

October 2009

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Executive Director

Mary Garcia  
Administrative Assistant

Lori Bowen  
Restore Manager

David Van Lente  
Construction Supervisor

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## A Birthday and a Groundbreaking

August 14 was an especially joyous birthday celebration for Rachele Morgan as she broke ground for her new Habitat home on Boon Street in Cadillac. Celebrating with her were her five children, 15 year old Kimmy, 12 year old Billy, 9 year old twins Daniel and Dallas, and 5 year old Jaden. Also attending were Wexford Habitat Staff and Board members as well as friends and volunteers.

Everyone present at the event shared a responsive reading and then the earth was turned first by Rachele as the homeowner, then by Kim Molitor as a representative of the Habitat Board, and finally by Pam Anderson as a volunteer. Each of the children also picked up a shovelful of dirt to show their commitment.

Rachele has been waiting a long time for a Habitat home. She was on the list of hopefuls in Ocala County for 3 years, but then after moving to Cadillac, she found herself moving quickly to the top of our list. This will be Wexford Habitat's first four bedroom home. DK Design generously donated their expertise to create a plan and now the excavation can begin. The CTC will be doing most of the work on the home, but Rachele and her family will be helping out wherever they can. Like other Habitat families, the Morgans will also have a family support advocate to answer questions and help them through the process. Connie Zolynsky has agreed to be that person.

Rachele recently graduated from Baker College in Cad and Design Technology. Eventually, she also hopes to complete an online degree in Animation and Art, and she may even return to Baker for a degree in Business Management and Entrepreneurship. In the meantime, she is working for Ann's Cleaning Service. Rachele says she wants to delay her next educational steps until her house is finished so that she will have plenty of time to devote to the building project.

The whole family is excited about the move.



The Morgan children have fun up, down and around the tree on their new property.

Kimmy, who plays a variety of musical instruments, will be closer to school for marching band practice, Billy will be able to get to football practice more easily, and all the boys are pleased to be closer to the skate park. For Rachele, "the whole experience is a BIG blessing." We wish her the best of luck as she continues on this adventure.

### Farewell and Welcome

Tina Montague and her family were all set to begin work on their new Habitat home when a wonderful, out-of-town job became available. We wish them the best of luck in their new location.

We are pleased to announce that the Johnigan family will be our newest partner family. They are excited about the new opportunity and are ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work.

**Calendar**  
**November 21, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Breakfast with Santa at**  
**the Cadillac Grill**



**November 21 6:00 p.m.**  
**Festival of Trees at the**  
**Cadillac Grill**



## A Bright New Day for the Miller Family

Not so long ago, Maggie Miller remembers trying to convince herself that "God never gives us more than we can handle," but at the time, her daughter had just had surgery, Maggie was basically homeless, and she was feeling more than a little "overwhelmed." These days, her future looks much brighter, in large part because she and Jordan finally have a home of their very own. The new home on Boon Street is the first handicapped accessible home that Wexford Habitat and the Career Tech Center have built. Special features include a wheelchair entry, and walk-in/roll-in shower, and a special sink in Jordan's room. All of these alterations will make Maggie's and Jordan's days so much easier.



Maggie and Jordan share a tender moment while Deb Maxey looks on.

Maxey presented Maggie with a Bible, a candle was lit to represent the bringing of Christ into the home, and Habitat President Ed Van Alst presented Maggie with the keys to the house.

After the ceremony, Maggie offered her heartfelt thanks to builder David Van Lente and his wife for the countless hours spent working at the house. She also thanked the Career Tech Center students, Center Lake Bible Camp, her Habitat family advocate Jane Moore, and all the other volunteers who made it all possible.

This was also a momentous occasion for Deb Maxey. She fondly remembered the ground breaking for Maggie's home, which just happened to be Deb's first day on the job as Executive Director. It had been a dark and rainy day, but the sun suddenly broke through the gloom just before the ceremony was set to begin. On this day in June, the sun was once again shining on Maggie and Jordan. We hope their lives will continue to be blessed.

On June 19, there was an official dedication for the home with many Habitat Board members, volunteers, family, and friends in attendance. Rev. Jack Nichols, Pastor of Sunnyside Baptist Church, gave the blessing for the home, Executive Director Deb

again shining on Maggie and Jordan. We hope their lives will continue to be blessed.

## Earn and Learn Summer Program Helps WHFH



Terry Maxey relaxes with his Earn and Learn Work Crew

This year, the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments offered an "Earn and Learn" summer youth program through Michigan WORKS! As a part of this program, a group of seven young adults between the ages of 16 and 23 were selected to work in our county. The program is geared to develop basic employable skills while providing young people with an income. The crew worked on a variety of projects for the City of Cadillac and for the

County Road Commission under the direction of Supervisor Terry Maxey. Fortunately, Wexford Habitat also benefitted from their efforts. They built storage shelving, picked up and loaded furniture at the ReStore, helped with lawn moving and landscaping at one of the Habitat homes, and completed a variety of other tasks.

Wexford's group set a safety goal for zero accidents for the summer with a mission statement of "Better Safe Than Sorry". They are on track to achieve that goal with daily safety awareness, safety talks, and a partner system to support safe work practices. Terry Maxey is enthusiastic about the program. He said it was a "great group to spend the summer with. They were hard working and willing to learn." The group also had a motto—Life is Good; It's Amazing! They found that work truly can be enjoyable, and Wexford Habitat is pleased that they were able to discover this while sharing in our mission.



[www.wexfordhabitat.org](http://www.wexfordhabitat.org)

Find everything you need to know about Wexford Habitat for Humanity and the ReStore.

### Landscaping help for Habitat Homeowners

Five lucky Habitat partner families received some wonderful surprises this summer. Parnall Correctional Facility donated a variety of plants including fruit trees, evergreens, and perennials. The families were in charge of the hard work of planting, but they were excited about making their homes more attractive. Wexford Habitat is grateful to Parnall Correctional Facility for this generous donation.

## Tithing to Habitat International helps Families in Viet Nam

Although most of Wexford Habitat for Humanity's efforts are directed toward helping partner families in our own county, our affiliate also honors its commitment to Habitat International, which has a presence in 90 different countries around the world. Each year, we are asked to tithe 10% of our monetary contributions to the larger organization. For the coming year, we have decided to give one-third of our tithed amount to the general fund of Habitat International and two-thirds to Habitat for Humanity Vietnam.

Why did we choose Vietnam? Vietnam has gone through many changes in the last two decades as it has shifted to a market style economy. Although the country has a 90% literacy rate, studies show that there are 4.6 million poor families. Habitat for Humanity Vietnam has a strategic plan with the goal of building

homes for 18,000 families by 2011. That is a tall order when you consider that during 2008, only 1297 new families were served in some way and only 95 actual homes were built or rehabilitated. House sponsorship is a mere \$4500, so our tithes will be a powerful force.

In addition to building homes, Habitat has worked with provincial authorities in Vietnam to extend existing microfinance networks so that families could save and access credit for home improvements. Many deserving families, some who have lived their entire lives on houseboats, drinking polluted water and worrying about their children's safety, are now being given a chance at home ownership. We are happy to be a part of their success story.

### Buy a Ticket! Build a House!

Taking a chance in a raffle is always fun, but your participation can also help build homes. This year, at Wexford Habitat's Breakfast with Santa, we will be drawing four winning tickets. The event is November 21 at the Cadillac Grill, but you don't have to be present to win. Tickets are only \$5 each, but for \$20, you will also receive a bonus ticket. Tickets can be purchased at the ReStore, at Citizens Bank, Firstbank, and Northwest Bank, or from any Habitat Board member. Look for the window display on Mitchell Street in Cadillac.

**\$5 a ticket!  
5 tickets for \$20**



#### Winning Tickets

**First prize**  
A unique "Nutcracker Christmas tree" designed by Linda Mutch. Exciting gifts will also be found under the tree.

**Fourth Prize**  
Sports Package valued at over \$100

**Second prize**  
Wii Game System.

**Third Prize**  
Beautiful hand-made "House and Tree" quilt designed and sewn by the North Star Quilt Guild.



Presenting!  
Our Sponsors



For  
Festival of Trees  
&  
Breakfast with Santa

On November 21, children will have the opportunity to enjoy a breakfast with Santa at the Cadillac Grill (9:00 a.m.). During the evening (6:00 p.m.) of the same day, the adults will gather at the Grill for the annual Festival of Trees. The formal event will feature a delicious dinner, dancing, and auction activities. This is a joint project for the Cadillac Rotary and Habitat. Ticket sales will benefit Rotary, while auction and sponsorship proceeds will benefit Wexford Habitat for Humanity.

This year we have several levels of sponsorship. Although not all sponsors have been identified at this point, we are proud to announce our early contributors. Please call 775-7561 if you would like to join this special group of Habitat friends.

#### Crystal Palace Level (\$850)- Top Sponsors for Festival of Trees and Breakfast with Santa

**Mercy Hospital  
Wal-Mart**

#### Basic Transportation

**Castle Level (\$750)  
Citizens Bank  
Villa Level (\$250)**



**Northwestern Bank  
Wolverine Power**

#### Breakfast with Santa (\$150)

**Wolverine Power  
Cadillac Family Pharmacy  
Firstbank**



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### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BY THE NUMBERS

- **18,000** — The number of families in Vietnam that Habitat for Humanity hopes to help in its 5 year strategic plan.
- **4500** — US dollars required to sponsor a home in Vietnam
- **296**— The number of families from Kim Lai village who will be helped by Habitat for Humanity Vietnam through a special HFH work project called **PROMISE, Project Resettlement Of Migrants In Slum Environments**
- **5-6** —The number of individuals who sometimes share space as small as 10 square meters in fishing boat homes in Northern Vietnam.

**20% off  
any item  
in the  
store**

This coupon is good until November 1, 2009



Wexford Habitat for Humanity was established in 1987 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 2 homes this year, 23 families from Wexford County will be living in safe, decent housing.

Habitat for Humanity eliminates poverty one house at a time.