

---

# *Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County*

---

## Affiliation approved!

What we've been working for during the past year has come to pass.

On Monday, Nov. 1, Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County was accepted as one of 7 affiliates to join the international organization this month.

The notice, published on Habitat's computerized bulletin board, noted the need for additional housing in Seneca County, and ended:

"It has become clear during the organizing phase of the affiliate that there is a

keen awareness of the problem of substandard housing in Seneca County as well as a great deal of support for the ministry of Habitat for Humanity from businesses, civic organizations and academic institutions."

Other affiliates accepted this month are in Iowa, New Mexico, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana and Pennsylvania. The 7 new affiliates raises the total to 1,524 in the United States and 1,926 world wide.

The changes we made to our affiliation in October

were all that was needed. Bruce Rodgers, our affiliate support manager, said that he and Lisa Reitz, the affiliate support manager, had no problems after reviewing the changes.

The application is an operating plan for our affiliate, one which will be consulted many times as we undertake the job of finding a site, picking a family, raising the money we need and actually building the first Habitat house in Seneca County.

Copies of the sections of the application will soon



be distributed to the committees so they can consult them as they move forward.

---

## November meetings rescheduled

*Meeting will be Monday, Nov. 22; the Affiliation Celebration will be Friday, Dec. 3*

Various forces have led us to make several changes in our November schedule of events.

Both of our regular meetings have been rescheduled, as has our social event. We've also got an informational meeting planned in Ovid as part of the effort to attract additional support in the southern end of the county.

The November board meeting and general meeting will be conducted together, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 22, at Goulds Water Systems. The program for the evening will include reports

on what we learned at the Northeast Regional Training Conference last month in Connecticut, as well as planning for future fund raising events.

On Monday, Nov. 8, there will be an informational meeting at 7 p.m. at the Ovid Federated Church. Supporters in the area are drumming up support for this meeting as we work to fulfill our commitment to Habitat for Humanity International to increase our geographic diversity. The program that evening will be designed for people who are new to Habitat, but anyone interested is wel-

come to attend.

The final schedule change is due to the fire at the Seneca Falls Country Club. Instead of the planned dinner there, we will be having an affiliation celebration on Friday, Dec. 3, at Uncommonly Ground on East Bayard St. in Seneca Falls. The cost of the dinner will be \$15 per person, and we are asking people to buy tickets in advance.

Tickets will be available soon at the Habitat office at St. Patrick's and at other locations. You also will be able to obtain them at the Nov. 22 meeting.

---

## Tithing will extend our reach around the world

Tithing is an important part of Habitat for Humanity but it's not something that's always understood.

As an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, we have agreed to donate 10 percent of the cash donations we raise as a tithe to the international organization. (Not included in the tithe is any money which is donated with a requirement that it be spent in Seneca County.)

We have proposed to send monthly checks to Habitat for Humanity to cover the tithe. If we raise \$40,000 in cash to build our first house, that means we will need to send \$4,000 to International. So

the question is, where does that money go?

The answer is that all of the tithe goes directly into the construction of homes in third world countries. The Habitat affiliates around the world are required to tithe, so some money is returned to the United States as part of the worldwide sharing.

Because of the level of affluence in the United States, Habitat has found that the 10 percent tithe from a house built here is often enough to build an entire home in a third-world country.

In 1998, U.S. affiliates tithed \$6.5

million, money which was used to build hundreds of homes around the world. The figure was a 20 percent increase compared to the \$5.2 million donated in 1997. In 1996, the tithes totaled \$3.9 million.

Habitat affiliates can designate their tithe for a specific country, or even develop a partnership with a specific third-world affiliate. As part of our planning, we decided to allow the international organization to direct the money to where it is most needed, although we would be able to change that in the future if desired.