

January 2008

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Newsletter

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**See page 3 for
more information
on how to become
a Habitat Home-
owner.**

Wexford Habitat Welcomes Scott Powell

There's a new face at Wexford Habitat for Humanity. Scott Powell took over the role of Executive Director for our affiliate in mid December. After just a few weeks on the job, he already seems comfortable in his new position, but perhaps that is because service work is nothing new for him.

Scott's affiliation with Habitat began when he was still in college. While at Central Michigan University, Scott took on a leadership role in a program called "Collegiate Challenge." During five spring breaks, instead of relaxing at home, he traveled with other college students to southern Florida and worked on Habitat for Humanity homes following the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. Scott says the best part of his Habitat experience in southern Florida was "seeing the joy in the homeowners and working alongside someone who would benefit from our service."

After graduating from CMU, Scott continued to help youth and families at Eagle Village in Hersey, Michigan. During his five years on staff at this residential treatment center, he worked with adjudicated youth, leading wilderness trips as well as school and corporate team building programs. After leaving Eagle Village, Scott split his time between getting his Masters Degree in Educational Leadership at Prescott College in Prescott, Arizona and serving as both Instructor and Resident

Director at Bethel College in Indiana.

Scott is quite familiar with our Northern Michigan area. In fact, his great, great grandparents homesteaded a farm ten miles northeast of Manton over 100 years ago. Scott spent his early years in Manton and then moved away to attend school and follow the job market. He married Laura (VanderWeide) in 2003, reconnecting 20 years after they met in preschool. June 2007 was a special time for the couple; they adopted two wonderful children from Guatemala, Mateo (3-years) and Elisabeth (18-months). With the sudden growth of their family, Scott and Laura moved back to Manton so that their children could build relationships with grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles, and cousins. That move has turned out to be a blessing for Habitat as well.

Scott reports that the staff and volunteers at Wexford Habitat have done a "great" job, informing him on what has gone on before, but he has already set some new goals for the future of our affiliate. Scott wants to "build the connections with area churches and congregations, thereby further connecting the church to the community and providing avenues for service to the community." He also hopes to introduce the idea of "business sponsored homes". With Scott Powell as our leader, Wexford Habitat for Humanity is looking forward to some exciting new adventures.



The ReStore Needs You!

With the new year upon us, perhaps you are thinking about reorganizing your home or getting rid of clutter. Don't forget that your clutter may be someone else's treasure.

The Wexford ReStore is especially looking for good couches, recliners, tables, and furniture of any kind as well as small tools. In addition, the staff at the ReStore will happily pick up some of those larger items. Smaller articles

can be brought to the ReStore, Monday—Friday, 10am-6pm and Saturday 10am-4pm.

Are you interested in an antique cash register or natural gas furnaces? How about some windows and doors for your upcoming remodeling project? The ReStore may have just what you need. The inventory is always changing so visit often and don't forget to bring your coupon from the last page of this newsletter.

A Behind the Scenes Look at Festival of Trees

by Co-Chair Barb Tatarchuk

On the evening of November 10, 2007, The Cadillac Grill was the scene of another successful Festival of Trees. Twenty beautifully decorated small and large trees were lined up next to the windows of the restaurant providing a welcoming vision of light for arriving guests. Once inside, guests had the opportunity to bid on not only the trees but over a dozen unusual wreaths and a variety of exciting auction items. Tasty hors d'oeuvres followed by a delicious dinner with guests dancing to the tunes provided by volunteer DJ Chris Huckle later in the evening.

As this year's co-chairs of the signature event, Linda Mutch and I learned first-hand of all the amazing work that is involved in getting ready for the event. Our planning committee started meeting in the summer to discuss ideas and divide up the duties; however, Doreen Lanc from the Cadillac Chamber of Commerce was already working on her beautiful stone birdhouses that later became some of our table decorations as well as auction items. Immediately following our

first meeting, several committee members joined with Habitat staff to begin the huge job of procurement. Potential sponsors were contacted, tree and wreath designers were invited to participate, and individuals and businesses were asked for donations of all kinds. Work on the publicity aspects of the Festival also got an early start. Posters were designed and printed, and news releases were sent out.

This year, we also added a few new features to the event. Roshell DeYoung created a new logo just for the festival, and that was used for not only our program and advertisements, but also for a special ornament given to our guests. Barry Manther, our technology expert at Habitat helped add a new visual element. While guests chatted during the opening of the event, they had the opportunity to watch a giant slide show with pictures of our building projects, our Habitat families, and many of our beautifully designed trees and wreaths. Photographer Tom Olmstead also provided a new feature for our guests. As they arrived, guests had the option to have their pictures taken, and these were later sent to

them as a thank you for attending.

With the Cadillac Rotary Club as our partner in the event, some of the behind the scenes work was taken on by our Rotary liaison Katy Huckle. She and her fellow Rotarians worked on menu and ticket sales. She also worked with our dynamic auctioneer Bill Rzepka to coordinate the program. The young members of the Rotary Interact Club of Cadillac provided their services as valets and auction helpers.

At the end of the evening, the work continued with Bonnie and Mike Stephan tallying up results and Habitat Admin. Assistant Mary Garcia taking care of a mound of paper work. Without the help of so many individuals and without the generous contributions of our guests, the Festival could not have been so successful. This year, the Festival brought in nearly \$29,000, an amount that buys many of the materials required to build a home for a worthy Habitat family. We are truly blessed to live in a community that provides this kind of support.



Did you know that we never need to purchase bags for the ReStore? Thoughtful shoppers bring in bags on a regular basis. We are so thankful to those kind folks.

Did you know that **Whirlpool** generously donates a stove and refrigerator to each Habitat homeowner?

Bob Rexford of Rexford Builders, Carter Lumber and Castles and Cabins of Lake City are regular contributors to the ReStore. Their building supplies are welcomed by everyone at Wexford Habitat for Humanity. We appreciate their continuous support.

Cadillac Fabrication helped us with repairs on our plow truck.

Lakeside Title donates all of the title work for our Habitat homeowners. What a gift!

Home Depot provided the ReStore with 200 pounds of salt, among other building and store supplies.

Kid's Choice Tree

Jingle bells were ringing at Habitat for Humanity's annual **Breakfast with Santa** on the morning of November 10. Perhaps the sound was coming from Santa's reindeer who were probably a bit restless while waiting for Santa to chat with each girl and boy. Some of jingling, however, was coming from the children who were voting for their favorite decorated tree.

Each child who attended the breakfast had the opportunity to place a bell in the bag beneath their favorite tree. At the end of morning, the bells were counted and the winner was....."It's a Girl." This was a tree sponsored by Fred and Rochelle Carroll and designed by Sally Goggin. It was created as a way to honor the Carroll's new granddaughter Meghan. It featured pink feathers, pink lights, sparkling pink ornaments, and a frothy pink tree skirt. As you might guess, it was a special favorite of many of the little girls.





A CHRISTMAS HOUSEWARMING

On December 20, a group of Habitat volunteers, staff, and board members joined with neighbors and community members to dedicate the home of Stacy Proctor and her son Devon. Although it was cold outside, the Allen Street house was warm with friendship and the joy of the Christmas season. Stacy's decorated Christmas tree was an additional reminder of the gift of love that surrounds each Habitat home. Pastor Jack Miller from Temple Hill Baptist Church led the dedication and the blessing. His special words made the ceremony both personal and inspirational.

Stacy was involved in the construction of her home from the beginning. She was there when the walls went up, she climbed up on the roof to help with the shingles, she laid out the padding for the flooring, and she added the finishing touches with a paint brush and rollers.

Thirteen-year-old Devon worked alongside his mom, putting his own sweat and equity into their home. Stacy says it was "a lot of hard work," but she has found the rewards in meeting and working with so many nice people. She is thankful for all the Habitat volunteers who donated their time and energies so that her dream of home ownership could become a reality.

The official closing for the house came just after Christmas, but Stacy and Devon found gifts under the tree in their new home on Christmas morning. What a special time that must have been. Now that she has been living in her home for a few weeks, Stacy says, "It's finally starting to feel like mine." Devon enjoys having "his own space" and Stacy is pretty pleased to have "her own space" as well. We wish them a blessed new year and a wonderful future.



Stacy lends a hand to a DNR volunteer as they build the back porch on her home.

Habitat for Humanity International is helping to provide resources and transitional housing for 3000 families in Bangladesh after the destruction caused by the November 15th Cyclone Sidr.

Family Selection Begins in February

Would your family of a family you know benefit from partnering with Wexford Habitat for Humanity to achieve affordable home ownership in our area?

If you are interested and think you qualify, you may download the application from our website at: <http://www.wexfordhabitat.org> or pick one up at the Wexford Habitat for Humanity Office/ReStore.

On Thursday, February 21 at 7 pm, the Family Selection Committee will host an Application Orientation at Baker College's Student Center to assist families with the application and to answer any questions.

Applications must be received by February 29. Drop them off at WHFH office located across from the airport at 7953 East 34 Road, or send them by mail to P.O. Box 828, Cadillac, MI 49601.

Where are we now? Building Project Updates



The Career Tech Center students are hard at work on two houses located on Rogers Street. The first one, the Darlene Merritt House, is in honor of former Wexford Habitat Board member, and long-time volunteer. The second house, the Tom and Linda Stevenson House, is in honor of two wonderful donors over the years. Both homes have the foundation and basement completed, the shell up with temporary electric installed to supply power during construction. The rough plumbing and electrical will also be in place soon.

Stay tuned for updates on the volunteer Community Build home starting in the spring.

Visit our website at www.wexfordhabitat.org

If you haven't visited the Wexford Habitat Website yet, take a moment to check it out.

- The "Habitat Homes" button will bring you to a page with pictures of our recent building projects.
- **What's new at the ReStore?** Click on ReStore to see what's available at our Boon Road address.
- **Want to become a Habitat volunteer?** Click on "Get Involved" to download a volunteer application form. We are always looking for men and women to help out with building projects, fund-raising, and so much more.
- **Want to receive a color version of our most recent newsletter?** Click on "Events."
- **Want to help reduce our costs by receiving an electronic newsletter?** Send an email to sign-up for our e-newsletter to: director@wexfordhabitat.org



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Habitat For Humanity by the Numbers

- 225,000 — Number of Habitat homes built around the world
- 25,000 — Number of Habitat homes built in Guatemala
- 3,500 — Number of Habitat homes built in Michigan
- 23 — Number of minutes between the completion of each Habitat home

20% off
any item
in the
store

This coupon is good until February 22



Wexford Habitat for Humanity was established in 1989 by community leaders of Wexford County who wanted to make a difference and eliminate poverty housing. They saw a need for simple, decent, and affordable housing. With the completion of the 3 homes this year, 17 families from Wexford County will be living in safe, decent housing.

Habitat for Humanity eliminates poverty one house at a time.