

HABITAT ON THE HOME FRONT

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity Newsletter Volume 29 * Issue 1 * Winter 2014

Fear not! Construction on Wabash Valley Habitat House #62 has begun!



Dawn Fears had always dreamed of constructing her own house from the ground up. As a young girl, she watched her father construct his own house and remembers the great sense of accomplishment he felt afterwards. She thought it would be great to follow in his footsteps and put her sweat and tears into something she could call her own.

On November 1st, with the support of family and friends, she was one step closer to achieving her dream of owning and constructing her house. The weather may have been chilly, but there was no way it would hinder the excitement or determination of the many volunteers who arrived to help the family frame and raise the walls on S. 14th Street.



Construction on Dawn's house may have just begun, but she has been volunteering with Habitat for a few months now. She has devoted her Saturday's to building and has helped on other homeowners houses which makes starting hers seem even more unreal. "Our Framing Work Day was a very emotional and very exciting day," she said.

Being on site every Saturday, she has also already learned a lot about the construction process including wearing long shirts and pants when insulating and just how hard it can be to pick out colors for things like siding and bedrooms. She says her kids have changed their minds about bedroom colors 101 times and will probably keep changing them.

Above: Dawn with Construction Manager Pat and photo from Wall Raising/Framing Work Day

Regardless, she likes to keep them involved in the process and encourages their input. "I ask them all the time for suggestions and input" she said, "and all they say is mom, what makes you happy makes us happy".

"I want the Habitat family and community to know how thankful and honored my family and I are to have been selected"

Thus far, Dawn is happy. Her experience with Habitat has been very educational and fun, and she truly enjoys being involved in all aspects of the home-building process. As construction continues, she is looking forward to working with Habitat and the community. "I wake up at the beginning of the week counting the days down to Saturday to go help out" she said.

While construction won't be finished until 2015, Dawn can already see herself sitting on the deck that will be at the back of her house. She wants to celebrate with a cookout which, in a way, will be reminiscent of how it all started as volunteers at the Wall Raising had pizza donated from Ballyhoo Pizza King to celebrate their hard work. "I plan to enjoy it for a little bit" said Dawn of her future house, "but then I'm ready to help the next family selected build theirs". Spoken like a true partner family.

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity receives \$10,000 from Wells Fargo Housing Foundation.

Wells Fargo Financial Advisors are supporting Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity by donating sweat equity and financial support to help build a home for a family in need. Wells Fargo also contributed \$10,000 to support the home build for the Fears family through the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation. Established in 1993, the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation is committed to increasing low-to moderate-income homeownership through the development of affordable housing.

Tom Kirchner, Associate Vice President of the local Wells Fargo Financial Advisors led the volunteer efforts for the Wells Fargo team. Tom and his colleagues volunteered more than 60 hours raising the walls on the Fears Framing Build Day on November 1st.



New Staff

Cindy McEwen

For over 7 years Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity and the ReStore have partnered with AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program. Cindy McEwen, an AARP service member, has been in the program since 2013 and started working at the Habitat office in May. Cindy is from Alpena, Michigan and moved to Terre Haute 5 years ago. Cindy has 1 son and is the proud grandmother of 3 grandchildren, which she adores along with her cocker spaniel.



New staff outside the office (from left Susan, Tammy, Nicole, Cindy)

Nicole Beyer

Nicole Beyer, our new Family Services Coordinator and AmeriCorps member, comes to us from Wisconsin. She recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with degrees in Journalism and Communication Arts, and a certificate in German.

Unsure of what to do after college, she applied for a few AmeriCorps positions including the one with Indiana HabiCorps. "I knew I wanted to travel away from home and work with a non-profit" she said, "AmeriCorps gave me the chance to do both". Nicole was also active with her campus' chapter of Habitat

for Humanity and served as their PR Coordinator for two years, so becoming part of another Habitat family was something she was excited to do.

Nicole will be serving with Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity as Family Services Coordinator for the year and hopes to have a self-sustaining Family Support Committee by the end of her term. She is building off the work started by our previous AmeriCorps member and looks forward to working with the community and partner families to build up the Family Support program.

Tammy Sinderson

We are pleased to welcome Tammy Sinderson, Wabash Valley Habitat's new Finance Program Director. Tammy and her husband Perry have been married for almost 30 years. Their son Jonathan is attending Ivy Tech Community College and their daughter Elizabeth, is a sophomore at Clay City High School. Tammy received her Associates Degree in Business Administration/Accounting from Ivy Tech in 2010 after being home raising her children for almost 12 years. Tammy is excited about working for a non-profit organization and being able to help out the community in such a needed area. She is looking forward to being a part of Habitat for Humanity as we grow and reach new goals in the years to come.

New Partner Families

The Groza's

In a few weeks, the Groza family will be getting ready to move into their new Habitat house, but in mind and spirit, they've moved in already. For the past few months, they have been envisioning the start of their new life with their kids. With each passing day, the family gets more and more excited. "Our experience has been amazing," said Debra. "Our favorite part of the whole process has been getting to be a part of everything".

As Habitat homeowners, being part of everything is a requirement; however, most partner families do not view it as such. They enjoy getting to work on different aspects of construction and enjoy supporting Habitat in various ways. Partner families are required to put in a certain amount of sweat equity hours on their own home, other Habitat homes, and they often help out at the ReStore or the office from time to time so they get to be involved in a variety of aspects. They also get to choose flooring, paint colors, light fixtures and other additions to the home.

One addition Debra is looking forward to, is having a laundry room on the main level of her house and having all the bedrooms in one corner, so that the family can literally and figuratively be closer to one another. It's the little things that really make a house a home, and, as construction wraps up on the Groza's home, they are getting ready to move in and start a new life.

The Wakefield's



On October 19th, Dan and Mickey Wakefield cut the red, white and blue ribbon around the door to their new home as friends and family, who had supported them along the way, looked on with admiration and respect. The feeling was mutual as the homeowners expressed gratitude for all of the volunteers that had helped make their house a reality. An American Flag was donated and hung by

the Terre Haute Realtors Association for the Wakefield's, as Dan is a Veteran having served as Assistant Chaplain with the Navy in Vietnam. The ceremony was followed by a quick reception and tour of the house before the homeowners were left alone to envision life in their new abode. They plan to enjoy the last few days of fall sitting out on their deck and when the weather gets too cold, they can move inside and enjoy all the benefits of their new house.

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From the Executive Director

For the past 25 years Wabash Valley Habitat has been building houses in Terre Haute and surrounding areas for people in need of decent, affordable housing. Our building efforts have provided 90 adults and over 150 children a decent place to call home. I am deeply grateful for your faith in us and the ongoing work that God has given to our local organization.

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity takes the responsibility of stewardship very seriously. We strive to maximize every dollar given to help those in need of housing in our community. We have a strong partnership with the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment and have partnered with other non-profit organizations such as the Housing Authority and Catholic Charities. We understand the importance of partnership and coming together to find solutions to the growing need of homelessness.

Wabash Valley Habitat completed its first Veterans Build in October and hopes to have the Groza Family, our 61st house, moved in by Christmas. On November 1st, we raised the walls one more time this year for the Fears Family. Looking ahead, we are exploring a possible development of building 5 houses simultaneously near Vorhees Park.

It's a joy for me to lead Wabash Valley Habitat in providing simple, decent and affordable housing. We are using unique gifts, talents and skills to make strides towards that mission. We find strength on the hardest days- and are blessed on our best days- knowing that we have friends and supporters like you.

I hope you will continue to follow our growth and progress in the community. Thank you again for taking part in changing lives and building hope.

In Partnership,

Annette Houchin

BECOME A FAMILY SUPPORT ADVOCATE!!

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to provide support and guidance to new partner families before, during and after the construction of their home. It is a crucial job from the time a family is selected to about a year after their house is completed. They will be witness to some of the most important moments of becoming a Habitat homeowner including construction and house closing.

When a family is selected into the Habitat program, the partner family is assigned a Family Support Advocate. They are with the families every step of the way and act as mentors who empower families to build on their strengths and reach their full potential as homeowners. They will develop a unique relationship that is one of mutual trust and respect. Their main goal is to advocate on behalf of the family and prepare them for all aspects of homeownership. They will also provide the communications bridge between Habitat and the partner family.

"Family Support, the people-to-people partnership of Habitat for Humanity, is at the heart of our mission: to develop communities with God's people in need by building and renovating houses."

Family Support Advocates are part of a committee that works to provide resources, guidance and education to partner families by working with local community organizations. Affiliates will work with Family Support Advocates to create workshops and opportunities for homeowners to learn about budgeting, home maintenance, the Philosophy of Habitat, closing on a house, etc. They will go through an orientation which prepares them for becoming an advocate and will have the support of the Habitat staff throughout the entire process.

It is truly a rewarding experience to be with a family from the beginning and watch them grow and mature as their house does. If you're interested in working with our Partner Families and making a difference in their lives, please contact Nicole Beyer, Family Services Coordinator, at 812-235-5914 or nbeyer@wvh4h4.org.



CALLING ALL CHAIRS...

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity is holding a Chair-ity Event on March 26th at the Indiana Theater. The fundraising committee is looking for individuals and businesses to design and enter a chair to be auctioned off. All proceeds from the event will go towards Habitat's home building efforts in the community.

The entry fee is \$25 per chair. The chair can be rocking chairs, kitchen chairs, children's chairs, computer chairs, recliners, car seats, bar stools, etc.

Each chair should have a theme and be decorated and accessorized accordingly. For example....



A **child's chair** could be freshly painted to cover wear and have a teddy bear painted on the seat with a matching teddy bear resting in it.

A **kitchen chair** could have a cookbook, a grocery store gift certificate, a new blender, or Tupperware collection.

A **rocking chair** could have an afghan, family photo album, case of lemonade, or new slippers.

A **car seat** could have baby food, diapers, play toys, or baby store gift certificate.

A **recliner** could be accompanied by a case of beer, pretzels, deluxe remote control, or big screen TV.

A **bar stool** could have drink recipes, a box of assorted liquor, drink glasses, bartending lessons, or similar items.

The important thing is that each be unique, creative, and desirable. For registration forms, tickets, and more information, please contact the Habitat office, 812-235-5914. A copy of the registration form is also available online at wvh4h.org.



WINTER WONDERLAND NO SHOW BALL

Want to help Habitat for Humanity this holiday season?! Then we cordially invite you to NOT attend our Winter Wonderland No Show Ball on December 20th.

What is a no show event you ask? It is exactly as it sounds. People are invited to not show up and are instead asked to make a donation. Depending on the amount of the donation, we will even send you something! Donate \$50 and get a bag of popcorn. Donate \$100 and get popcorn and a Christmas movie. Donate \$250 and we will deliver popcorn, a Christmas movie and a Christmas throw. Donate \$500 and we will deliver popcorn, two Christmas movies, a Christmas throw, candy and sparkling cider!

For 25 years, Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity has worked to provide simple, decent, affordable housing for low income families. You can help us continue this mission by NOT attending our Winter Wonderland Ball and by making a donation that will help us with our building efforts in 2015 for three families. Your support makes it possible for us to continue our mission of building houses with low income families.



CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity is once again decorating Duby Shelter in Deming Park for their annual Christmas in the Park Celebration. In honor of our first Veterans Build this year, we have decided to decorate our shelter according to the theme of "A Veteran's Christmas". The lighting ceremony will take place December 1st at 6:00 p.m. and Santa Claus will arrive to see kids in the Santa House. On December 5th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity will be operating the train. We will be selling tickets, hot chocolate and cookies, each for \$1 per person. Judging of the shelters will take place on Monday, December 8th at 5:45 p.m. and voting for the "People's Choice" shelter can be done by filling out a ballot form which will be located inside the Torner Center. The Torner Center is located near our shelter and will be open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information about our upcoming events, or if you would like to help decorate our shelter for Christmas in the Park, please contact the Habitat office, 812-235-5914, or visit our website, wvh4h.org.

Pat's Points: Ladder Safety Tips

1. Choose the Right Ladder

- Type I – Industrial: heavy-duty with a load capacity of no more than 250 lbs.
- Type II – Commercial: medium-duty with a load capacity not more than 225 lbs.
- Type III – Household: light-duty with a load capacity of not more than 200 lbs.

2. Correctly Use the Ladder

- Secure the ladder: An extension ladder should be tied off at the top, middle and bottom to prevent ladder movement or slipping. The structure that you tie the ladder to must be capable of supporting the ladder. A second person should act as a spotter and hold the ladder at the bottom. Tie off at the bottom of the overlap section to prevent slippage. The top must extend 3 feet beyond the roof line if you are climbing onto the structure.
- If climbing from the ladder to another surface, make sure the ladder extends 3 feet past the platform being climbed to.
- Always face the ladder when climbing or descending.
- Do not climb higher than the second rung on stepladders or the third rung on straight or extension ladders and never reach to where you have to lift a foot off the ladder
- Volunteers should have their hands free of material while climbing ladders. Hand lines and/or tool pouches will be used to raise or lower material.
- Utilize the 4-1 ratio: The 4-to-1 Ratio applies to the distance the ladder's base must be from the foundation. This is figured by dividing the length of the structure from the ground to the top support point (where the ladder rests against the building) by four. It does not include the 3 foot extension to 15 feet; the ladder's base should be 3 feet from the foundation. The 4-to-1 Ratio is important because the angle it creates utilizes the ladder's strength and gives optimum balance when climbing.



Our construction manager Pat (far right) with from left: Terry, Bill, Steve, Norbert & Steve

Habitat Wish List

- Television 32" or Larger (for training purposes)
- DVD Player (for training purposes)
- Picnic Table
- Family Advocate Volunteers

ReStore Wish List

- Box Truck with a Lift Gate
- Bobcat Fork Attachment
- In-kind Advertising Donation

All donations are tax-deductible!



Like us to learn about the great values and special items at the ReStore!

Curtis Jomlinson



Sadly Wabash Valley Habitat lost one of its "Grumpies" to cancer. Curtis was part of the Habitat "Grumpy" team, a group of retired volunteers who help Pat Brown on the construction site. Curtis retired from the United States Post Office in 2006. He attended First Church of Nazarene and loved to

fish, hunt and play music. Besides his volunteer work with Habitat he volunteered for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. His humor and desire to give back to the community will be missed by our Habitat family and friends.

Photo Credit: Tribune Star

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity now has a new way for you to donate! AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity every time you shop, at no cost to you. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

To get started donating with AmazonSmile, on your first visit to AmazonSmile, please select Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

AmazonSmile will remember your selection and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

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Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity

THANK YOU...

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity would like to thank the following donors for their participation in the 2014/2015 Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credit program.

Donations \$5,000-\$2,500

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We still have NAP credits available for the 2014 tax year. For every donation of \$100 and up, you may receive a tax credit of 50% of the donated amount. For more information and availability of the NAP tax credit program, please contact the Habitat office at 812-235-5914.

Wabash Valley Habitat continues to receive wonderful support from-

Guthrie Family Trust
 Pfizer Foundation
 Frederick Benson Trust
 Bemis Foundation
 Indiana Chemical Trust

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