's womb..children's first anchor to the world! Let's honor, pray and care for mothers everyday.

Luz Whittenbarger, Member
Coles County Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors

Dale Double Annual Golf Tournament May 19th at 8:00 am

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.
www.colescountyhabitat.net

I want to be part of Habitat for Humanity!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How you can "give from the heart".....

- ___ Pray
- ___ Be on a committee
- ___ Provide lunch for the volunteers
- ___ Donate building materials
- ___ Be an advocate
- ___ Encourage those in need to apply
- ___ Donate land
- ___ Be a Partner Family
- ___ Hold or attend a fundraiser
- ___ Help build a house
- ___ Get your "church family" involved
- ___ Donate \$ _____

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