



HabiChat

Winter, 2007 Newsletter

FROM THE GROUND UP.....From the heart.....Ann Siverling

It was quite a few years ago now that my dad had quadruple bypass surgery on his heart. At that time, we got to see the pictures of his heart at work. We could see that the heart is truly an amazing organ in our body. The heart constantly and relentlessly pumps the vital blood and oxygen supply to the rest of our body. It does not need to be reminded to pump...it just does. It never rests....it pumps even while we sleep. Without the heart doing its endless and powerful work, we would all cease to exist.

At this time of year (with Valentine's Day just around the corner), we all begin to think of the "heart" as the emotional, even loving, part of us. But I propose that our "heart" is also the very strength and vitality of us. The heart has as much to do with strength and life as it has to do with passion and love.

So, what does this mean for Habitat for Humanity? Well, all of you out there who have caught the "habititis" inflammation, know how great it feels to pound a few nails, to help someone else, to give of yourself. That is the emotional, loving part of Habitat for Humanity. But, Coles County Habitat for Humanity also needs the vital, life-pumping, constant and steady commitment similar to what our physical hearts provide for our body.

Habitat for Humanity needs some heart muscle to keep its never-ending work going. Things are happening constantly and year-round at Habitat, even when we are not building a house. We always have a need for people to work on committees, serve on the board, be a partner family, advocate for Habitat, find volunteers and support fundraising efforts. The "heart muscle" in Habitat for Humanity is all of you—the people. If you are already working with Habitat for Humanity, good for you! You are part of the heart muscle of Habitat. If you are not, consider joining in on this work. It'll be good for your heart and for Habitat's heart too.

GOOD NEWS.....

A "Mortgage Burning" ceremony was conducted for the Standerfer property on January 12, 2007. Lisa Standerfer is the first Coles County Habitat for Humanity homeowner to payoff her mortgage. It was cold and very wet, but thanks to the nature of the occasion, it did not matter. We all stood outside in the rain under the porch overhang as Pastor Ann Siverling, CCHF Board President, delivered the prayer and devotional. Lisa reminisced about her relationship with CCHF. She found out about the program through the televised community calendar late one evening as she and her family were sitting in a very small apartment.

This event reminds us that we are doing good things for good people and I look forward to participating in the next mortgage burning. We would like to encourage anyone who would like to apply, to do so. Or, if you know of anyone who may be eligible for a Habitat home, please encourage them to apply.

The Public Relations/Fundraising Committee met on January 30, 2007 at the Jackson Street Coffee Shop to plan the annual golf outing. The event is tentatively scheduled to be held on May 19th (rain date May 26). Volunteers are welcome and anyone who wishes to contribute their time and talents are encouraged to contact Craig Banyai (345-6677), Cal Smith (345-2061) or Brian Miller (234-6344).

We also wish to welcome Ashley Meeker to our core PR/Fundraising committee. Anyone interested in joining the Public Relations/Fundraising Committee should contact the office (348-7063) or any of the members listed above. It's a great group and provides tremendous support to the work of Coles County Habitat for Humanity.

Don't forget that the Raise the Roof 2007 campaign is ongoing. We need your support to continue the good work of Coles County Habitat for Humanity in eliminating poverty housing in the world and especially in Coles County. Send in your donation today!

D. Craig Banyai

WANTED!!!!

.....volunteers who would like to partner with new Habitat homeowners as they participate in the building of their home. Responsibilities begin when you are matched with a family and continue until one year after the family moves into their home.

The responsibilities include building a rapport with the family, serving as liaison between the family and Habitat to ensure that the family understands the requirements of becoming a Habitat homeowner, finding opportunities to integrate the family into Habitat activities, involving the family in "building community", being a friend and mentor.

You will have the Family Support Committee guiding and walking with you through the process. It's a wonderful way to give "from the heart".

If you are interested in becoming a Family Partner, please call the office at 348-7063 or Corrine Joyner at 348-7093.

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED!

SAVE THE DATES: Calendar of Meetings and Events:

Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner	March 24, 2007
Dale Double Memorial Golf Tournament	May 19, 2007
4 for the 4th Run/Walk	July 4, 2007
Habifeast	September 29, 2007
Raise the Roof 2007 Fundraising	Ongoing
Regular Board Meetings	Third Tuesday of the Month 6:30 pm SBLHC Education Center

DID YOU KNOW THAT?.....

When the community in general and you in particular, as supporters of Habitat for Humanity, advocate for Coles County Habitat for Humanity, you are serving an important function and we wouldn't survive and grow without your advocacy.

Advocacy is defined as "the pursuit of influencing outcomes—including public policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions—that directly affect people's lives." Advocacy in general requires deliberate efforts to promote housing as an opportunity that should be available to every human being, educating society on affordable housing and influencing policy decisions within societal institutions that make poverty housing and homelessness socially, politically and religiously unacceptable worldwide, regardless of who gets the credit. Specifically, advocacy encompasses a number of subcategories, that when used effectively, can address many key result areas. These include public interest advocacy, policy advocacy, social justice advocacy, people-centered advocacy and participatory advocacy.

Keep up the good work!

Straight from the heart.....

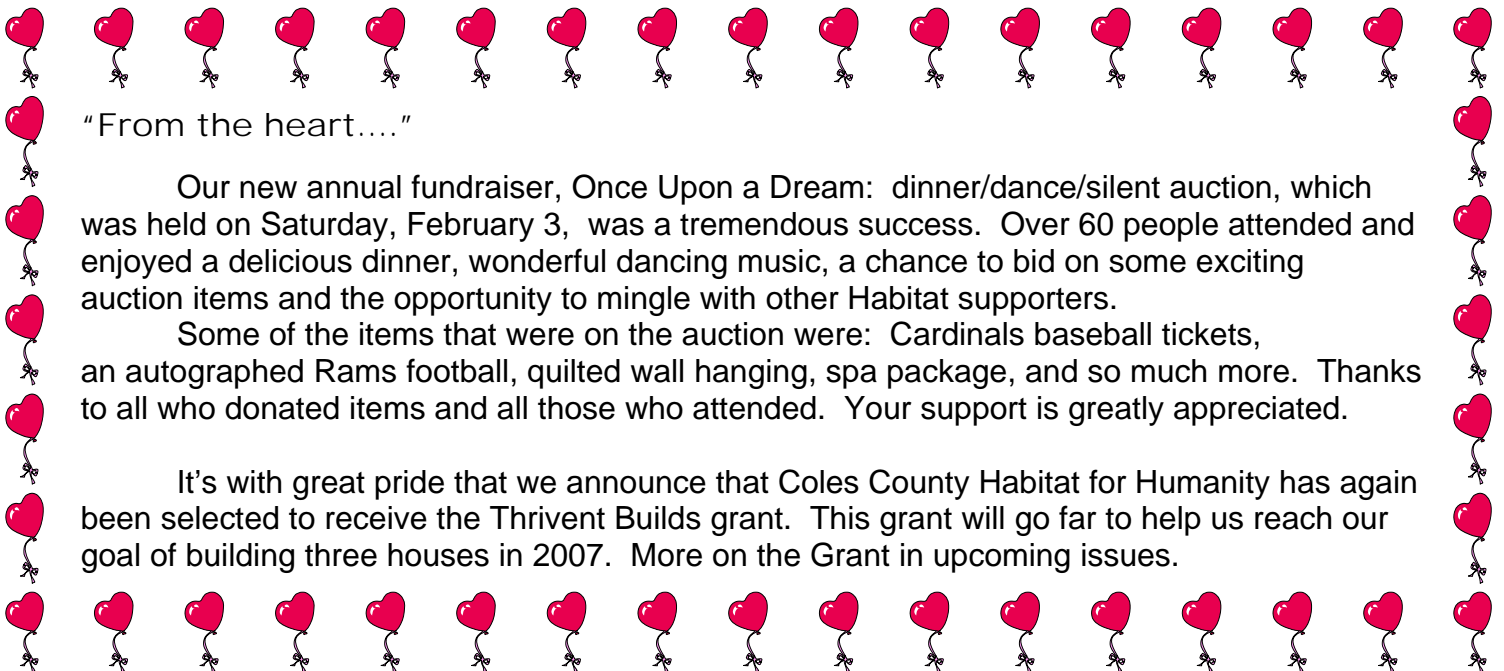
We are looking for help in communicating the mission of Habitat for Humanity to others in our community. Contributions of time, talent and treasure from people like you have helped provide opportunities for seventeen families in Coles County to realize the goal of owning a home. Of course, Habitat strives to build much more than the eye can see, and that's where you come in. As we seek to spread our ministry to others, we need your words and experiences. We invite you to tell us how Coles County Habitat for Humanity has made a positive impact on your life. It may be something as little as rediscovering the joy of working on a build site, or it could be something as big as realizing God's love for mankind. Only you can describe the difference that Habitat has made in your life. Please take a moment to send us a brief response in your own words. We may decide to use your words to help others understand why their support is so valuable. With your permission, your words may be used on our website or in publications to promote the ministry of Habitat. You may email your response to heart@colescountyhabitat.net or mail it to the office at P. O. Box 945, Charleston, IL 61920.

In your own words, describe the positive ways your life has changed by becoming involved with Habitat for Humanity:

I hereby grant permission to Coles county Habitat for Humanity to use my words to promote the ministry of Habitat in their publications or on their website.

- You may include my name when using my comments.*
- You may use my comments, but I'd rather remain anonymous.*

Name: _____



"From the heart...."

Our new annual fundraiser, Once Upon a Dream: dinner/dance/silent auction, which was held on Saturday, February 3, was a tremendous success. Over 60 people attended and enjoyed a delicious dinner, wonderful dancing music, a chance to bid on some exciting auction items and the opportunity to mingle with other Habitat supporters.

Some of the items that were on the auction were: Cardinals baseball tickets, an autographed Rams football, quilted wall hanging, spa package, and so much more. Thanks to all who donated items and all those who attended. Your support is greatly appreciated.

It's with great pride that we announce that Coles County Habitat for Humanity has again been selected to receive the Thrivent Builds grant. This grant will go far to help us reach our goal of building three houses in 2007. More on the Grant in upcoming issues.

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