



HabiChat

Winter, 2009 Newsletter

P. O. Box 945 CHARLESTON, IL 61920 217-348-7063
WWW.COLESCOUNTYHABITAT.NET

FROM THE GROUND UP.....Rich Wandling, President, CCHF Board **Now More Than Ever**

While considering my contribution to this newsletter, the phrase “now more than ever” came to mind”. A brief detour on the internet led to the lyrics of John Mellencamp’s “Now More Than Ever”, which includes the following chorus: “...Now more than ever, the world needs love. Not just a slogan, but the world needs love....” These lyrics fit perfectly with our uncertain economic times and certainly the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

While the economic downturn has affected people of all financial situations in our society, and for that matter the world, the burden is greatest on the people served by Habitat for Humanity. System-level problems such as financial institution failures, the subprime mortgage meltdown, and ongoing bad news from the retail sector have translated into higher unemployment and poverty rates and overall decline in household income and assets. In this stressful environment, nonprofit organizations such as Coles County Habitat for Humanity become all the more important, and our mission of promoting quality housing for all area residents needs to be even higher on our individual, family and community agendas. Now more than ever, we need to strengthen our resolve to continue the important work of Habitat for Humanity, and we can do this only with your help. Thank you for your help and support.

First 2009 Partner Family Selected: Additional Support Teams Needed to Mentor Future Partner Families.....

At its January meeting, the Board approved the application of the first of two deserving area families for whom Habitat homes will be built in 2009. Board member, Ida Cockrum, reports that the family has already begun working to fulfill the mandatory 200 hours of “sweat equity required of each adult member of a selected Partner Family.

Also approved were four individuals who have volunteered to serve as “Support Teams” for our 2009 Partner Families. Those generous individuals—who have pledged to assist the Family Support Committee in “habitizing” our Partner Families—are Connie White of Charleston and June Ground, Karen Lee and Susan Miller of Mattoon.

The Family Support Committee encourages additional individuals and families to apply for service as Support Teams for our future Habitat homeowners. For readers potentially interested in applying, the following information should be helpful.

Support Teams function as part advisor, part advocate, and part friend in their interactions with families selected to become Habitat homeowners.

Their responsibilities begin with their attendance at training sessions in which they will be given an orientation in the tasks they will be asked to perform in mentoring the prospective Habitat homeowners with whom they will be paired. Among those tasks are the following:

1. recording and reporting to the Family Support Committee the Partner Family’s sweat equity hours;
2. assisting the Partner Family in planning the ground breaking and house blessing ceremonies for their home;
3. assisting the family with media interviews;
4. assisting the family throughout the process of becoming homeowners;
5. working with the Partner family throughout the house closing process and attending the closing with the family;
6. counseling the family on the responsibilities of homeownership including mortgage payments, maintenance etc. that occur after closing;
7. encouraging open communication between the Partner Family and CCHF.

Families and individuals interesting in applying to serve as Support Teams for future Partner Families may request an application by calling the office at 348-7063.

Introducing.....The Tryon Family

Delmas and Angela Tryon had heard about Habitat of Humanity but "always thought it was just too good to be true." Delmas' mother read about an Informational Meeting for prospective homeowners and encourage the Tryons to attend. The Tryon's attended the meeting, completed an application and with several steps along the way, Delmas and Angela were approved to be the recipients of the 23rd Habitat house to be built in Charleston. The Tryon's have three children, Alex, age 12, Sebastian, Age 9 and Natashaia, age 2.



The Tryons applied for a Habitat home primarily out of concern over the deteriorating condition of their current home and the safety of their family. For example, the floor is sagging in their current home and they were worried their two year old would fall through the floor. In the past, the Tryons have moved several times and they are grateful that a Habitat home will provide stability for the children. The Tryons realize they are providing their children with a different way of life and are pleased their children will grow up expecting homeownership for themselves.

During the application process, the Tryons started working on their 400 hours of sweat equity. Habitat volunteers may already recognize Delmas from his hours spent at the most recent builds in Charleston and Mattoon. Completing sweat equity hours prior to approval is not only a way to demonstrate willingness to partner with Habitat but can also give prospective homeowners a better understanding of Habitat.

The Tryons were unable to obtain a conventional bank loan and are very grateful for this opportunity. Angela said that "without Habitat, we wouldn't have a chance of owning our own home.

At Coles County Habitat , we measure success differently than most. Success is achieved every month when more than 20 Habitat homeowners write out the check for their own mortgage payments. And CCHFH is looking for partners who believe that helping people realize the American dream to own their own, safe affordable home is the

greatest success of all!

If you or your group believes that success can be measured in more than dollars and cents, contact the Coles County Habitat office for more information on how you can become a partner.

SAVE THE DATES: Calendar of Meetings and Events:

EIU Chapter's Shantytown Fundraiser Charleston & Mattoon High Schools	April 24 and 25, 2009
Dale Double Memorial Golf Tournament Meadowview Golf Course Rain date	May 9, 2009 8:00 am May 16 at 8:00 am
Grand Opening of Office Building and CCHFH's 20th Anniversary Celebration	June, 2009 Watch for details
4 for the 4th Run/Walk Morton Park	July 4, 2009 6:30 am registration 7:30 event
CCHFH Yard Sale	Beginning of August, 2009
Annual Meeting (open to the public)	August 18, 2009 6:30 pm
Habifeast Dinner	October 3, 2009
Raise the Roof 2009 Fundraising	Ongoing
Serving together Under One Roof Campaign	Ongoing

Straight from the heart.....

Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, passed away unexpectedly on February 3, following a brief illness. He was 74 years old. Mr. Fuller lead Habitat from its founding in 1976 until 2005.

“Millard Fuller was a force of nature who turned a simple idea into an international organization that has helped more than 300,000 families move from deplorable housing into simple, decent homes they helped build and can afford to buy and live in,” said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International.

The idea for Habitat for Humanity was born at Koinonia Farm, a Christian farming community founded in 1942 in rural southwest Georgia to be a “demonstration plot for the Kingdom of God”. Millard and Linda Fuller made their way to that demonstration plot in 1965. By 1969, the Fullers had sold all that they owned and gave the money to the poor and in their searching, landed at Koinonia where they began soaking up the teachings of farmer, theologian and community founder, Clarence Jordan.

In time, Jordan and Fuller launched a program of “partnership housing,” building simple houses in partnership with rural neighbors who were too poor to qualify for conventional home loans. The first house was dedicated in 1969 and others soon followed. In 1973, the Fullers took the concept of partnership housing to Africa. Within a few years, simple concrete-block homes were replacing unhealthy mud-and-thatch homes....and Millard had a bold idea: If partnership housing could improve lives in Georgia and Zaire, why not the rest of the world?

In 1976, the Fullers returned to the United States and launched Habitat for Humanity International.

Millard Fuller’s drive and relentless commitment to affordable housing has captured the hearts and minds of people around the world and has changed the lives of many, many people.



Welcome to our newest Board members:

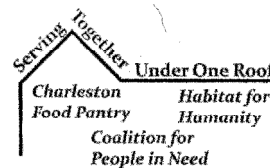
Eric Boengen
Sharon Houchin
David Stevens
Kirk Swensen

We’re glad to have you on board!

How to qualify for a Habitat home:

- Show a need for adequate shelter
- Be willing to partner with Habitat by completing sweat equity hours and meeting deadlines
- Prove ability to pay an interest free mortgage, property taxes and homeowner’s insurance
- Meet minimum income guidelines
- Live in Coles County for at least one year

Call the office for more information—348-7063



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Work will begin on March 7th on the renovation of the shared use facility for

Coles County Habitat, Charleston Area Churches Food Pantry and Coalition for People in Need at 990 W. State Street in Charleston.

Volunteers are need to help put in conduit, pull electrical wire, install drop ceilings and insulation and much more. Our fundraising efforts are well underway and reaching our goal for this phase of the campaign is within reach. If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation

towards our goal, please contact the office at 217-348-7063. Thanks in advance for supporting your community’s effort to improve the lives of low-income families in Coles County.

Coles County Habitat for Humanity
P. O. Box 945
Charleston, IL 61920
An Ecumenical Christian Housing Ministry

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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.

Coles County Habitat promotes responsible citizenship and pride in our community.

I want to be part of Habitat for Humanity!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Volunteer, donate, get involved.....

- ___ 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:
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Charleston, Il 61920