



Building on Faith

Fall-Winter 2006

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Bless this Home

Excitement was in the air on September 28 as the new house for Lori Bowen and her teenage daughter Danielle was dedicated. Their new 2 bedroom home is located at 240 Robertson Street in Cadillac and is finally complete. Pastor Dale Ostema of the United Methodist Church of Cadillac provided the blessing for each of the rooms and read from Mark 12:31. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." The sentiment seemed just right not only for the spirit of Habitat for Humanity, but also for Lori's new status in the neighborhood.

Frank Tilmann, Instructor for the Building Trades classes of the Career Tech Center; Construction Manager Jason Hoffman; students and community volunteers who worked on the house; and Habitat Board members and staff shared cider and cookies on the beautiful fall evening while celebrating the year's accomplishments. Pastor Ostema said he is always impressed by the support coming from so many different directions, representing the connections to both Lori and to Habitat for Humanity. Lori closed on the house on October 5, and recently moved in with her furniture and boxes.



She is thrilled with her new home . . . even though she has already lost her keys! She thinks they are in one of the packing boxes. Lori can be proud not only of her new home, but also of her personal contribution to the building process. She put in over 300 hours of "sweat equity" on the project. Lori continues her work as clerk at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, is anxious to help with future Habitat projects, and hopes that more people will get involved with Habitat

Important update! Lori found her keys in the last box she unpacked.

Two New Homes for Two Special Families

This year, two new Habitat homes will provide exciting possibilities for two happy families. Laura Klatt and her daughters, Kristina and Shania have been selected as the home owner family for a new Habitat house on Robertson Street. Laura has been working at Avon for the past three years, but has also been a volunteer for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Cadillac. Kristina is a 9th grader at Cadillac Junior High and enjoys writing in her spare time. Shania is a 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary where her favorite subject is art.

The location of the second Habitat home has not been announced, but the new owners will be Stacey Proctor and her son Devon. Stacey is a Residential Care Aide for Northern Lakes Mental Health, and like Laura Klatt, works as a volunteer in the Habitat

ReStore. She also enjoys painting in her spare time. Her son Devon is an active seventh grader at Mackinaw Trail Middle School.

Students from the Building Trades Class at the Misauke Career Technical Center (CTC) have already started construction on the Klatt's new home. Once the roof is up and the windows are in, ground breaking ceremonies will be held for the Proctor home. Construction will continue with the Proctor home until the roofing is complete and the windows are in. Then, the students will return to the first house to pick up where they left off. The partnership between CTC and Habitat provides benefits to all involved, but especially to the Klatt and Proctor families.



Share the Excitement At the Festival of the Trees Charity Auction

The Annual Festival of the Trees is being presented by Cadillac Rotary and Wexford Habitat for Humanity. This is one of the most important fund raisers for our local Habitat projects. A good turnout translates into more people having access to affordable housing in our area.

Each year, local groups decorate trees and then the trees are auctioned off at a Gala Dinner-Dance. This year, the event will once again be held at the Cadillac Grill. Seafood Wellington will be on the

menu, and Joy VanDrie and Katy Huckle will emcee while auctioneer Bill Rzepka heats up the air with his chatter. After the auction, diners will be invited to put on their dancing shoes. With so much to offer, the event promises to be fun for everyone.

Oak Heirlooms, Hagstrom's, Persnickety, Etc. and TV 9 & 10 will be working their magic to create unique trees to dazzle and tempt those who attend. Dozens of other donated gifts are also being offered through a silent auction. The event spon-

sors are Citizen's Bank, Firstbank, Mercy Hospital, Wolverine Power Cooperative, Chemical Bank, TV 9&10, and Fifth Third Bank. Of course, those who attend and participate are the true stars of the evening.

Hors d' oeuvres will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 and the live auction and dancing at 8:00.

Tickets are \$75.00 per person and are now available at Citizen's Bank, Chemical Bank, Wilcox Professional Service, and the Habitat ReStore.

Breakfast with Santa

During this time of year, Santa is usually checking on his elves and keeping his reindeer healthy, but once again, he will take time from his busy schedule to have breakfast with children in the Cadillac area. Saturday, November 11 is the day for this special rendezvous with Santa, and children of all ages are invited to attend. **The cost is \$10 per person and free to children under 2 when accompanied by a paying adult.**

Local sports photographer Larry Kirk will be on hand to take pictures, but additional

activities will be available while the children anxiously await their turn with Santa. Since the Festival of the Trees will take place in the evening, children will also have a chance to view the decorated trees and cast a vote in the Festival of the Trees "Kid's Choice" contest.

Breakfast starts at 9:00, and Santa will arrive around 9:15. The event is sponsored by Citizen's Bank, Firstbank, Wells Fargo, Cadillac Castings, Inc., and Chemical Bank, and tickets are available at the Habitat ReStore, Cadillac Grill, Citizen's

Bank, Fifth Third Bank, and Chemical Bank.

Breakfast with Santa is pre-

Menu
Scrambled Eggs
French Toast
Juice
Coffee
Donut holes (donated by Blue Heron)
Fruit Cups (donated by The Shay)

sented as a joint effort by the Rotary Club of Cadillac and Wexford Habitat for Humanity

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Buy One, Get One Free!
(On an item of equal or lesser value)

Habitat ReStore



Valid at the Wexford ReStore
Expires 11/30/06

Meet Our Vice president— Joy VanDrie

Joy VanDrie's association with Wexford Habitat for Humanity began in 2000 when she filled out a volunteer slip at work that placed her on the planning committee for Habitat's Festival of Trees. Because the event sounded worthwhile and because Joy's overall impression of Habitat for Humanity had always been a positive one, the opportunity seemed like a good fit for her. Soon after, she found herself on the Board of Directors with a group of people she respected because of their "dedication and consistency."

For Joy, the work of Habitat for Humanity is very special because it "helps people for the rest of their lives." She has two personal goals as Vice President. One is to make qualifying families more aware of the services that Habitat for Humanity can provide, and the other is to be more aggressive in getting information out to the general public about the need for affordable housing in our community. As Joy says, "The more people know, the more we can ad-

dress the problem."

The daughter of long-time Cadillac residents Richard and Judy Liptak, Joy grew up in Cadillac, attended Cadillac High School and was a top skier on the high school ski team. She received her degree in Public Relations from Ferris State University and then accepted a job in marketing with Avon Technical Products. Her job responsibilities involved extensive traveling, but there was still time for building relationships. Joy and Lincoln VanDrie were married in 1997 and continued to reside in Cadillac.

After the arrival of their first child, Joy began looking for a job with fewer long distance responsibilities. She found just what she was looking for at Wilcox Professional Services. The job with Wilcox also had the added benefit of allowing Joy the time to get involved locally in meaningful volunteer work.

Joy feels that the phrase "It takes a village to raise a child" can be

applied to several life scenarios and she feels blessed that she has an extensive local family, the full support of her husband and the ability to help Habitat build homes for God's People.

Joy and Lincoln share their community interests as well as a wonderful family of two active boys, 7 year-old Jacob and 2 year-old Johnathon. These days, Joy continues her work at Wilcox and at Wexford Habitat for Humanity. She is also on the Boards for the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce and the Cadillac Rotary Club and is involved in several activities within those organizations. No less important is her role as a soccer mom and sideline cheerleader for Jacob as he carries on the family tradition of ski racing.

Cadillac is blessed to have Joy and her family in Cadillac, and Habitat is lucky to have such an energetic and dedicated Vice President.

"The more people know, the more we can address the problem."

Joy Van Drie

Different Designs for Different Folks

Habitat for Humanity is not just a national program; it is an organization that is hard at work in nearly one hundred countries around the world. It is building homes in the tsunami-ravaged Aceh Barah District in Indonesia, the earthquake-devastated area of Pakistan as well as in Australia, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East. All of the Habitat homes are built according to the same guiding principles.

Habitat home are:

Simple – Habitat homes are modest in size. They are simple enough to keep construction costs at a minimum but large enough for the home owner families.

Decent – Habitat uses quality, locally available building materials. Trained staff supervise construction and educate volunteers and partner families.

Affordable – Volunteer labor, efficient building methods, and no-interest loans make Habitat homes affordable for low income families.

Although the homes have much in common, there are also some interesting differences. Habitat homes in the United States and Canada are generally built using wood frame construction with Gypsum board interior walls, vinyl siding, and asphalt shingle roofs. In African countries, many of the homes are constructed with fired clay bricks and tile roofs made of cement or fired clay. In one village in Mozambique, a small home was also built with reeds. Houses in Latin America often are built with concrete block or adobe walls and metal roofs, while houses in the Pacific are frequently built with wood frames and are constructed

on stilts.

Habitat house designs also reflect the local cultures. Meals are cooked outdoors in many African countries and so Habitat house plans include a kitchen area outside of the house. In the Philippines, laundry and other chores are traditionally completed on a small outdoor utility porch, so the designs in that area reflect this custom. Habitat homes in developing countries are considerably smaller than those located in North America, but wherever they are built, they are designed to be affordable, to meet the needs of the homeowners, and to provide a place where families can live together happily and be proud of their accomplishments.

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

**WEXFORD HABITAT
FOR HUMANITY**

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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

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