



Newsletter

of MISSOULA

BUILDING HOMES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD'S PEOPLE IN NEED

partners step up

STOLEN TOOLS have *silver lining*

On Wednesday, November 3rd, our site supervisor, George Baumann, came to the Busby home to open up for a work day and found that we had been robbed! The construction trailer lock had been cut and over \$8000 in tools were missing from the trailer and the house. When the deputy arrived to investigate we learned that we were one of many construction sites hit the night before.

Our insurance for this kind of thing has a pretty high deductible so we were very worried about how we were going to finish the home. One of our partner family members, Cheryl Drake, sent a heartfelt appeal by email. Mountain FM, Fisher Communications and Clear Channel responded by spreading the word on the radio. We put out a press release and the Missoulian and television stations ran sympathetic stories. *And Missoula responded!* People donated tools and money. Rental companies offered free rentals. By Thanksgiving week, the emergency had passed and Executive Director Dave Chrismon was back on the radio to say thanks to the great, caring community we live in. As he put

it, "Thanks to the wonderful people and businesses in our town, the silver lining is now bigger than the black cloud."

Our silver lining was also contributed by the Missoula Construction Council; Home Depot; Sears; Wells Fargo Foundation; Chapman Concrete Construction; Dan Conway; Dbridge; El Cazador; Garlington, Lohn and Robinson; United Rentals; Western Montana Denture Center; Western Tool Supply; Quality Supply; Ace Hardware; Lowe's; Bosch; Howard Horton; John Trickel; Jackson Contractor's Group; Time Rental; Northern Lights Signs; Sara and Randy Deaton; Randy Carter; William Montaven; Ed-N-Eddie's Homework; Mike Hardy and William Montaven. Generous donations were collected at the Downtown Lion's Club and by employees at ALPS. A great group of Valley Christian School students raised over \$100 with a bake sale! Big thanks to volunteers John Drake, Melvin Moon, Glen Wheeler, Jerry McCauley, Bill Wodrich, and Eldon Hanson for working with donors and making sure we get the tools we need when we need them.

HELP CELEBRATE *volunteers*

Join us for our annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner at First Presbyterian Church, Tuesday, January 25th from 5:30 until 8:00 p.m. This is a potluck dinner and we always have great potluck! If your last name begins with A-L, like this year's partner family and our Executive Director, then bring a SALAD OR DESSERT. If your last name begins with M-Z, like our board secretary and past volunteer of the year, bring a MAIN COURSE. Dinner starts at 6 and the awards ceremony begins at 6:45. Come thank all the people who make our ministry possible.



Dawn shows off the living room to a group of middle school students from Valley Christian School.

from the **President's Desk**

During the Thanksgiving holiday I enjoy counting my blessings. Habitat for Humanity of Missoula has been a great blessing in my life. Family and friends often tease me about my enthusiasm for social service work and my stamina for meetings, but Habitat work and even the longest meetings—no matter how difficult the issues on the agenda—rejuvenate my spirit. It is inspiring to witness the daily dedication of the partner families, volunteers, staff, and board members to eliminating poverty housing in Missoula. Difficulties certainly arise, but they resolve themselves to a great extent because of the common focus on a worthy cause and the opportunity to develop partnerships with families in need.

Habitat believes in the resolving of differences through work in partnership, which it calls the “theology of the hammer.” Habitat founder, Millard Fuller, explains: “This theology is about bringing a wide diversity of people, churches, and other organizations together to build houses and establish viable and dynamic communities. It is acknowledging that differences of opinion exist on numerous subjects—political, philosophical, and theological—but that we can find common ground in using a hammer as an instrument to manifest God’s love. . . . we can agree on the imperative of the gospel to serve others in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” (from *Habitat for Humanity’s Christian Principles*).

I believe that the theology of the hammer has a preventive role also. Hauling lumber together builds a

sense of community, which facilitates effective, congenial problem solving. Working together also allows us to forget our own individual problems. Maybe the physical labor itself takes our minds off whatever concerns nag at us. I recently spent a very happy morning ignoring my shoulder pain while pounding nails over my head at our current partner house and forgetting about columns to write and bills to pay.

The theology of the hammer refers specifically to the building of houses, but it can apply to fundraising events, board meetings, and any other activities that require us to develop partnerships. This fall I have had the pleasure of participating in Habitat Week events that emphasize partnerships. The Pastors’ Breakfast at the site highlighted the potential of the ministerial community of Missoula to further Fuller’s dream to “make shelter such a matter of conscience that we will, in fact, eliminate poverty housing and homelessness.” The golf tournament at King Ranch was the result of the extraordinary energy and attention to detail of the highly dedicated tournament committee, led this year by former board member, Ron Mueller.

Habitat is lucky to have a talented and energetic core of workers, but we could not do what we do without other partners who join us for specific projects. The Wells Fargo Bank has been a great partner in building our current home. An extremely generous financial donation from the bank has been matched by dedicated participation in Habitat work and events.

Another partnership that brings great pleasure to the community every year and supports Habitat’s work is *The Messiah* with UM and other musicians in Missoula. Molly Howard, immediate past president, and I enjoyed a partnership/competition to raise pledges from people who wanted us NOT to sing. She brought in more money, but more people were bent on keeping my voice out of the choir.

Habitat for Humanity of Missoula is also blessed by our relationship with HfH International. This partnership requires that affiliates tithe—donate 10 percent of their income—to build homes in another country. As affiliates we also have the opportunity to donate our labor in other countries. We are part of an effective, inspiring global partnership through the theology of the hammer. For that I am very thankful.

- *Laure Pengelly Drake, President*

FINANCES IN ORDER *Our 2003 Audit*

The Certified Public Accounting Firm of Jennifer Cote and Belinda Wheeler conducted an independent audit for Habitat for Humanity of Missoula for 2003. This was their first association with our organization. The audit was conducted professionally and efficiently due to the great accounting services by Susan Toder. As the auditors went through records and documents, they commented on the great job done in the Missoula office. We received an “unqualified opinion” stating that our financial statements fairly represent our financial position as of December 31, 2003. This is the best opinion given by an auditor, and we are grateful to our accountant, Susan Toder, and our Executive Director, Dave Chrismon, for their record-keeping and organization, which contributed to this report. We are also very grateful to the auditors as they did a tremendous job and even came in under budget! We look forward to working with them again during the audit for 2004.

- *Gay Peterson, Treasurer*



Laure Pengelly Drake, President
Dave Chrismon, Executive Director

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Habitat for Humanity of Missoula is a grassroots nonprofit Christian housing ministry dedicated to the elimination of poverty housing in Missoula County. The Habitat for Humanity of Missoula Newsletter is published quarterly.

HABITAT WEEK

How many events can Habitat for Humanity of Missoula fit into a single week? A lot, according to the list of activities featured the week of September 12.

On Monday night, Mayor Mike Kadas officially declared September 12 through September 18 "Habitat for Humanity Week in Missoula," recognizing the organization's commitment to building decent, affordable housing in Missoula. The proclamation noted, in part, that "every Habitat for Humanity of Missoula home provides a unique and valuable chance for all Missoulians to work together to help solve our community's need for more affordable homeownership."

A year ago, HfH of Missoula had created "Habitat Week" as a way to tell the story of our ministry and focus attention on the need for more affordable home ownership in Missoula, as the mayor's declaration noted. This year, our local "Habitat Week" also happened to coincide with Habitat for Humanity International's 10th annual "Building on Faith" week, a time used by HfH International to promote our role around the world as a vital Christian housing ministry. The result was an exceptionally full calendar, thanks to the work of many tireless Habitat supporters.

Highlights from Habitat week included:

- * A well-attended volunteer orientation held Monday on-site at the Busby home. Jessica Kato, chair of the Volunteer Co-ordination Committee, continues to hold these meetings on a monthly basis as a way to introduce local residents to the challenges of providing affordable housing in Missoula and show how involvement in HfH of Missoula can help.
- * HfH of Missoula's first "Minister's Breakfast," held Wednesday at the building site. Pastor Jim Engh from Atonement Lutheran Church, Amy Carter, associate pastor at University Congregational Church, and Mardell Pederson, representing St. Paul's Lutheran Church, heard presentations from Executive Director Dave Chrismon and Board



Fr. Jim Hogan, Christ the King Parish, starts the Wells Fargo workday with a prayer.

President Laure Pengelly Drake about HfH's theological roots and philosophy.

- * A successful golf tournament held Friday at King Ranch course in Frenchtown. (See the story by Susan Toder in this newsletter.)
- * Morning prayer led Saturday by Father Jim Hogan of Christ the King Church before the Wells Fargo building crew went to work.

The Saturday picnic scheduled for later in the day was cancelled because of rain, so recognition of winners of the 2004 "Hall of Fame" awards was postponed until the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner to be held January 25, 2005. But the cycle of helping to increase home ownership in Missoula began anew the following day, with the kick-off meeting for families interested in building with Habitat in 2005 - 2006.

Thanks to all who helped make "Habitat for Humanity Week in Missoula" such a busy and rewarding experience.

PARTNERS TAKE SMALL STEPS THAT MAKE **BIG** DIFFERENCES

In the last newsletter, we introduced the idea of "kaizen." It means seeing the value in small steps that are taken in the right direction.

Helen Tollefson, one of our longtime supporters, passed away since our last newsletter. She made regular, modest donations to our ministry for years. They came in like clockwork, each around the price of a dinner in a good restaurant. But, oh, how they built up. Over the years she donated enough money to put the roof on a house.

Her son, Greg, came by on September 16th and shared some stories about his mother. He said she was a "Lutheran pastor's wife who always thought she could be better." David Ophus knew her when he was the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. According to him, she was one of those

people who keep a low profile but whose name always comes up. He remembers her as a person who was always volunteering to drive church members who needed transportation, helping with events, keeping things moving. When she saw a need she would do what she could to help.

Helen Tollefson knew the value of small steps in the right direction. Do you have time to take some small steps for our ministry? It would really make a difference. Could you say a short prayer for the safety of our volunteers? Could you tell the person who cuts your hair about Habitat? Could you drop some money into one of our "house banks" in businesses around town? It will make a difference.

— Dave Chrismon, Executive Director

改善

Thank You For Your Generous Support in Building Houses and Hope Contributors From July - October 2004

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memorials....

In Memory of Helen Tollefson

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 Norma Holden
 Gerhard M. & Gayle A. Knudsen
 Bettijane Larson
 Leonard G. Legreid
 Verne W. & Clavie A. Lupton
 Sherman M. & Fern V. Madsen
 Ronald L. Mueller
 Lewis O. & Eunice M. Nelson
 Chuck & Caren Reaves
 Gary & Hazel L. Sorensen
 Joanne Vogel
 Betty S. Wackernagel

In Memory of Bamford Dodge

Lois G. Dodge

In Memory of Dave Pengelly

Laure Pengelly & Richard Drake

In Memory of Seth Atkin

Tom Facey & Maureen O'Malley

In Memory of Helen Elmore

Harold R. & Elizabeth F. Marsh

In Honor of Sister Richard Bussing

Jack Simon
 Barbara Simon

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BUSINESS PARTNERS CORNER

-Clawson Manufacturing Company, Inc

We are beginning a series of stories about business partners who are making a great difference in our ability to build in Missoula.

For Bill Clawson, president of Clawson Manufacturing Company, Inc., in Missoula, donating some of his company's windows to a Habitat home about five years ago was just the beginning. Clawson's Christian faith told him more was expected of him. His business sense saw a practical approach to helping tackle the problem of providing affordable housing in Missoula. What started with giving windows moved into a regular commitment of time as a recent Habitat board member and past board treasurer.

Why did Clawson decide to work with Habitat, in a community with so many worthy non-profits? "Habitat's being about 'a hand up instead of a hand out,' appealed to me," recalls the boyish 34-year-old father of four... "I like the idea that people get a chance to be able to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. There are not a lot of practical ways to do that. I view Habitat as one of those really practical ways."

Clawson, a member of the South Hills Evangelical Church, also was drawn to Habitat's Christian roots. Says Clawson, "I believe much is given, but much is expected. Business people have an obligation to run their businesses properly, do a good job, turn a profit, and then give back. Not only is it a right, it's an obligation."

For Clawson, the time spent working with Habitat very much met his personal expectations, especially in the way he saw partner families coming together to help build their own homes. "When you have put in time in something, you have some pride of ownership in that," he says. He also enjoyed meeting people from various churches at the building sites. Being part of Habitat, says Clawson, "provided another way we could get together and encourage one another in this type of setting."

The businessman in Clawson recognizes that Habitat gives a chance at homeownership to people who otherwise might not get that chance in the increasingly expensive Missoula housing market. Clawson sees the challenges of

providing affordable housing firsthand both as president of the window and roof truss manufacturing company started by his grandfather after World War II and as secretary of the Missoula Building Industry Association. Says Clawson, "Everybody likes to talk about affordable housing, but there are so few practical alternatives."

Habitat, he continues, offers that kind of "practical alternative" to people who need affordable housing as well as to those who want to help make affordable housing available. "All kinds of Missoula residents can participate," he says, "those who can contribute financially and those who only can give of their time."

"Habitat always needs the checks," says the former board treasurer who graduated from the University of Montana in 1992 with a major in accounting. "But if all you have is time and you are willing to swing a hammer or put up some sheetrock or man—or woman—a paintbrush, you have an opportunity to help at Habitat."

Since Clawson's term on the Habitat board ended over a year ago, he has found his own free time increasingly taken up with demands from his growing business and a desire to spend those few spare hours with wife, Ami, and their four children. Clawson Manufacturing continues to donate windows and truss packages to Habitat homes, but Clawson personally has had to cut back on his investment of time. His days with Habitat aren't over for good, though. Says Clawson, "I have a soft spot in my heart for Habitat, and one day, when my kids are raised and my business is built, I'd like to contribute my time again."

- Lucia Solórzano Work



Duane and Julia Sauter owners of Sauter Construction brought some friends out and put up the Clawson trusses at the Busbys' home.

partners **ARE FRIENDS IN NEED**

This season volunteers have been working hard and having fun to help the Busby family build their first home. With the help of site supervisor, George Baumann, we have kept on schedule and will, we hope, be holding the dedication ceremony in February 2005. It was last year at the dedication ceremony for the Holden's home where I truly learned how Habitat for Humanity of Missoula helps build partnerships with the community...let me explain. After a wonderful dedication and tour of the Holden's new home I tried to leave but my car wouldn't start. I popped the hood and the next thing I knew longtime Habitat volunteer, John Drake, was helping

me check my battery. Within minutes Habitat President, Laure Pengelly Drake, was offering jumper cables and a wrench. Then the Holdens brought over some water and an old rag to help clean off my battery terminals! Just as we were wishing out loud for some baking soda, Board member Desera Towle found some in the glove box of her car! It was getting dark and getting cold but all of these volunteers chose to stay and help me. I am truly honored to be a part of the Habitat family and can't wait for the dedication of the Busby home.

-Jessica Kato, Volunteer Committee Chair

VOLUNTEER SALUTE *bill wodrich*

We have a lot of volunteers who do a fantastic job out on the building site. Among all these diamonds, Bill Wodrich stands out. Bill is a retired banker who travels in from his home in the 9 Mile to build. He has really committed himself to the Busby home and has worked on it more than anyone except the Busby family and George Baumann, the site supervisor. Bill *really* shines when he has a chance to work with other volunteers. He is committed to making the Habitat experience great for everyone. Our Volunteer Committee chair, Jess Kato said, "I've watched Bill take the most inexperienced volunteer under his wing to involve them in the building process - he's got great leadership skills!"



Bill enjoys a special moment on the job.

9th annual MESSIAH Concert RAISES THE ROOF

A few people got a little worried when it started snowing an hour before the performance, but our 9th annual benefit performance of Handel's Messiah went off right on pitch. The audience of over 800 was treated to "the nicest chorus in Missoula." Why the nicest? Because each of them raised money or actually paid to sing in the group. These 85 nice people were supported by a 30-piece volunteer orchestra and our stellar soloists: Stephen Kalm, Anne Basinski, David Cody and Karen Callan. The conductor, stepping in at the last minute without missing a beat, was Jim Clark, Superintendent of Missoula County Public Schools.

Thanks to all their hard work this year's event raised a record amount of over \$17,000!

New this year was a wonderful multimedia presentation produced by Jerda Smeltzer. This year's great gift ornaments for the musicians were designed and produced by Amity and Glen Parks at their ceramics school, The Green Portfolio. The posters and program were designed by the lovely and talented Jennifer Leutzinger.



Our soloists Karen, Stephen, Anne and David (L to R) prove they can raise more than their voices in song.

ravalli UPDATE

After building two houses as a chapter of the Missoula Affiliate, Ravalli Chapter is pursuing affiliate status. As of the September 21, 2004, meeting, we had already received both our initial package and package II; our steering committee has been formed, our board is in place. Although some people are doing double duty, we have our basic committee heads. We approved our by-laws in our October meeting.

Our new fundraising committee chairman, Michael Spurgin, is letting no grass grow under his feet in organizing our annual holiday grocery raffle, immediately following our successful Ravalli Fair booth. At the Fair we made many good contacts and Jack Mackie's wooden toys sold very well. Between the toys, a donated doll house and the HfH cookbooks, we raised nearly \$977.

Molly Hackett's publicity committee is constructing a letter to all of the service organizations to solicit opportunities to address their organization with an introduction to Habitat for Humanity.

We are excited about our progress and are appreciative of the help of Karen Caskie and the Missoula Affiliate.

CAMPUS CHAPTER

The Habitat for Humanity-UM Campus Chapter turned in our ASUM Recognition Forms to be recognized as a student group. We are recruiting new board members and committee members. In addition to Fundraising, PR, and Education, we are hoping to add an Advocacy committee. A UM Build day took place on November 6th. Despite its being a game day, many students came out and had a great time building. If you have any questions regarding the UM Campus Chapter, please contact um_habitat@yahoo.com.

- Jacole Douglas

-Bob Bateman

golf tournament

- Fun and Fundraising!

A good time was had by all at the 9th Annual Golf Scramble held at King Ranch golf course in Frenchtown on Friday, September 17th. Almost 100 golfers participated in the event, enjoying a day of golf with a sack lunch, barbecue dinner, team photo, and the barest sprinkling of rain. Due to the generosity of our sponsors listed below, there were lots of prizes for both the skilled golfer and the lucky golfer.

The top four teams were as follows: First Place with an 18-hole score of 19 under par were Loree and Jack Dark, Gene Fowler, and Brooks Christensen, representing Qwest; Second Place (18 under par) - Cliff and Trish Larsen, Aaron Bay, and Susan Toder, representing StarPoint Healthcare Group; Third Place (17 under par) - Doug Thompson, Barrett Byrne, Stan Anglen, and Bill Hall; and Fourth Place (also at 17 under par) - Larry Toder, Tom Graves, Bill Paulsen, and Rosann Cannon. Due to the judicious use of the free putt string, team scores were at an all-time low.

In addition to the team competition, there were a number of individual contest winners:

Long Drives for Women:	Emy Rominger and Loree Dark
Long Drives for Men:	Paul Sepp and Barrett Byrne
Closest to Pin in Two:	Emy Rominger and Barrett Byrne
Closes to Pin (unlimited shots):	Kelly Nurse
Long Putts:	Bill Hall and Mike Peterson
Short Drive for Women:	Natalie Cooper
Short Drive for Men:	Ed Burghardt
Closest to the Truss:	Tom Graves

Not only did everyone have a good time, the event cleared over \$10,000 to benefit Habitat in its mission to create affordable housing in Missoula. Thanks to the participating golfers, sponsors, and volunteers who helped make this such a successful event.

CREW LEADER TRAINING COMING!

Would you like to learn how Habitat works? Would you like to learn how to motivate and lead volunteers? Would you like to learn how to build a home from bare land to the final punch list? If you say "yes, yes, and YES" to these questions, then Habitat for Humanity of Missoula's Crew Leader Training is for YOU! The first class will start on February 28th. Call the office today for more information 549-8210.



Johnna Kimmel (front row, second from right) did her high school senior project on Habitat for Humanity. One of her many accomplishments was recruiting a great work crew from her friends and her church to help build with the Busbys. Thanks Johnna!



Kris Paffhausen, Envirocon's Controller (left) presenting a \$10,000 donation from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to E.D. Dave Chrismon. On the right is Cindy Kuns, co-chair of our golf tournament and Envirocon employee. The Foundation has been a very generous supporter of our efforts to build lives, community and homes. It has donated a total of \$65,000 in the past 6 years.

FAMILY SELECTION

The Selection/Nurturing committee meets regularly at Finnegan's on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. We now have a committee of 9 active members including Lana Clark, Alice Dailey, Molly Howard, Joyce Nelsen, Mary Parrish, Mariel Reiger, Betty Rude, Aggie Vandergrift and Debbie Wilcox.

We have just selected two new families to build with Habitat for Humanity of Missoula in the next building season. The Tabernas and Piippos are very excited to get started and have already started getting "sweat equity" hours in the office and working on the Busby's home.

Selecting Habitat family partners takes time. We held an information meeting on Sept. 19th and explained our applications that were due on October 1st. After screening for complete forms and basic criteria, we held meetings with the remaining families to introduce them to Habitat. The meetings provided an overview of Habitat, financial issues, community responsibilities, building procedures, and conversation with previous partner homeowners. Finally, we looked into the families' financial situations, contacted their references and did home visits. This year, representatives of our Finance Committee reviewed the applications and made home visits as well.

After all our research and interviews came one of the hardest jobs in Habitat - deciding who to recommend to the board for partnership. We choose families with family incomes of between 30 percent and 60 percent of the area's median income. We look at family need, their ability to repay the cost of the home, and their willingness to partner with Habitat. The Board unanimously approved our



2003 partner family member Luanne KickingWoman described what building with Habitat is like at the Information Meeting in September.

recommendation of the Piippo and Taberna families on November 18th.

We have found that the hardest position to fill is a "Sponsor." This is a person, family, or group that is willing to dedicate a couple of years to helping a family attain its goal of home ownership. There is NO financial responsibility, but some time is required. We are looking for folks who will stay in regular contact with the family, help answer questions that they may have, and be the liaison with Habitat if needed. Are you curious about this very important role in Habitat? Call the office at 549-8210.

- Joyce Nelsen



Marching to "If I Had a Hammer," our ToolBelts had a great time in the UM Homecoming Parade.

CHURCH RELATIONS HELP NEEDED

Would you like to help our ministry spread the "Theology of the Hammer" and put love into action? Call 549-8210.



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- ⇒ stolen tools
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RECYCLE YOUR NEWSLETTER. Pass it on to a friend and suggest they call Habitat to receive a future newsletter of their own.

If you wish to be taken off our mailing list, please call 549-8210.

helping **HANDS**

Our ministry depends on the prayers and support of our church partners for so much. Ever wonder who they are? Check out the list at http://www.habitatmsla.org/church_partners.htm.

Our partnership with Women's Opportunity Resource Development, Inc. (WORD) allows partner families to get professional assistance in budgeting and finances from a skilled financial analyst. We also refer many people to WORD's Homeownership Center for first time homebuyer's classes and to learn about all low-income home ownership options in our community. Get more information about WORD by calling 543-3550 or visiting <http://www.wordinc.org/>.

Missoula Aging Services (MAS) is one of our partners in volunteerism. You may not know it but MAS is a leader in volunteerism in Missoula. If you need volunteers for an event, your first call should be to Missoula Aging Services. Call them at 728-7682 or visit www.missoulaagingservices.org.

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