

October 2007

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## Newsletter

Barb Tatarchuk

**Save the Date**  
**November 10**  
**Breakfast with**  
**Santa**  
**9 a.m.**  
**Festival of Trees**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**At Cadillac Grill**

## A New Home for a Happy Family

There was a great deal of excitement in the air on August 21st as Habitat Staff, Board members, family and friends were welcomed into the new home of James Pittman, Angela VandeWater, Haley and Aaron. James made sure that each person received a warm hand shake with his personal thank you. Smiling faces were everywhere.

Once inside, introductions were made by Habitat president Ed VanAlst, and then Pastor Al Meyers led the group in the blessing of the house. The children carried lighted candles into each room to symbolize the presence of Christ throughout. Then, the group participated in a Litany of Dedication. The ceremony ended with the presentation of a Bible to the family by Executive Director Mary Ellen Van Dyke. Afterwards, everyone was invited to tour the house.



The home at 715 Walnut Street had previously been owned by another Habitat family, but it has been refurbished to include wood laminate flooring and new carpeting among other things. Most of the work on the house

was done by its new family. Angela admitted that the wood laminate flooring was a little tricky at first, but she concluded that it went down smoothly. Even eighth-grader Haley contributed to the sweat equity; she helped stain the moldings, pull up old carpeting and carry wood into the basement. I found Haley's work ethic pretty impressive, but Angela told me, "We're blessed. We have awesome children."

The family planned to move into the home on August 25, and Angela was already thinking about her decorating. She said she wanted "to keep things simple," and her friends assured me that the house would be well cared for by this special family.

## New Ideas from Texas-Style ReStore Conference


Lori Bowen, our Wexford ReStore Clerk and Mary Ellen Van Dyke, Executive Director of Wexford Habitat for Humanity, recently traveled to Austin Texas for a Habitat ReStore conference. Austin, Texas is the home of the first Habitat for Humanity ReStore, so it seemed an appropriate location for the gathering. It was also a great place to try an authentic Texas-style barbecue. The pair stayed at the Marriott Arboretum which was walking distance from restaurants and shops, but their exhausting conference schedule left little time for sightseeing.

Mary Ellen brought home some worthwhile ideas on advertising, finding potential donors, and building business relationships, but she

felt that one of the most valuable aspects of the convention was the informal networking with Habitat for Humanity workers from across the nation.

When I asked Lori what she gained from the conference, she summed it up in one word. "Packaging!" She is anxious to try out some new ideas and strategies that help display items in a more appealing fashion and also help buyers to find what they need. Networking was also an important gain for Lori. She is already working on plans to do an "exchange" with one of the other ReStores in Michigan. Both Lori and Mary Ellen hope that their Austin trip will translate into some exciting changes for the ReStore.



  
Building  
from the  
ground  
up...and  
up... and  
up!



Digging a hole is no problem for Mason although he had a little help from his mom Christen Moffit at the recent ground-breaking for their new home on Rogers Street. Mason's siblings, Travis, Ruby and Christopher also shared in the excitement. Mary Ellen Van Dyke (right) helped lead the ceremony while friends and family lent their support.

Elizabeth Powers and Glenn Murray did the work, but little Noah was evidently supervising the job as they broke ground on their new home. Elizabeth and Glenn have two other children, Cheyenne and Trace. The family will be next-door neighbors to the Moffit family on Rogers Street. Activity has already begun on both sites.



Once the foundation was in, local Habitat volunteers joined together with Construction Supervisor Dennis Hammar to raise the walls on Stacy Proctor's new home on Allen Street. In only a few short weeks, the roof windows, doors, and porches were added.



Stacy Proctor (front, third from right) and son Devon relax with volunteers from the DNR after a hard day's work. Soon after this picture was taken, the siding went up. Stacy continues to be an active participant in the building process and is already planning how to use the space in her new rooms. She hopes to be in the home by Christmastime.

**Roshell DeYoung**  
Habitat volunteer Sally Goggin was so pleased with the wedding invitations that Roshell designed for Sally's daughter, she asked if Roshell might be willing to design a logo for the Festival of Trees. Even though Roshell is busy with two children and her own graphic design business (RDesign 825-2503) in McBain, Michigan, she agreed to help us out! Wexford Habitat will unveil Roshell's creation in the new Festival of Trees poster. Watch for it!!



**John and Mike Kolarevic**  
John and Mike own the Laitner Brush Company in Traverse City, but they grew up in Cadillac. They recently donated a whole truckload of items worth thousands of dollars to the Wexford ReStore. The load included building materials, storage containers, snow brushes, car wash bushes, and much more. Many of the items were manufactured at their company. We thank them for their extreme generosity.

Even though November is a busy time for Santa Claus, he will once again be taking time from his chores at the North Pole to visit the Cadillac area. Santa will arrive at 9:00 a.m. on November 10 to share a yummy breakfast at the Cadillac Grill with children of all ages. He promises to remain until all children have had a chance share their Christmas lists and to have their pictures taken with him. Holiday activities and dozens of door prizes should add to the excitement. Since November 10 is also the date for Festival of the Trees, guests will have a chance to admire the many trees designed by various businesses and individuals, and to vote on their favorites. **Tickets are available at the Cadillac ReStore or at the downtown Citizen's Bank. The cost is \$10.00 per person, although children under 2 are free.** All children must be accompanied by an adult.



It's time for the annual Festival of Trees! On November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., the Rotary Club of Cadillac is once again partnering with Wexford Habitat to host a formal dinner-dance. It will be held at the Cadillac Grill where the chef is already planning some special treats. This is Habitat's largest fund raiser, with live and silent auctions as well as a special one hour raffle. Businesses and individuals in our area are busy decorating Christmas trees and wreathes with their unique designs, hoping their creation will be chosen first. Many other donated items will also be available to the highest bidders. **Tickets are \$75.00 per person and may be purchased at Citizen's Bank, the ReStore or from Cadillac Rotarians.** The proceeds from the auction will help Habitat for Humanity to move closer to its goal of providing simple, decent, affordable housing to deserving families in our area. Would you like to donate something? Call Mary Ellen Van Dyke at 775-7561

**Festival of Trees Sponsors**  
 Citizens Bank  
 Chemical Bank  
 Wolverine  
 AAR Corporation

**Breakfast with Santa Sponsors**  
 Back on Track  
 Citizens Bank  
 Wells Fargo

### Dennis Hammar Keeps Hammering for Habitat

Dennis Hammar seemed destined to be a part of our Habitat family from the time he was a young boy. He grew up on a farm in Tustin, Michigan where building and fixing things were a way of life. When he went to Michigan State University, he majored in industrial management which led to a job for the Ford Motor Company in Ypsilanti and later to jobs with Connecticut-based manufacturers. In Connecticut, Dennis worked in materials and production management and purchasing, but because of his interest in construction, he also became more and more involved in buying and remodeling old homes.

In 1998 Dennis finally moved back to Michigan where he started Mr. Hammar Contracting in Tustin. Once again, he was remodeling old homes and building new ones, but this time, it was his primary occupation. The construction business led to a job in construction financing for seven years, and most recently, Dennis has accepted a full time position at Continental Enterprises doing oil and gas land leasing.

About eight years ago, Dennis picked up his hammer and started "pounding nails" as a Saturday volunteer for Habitat. Soon after, he joined the Wexford Habitat Board. Den-

nis has worked on about 6 homes, but recently, he also took on the role of construction manager. This job involves coordinating and following up on the sub-contractors, getting permits, ordering materials, arranging for inspections, and supervising all the volunteers. When asked what he likes most about his job as construction manager, he says he "enjoys teaching new skills" and "ultimately watching the new family move in." The most challenging part of the job is "working with up to 14 brand new employees on a Saturday morning and having every one going home with a sense of accomplishment and a good experience."



In addition to all this, Dennis finds time to work with the Kiwanis Club and to do a little amateur photography. Dennis gives credit to his "phenomenal" wife Tia for being so supportive and for being patient when her home projects don't get done as quickly. Dennis also has a son Matthew who is a master scheduler for Channel 2 in Cadillac and a married daughter Jessica who teaches special education back in Connecticut. Dennis is a major asset to Habitat because of his expertise, but also because of his generous heart.



**DNR Builders!**  
**On September 13, Fourteen men and women from the local Department of Natural Resources volunteered to work at the Allen Street House. According to Dennis Hammar, our construction manager, they did a "fantastic job."**

**Did You Know?**  
**Every year, our affiliate tithes 10% of its net income to Habitat International. This year, we sent \$14,000! This allowed us to build two homes, one of which is in the Dominican Republic. We have a new banner at the ReStore celebrating this feat.**

Wexford Habitat for Humanity

7953 E 34 Rd.

Cadillac, MI 49601



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.



20%  
off any  
item in  
the  
store

This coupon is good until December 31.

The logo for Habitat for Humanity ReStore, featuring the organization's name in blue and green, with "ReStore" in a larger blue font where the "o" is a green house icon.

**Habitat for Humanity<sup>®</sup>**  
**ReStore**

**WEXFORD HABITAT  
FOR HUMANITY**

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Habitat for Humanity eliminates poverty one house at a time.