



Building on Faith

Spring-Summer, 2006

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What's Happening Now?

On Monday, October 10, 2005, work began on a new house for Lori Bowen and her teen-age daughter Danielle. Lori works as a Certified Nursing Assistant, but you can often find her pricing, organizing and helping customers at the ReStore. She always seems to be moving! She also helps out at the actual building site on Robertson Street in Cadillac.

Lori's home is being built, during the winter months, primarily by Building Trades Students at the Career-Tech Center. As soon as school is out for the summer, community volunteers will move in and finish the job. It takes dedication from many different people to make a dream into a reality, and the reality moves closer with each day.

The framing of the house is now complete, windows and doors are in, the electrical wiring is installed, and the plumbing is roughed in. The plumbing will be connected to the street this spring. Lori is hoping the house will be ready by June. What an exciting moment that will be!



In January, John Jones, a retired master electrician and Habitat volunteer, gave Lori Bowen a few lessons on wiring. Here she is wiring her own switch box.

Second Annual Golf Outing at The Briar at Mesick

This summer, Habitat for Humanity will once again be joining the Cadillac Kiwanis Club in hosting a golf tournament at the Briar at Mesick. Four-person teams will take part in the Best Ball/Scramble. Last year, 18 teams participated, and we are hoping for an even larger group this year. We have some exciting prizes coming from the Detroit Lions to entice our

participants! Proceeds of the tournament will go to Habitat for Humanity as well as the Cadillac Football League and Cooley Alternative School of Cadillac. This is one of the major fund-raising events for Habitat, but it's also a great opportunity to challenge your friends and co-workers. Consider becoming a sponsor or joining a team.

HABITAT GOLF OUTING
Saturday, July 29, 2006
\$75 per person for 18 holes, golf cart and dinner.
\$150 hole sponsorship
Individual and Team Prizes
New York Strip Steak Dinner
Call: John Jones at
231-775-9887 for more information

Meet Mary Ellen Van Dyke

"This is a wonderful opportunity for me to use both my education and my experience..."

Mary Ellen Van Dyke

Mary Ellen Van Dyke became the Executive Director of the Wexford Habitat offices in October of 2004. She is one busy lady, but she always seems to have a smile on her face.

Mary Ellen handles the day-to-day operations which include lots of problem solving as well as writing grants, handling the finances, and helping to organize the fund-raising.

She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design

from the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has experience in residential and commercial design and has served on the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, Easter Seals, and Gateway Arts Council. Mary Ellen tells us, "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to use both my education and my experience in working with construction projects and non-profit organizations to help people of Wexford County achieve a dream of Home ownership."

Mary Ellen says one of her goals is to "raise public awareness of the programs and volunteer opportunities that exist in Habitat for Humanity." She has already discovered the people of Wexford County to be generous with their time, talents and gifts. She and her husband Jeff, Director of Operations for Premier MSS, Inc., are the proud parents of four children ranging in age from 17 to 24.

SHOP! SAVE! SUPPORT! Come To The Habitat ReStore!



Have you visited the ReStore in Cadillac? This is a great place to find a variety of home-building supplies as well as appliances, furniture, house wares, decorator items, sporting goods, and so much more. The inventory changes daily, so one trip to the store is not enough!

New and used supplies come from retailers and builder overstocks, individual donations,

builders, and remodeling contractors. This is also the perfect place to bring those unused building supplies and house wares that are cluttering up your own storage spaces.

The ReStore is located on East 34 Road right across from the Cadillac Airport and west of Meijer and Walmart. Donations are welcomed and are tax deductible. Proceeds from the store build homes for and with

partner families in our area, and the reusing of supplies is, of course, a blessing for our environment. Because of the success of the ReStore, Habitat for Humanity will be able to build a second house next year.

We want to encourage new visitors and old friends to take a trip to the ReStore, so use the coupon below for any item in the store.

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Wexford County Habitat for Humanity

50 % off any item

Habitat ReStore

Wexford County Habitat for Humanity

Valid at the Wexford ReStore

Expires 5/30/06

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Habitat Hero

John Jones was honored as Volunteer of the Year at the 2005 Festival of the Trees, Habitat's signature event in the Cadillac area, but he probably should be called the Volunteer of the Decade. John lives, eats and breathes Habitat for Humanity. He says, "I love helping people," and that fact seems obvious to all who know him.

John spends 30 to 40 hours a week working in one capacity or another for Habitat. He is on the Board of Directors for Habitat, does electrical work on the houses, plays Santa for the "Breakfast with Santa" event at the Festival of the Trees, and can even be found manning the cash register at

the Cadillac Restore. Last year he was also the planner and organizer for the first Annual Habitat for Humanity Golf Outing. How does he find the time?!

John is a retired master electrician, having spent 40 years as a union electrician, mostly in the Detroit Area. He lived in the Cadillac Area with his wife Judy from 1974 until 1982 and then came back here to retire. What a blessing for the Cadillac Community!

During his younger years, John played semi-pro football, so when he lived in Cadillac in the 70's and 80's, he helped to organize the Cadillac

Northmen football team and served as their coach through several successful seasons.

In addition to his work with Habitat, John is a member of Kiwanis and has completed some volunteer work at the new offices of the Pregnancy Resource Center of Cadillac.

John and his wife have 7 children, 5 foster children, and 11 grandchildren. John says Judy is his best friend. "She makes me tick. Without her, it just doesn't work." We might say, "Without John, Habitat wouldn't tick quite so smoothly either."

"I love helping people!"

John Jones

Come Join the Parade...of Homes

You know spring is officially here when the Parade of Homes comes to the Cadillac Area. The event is sponsored by the United Building Centers and the Northwest Michigan Home Builders Association. For just five dollars, you can walk through fourteen new homes in Cadillac, Leroy, Lake City, and Marion. Each one is also uniquely furnished to give you ideas for refreshing your own home.

The event is an important fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity as well as for several other service or religious groups in the area. For each ticket that you buy from Habitat, four dollars comes back to us to help build hope and provide housing for those in need. You can pick up your tickets at the Wexford ReStore in Cadillac or from any Habitat volunteer or Board member.

This year, Habitat volunteers

will be greeting you at a beautiful home on 3655 Pebble Creek Dr. in Cadillac. **Homes by Hoffman** is the builder that has put its own special talents into the creation. We hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity to view current and innovative construction projects in our area while helping Habitat with its mission.

PARADE OF HOMES
Two week-ends
April 29-30 and
May 6-7
Saturdays 10-7
Sundays 12-6
\$5 per person
Children 12 and under
Free
Tickets at Wexford
ReStore
Call 775-7561 for more
information

What is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Habitat seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat for Humanity welcomes to its house-building, hope-building work all people who share its vision of a world without shacks.

How does Habitat work?

Through volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and renovates houses with partner families in need of simple, decent shelter. Habitat houses are sold to the families at no profit and are financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments help to build more houses. Homeowners are chosen on the basis of need, willingness to partner and ability to repay the no-interest loan.

How can you help?

Get involved! Pray for the work of Habitat. Contribute financially to Wexford County Habitat, and/or participate in Habitat fund-raising events. Habitat needs people to help build, to serve on committees and to spread the word about Habitat.

Write to:

Wexford Habitat for Humanity

Post Office Box 828

Cadillac, Michigan 49601

Habitat for Humanity eliminates poverty, one house at a time..

**WEXFORD HABITAT
FOR HUMANITY**

7953 E. 34 Road
P.O. Box 828
Cadillac, MI 49601

Phone: 231 775-7561
Fax: 231 775-7561

Email:
wexfordhabitat@netonecom.net

Wexford County 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 Robertson Street House, 14 families from Wexford County will be living in safe, decent housing.

Habitat for Humanity
Builds Simple Decent Houses
for People in Need

Wexford County Habitat for Humanity

P. O. Box 828

Cadillac, MI 49601

