
Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County

Activity continues on several fronts

Site selection, fund raising and a look at the future organization of our affiliate are all on the agenda for the January Board of Directors meeting.

The meeting, which will be at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 10 at Goulds Water Systems, will continue the discussion begun last month about a more structured system for coordinating the group's activities.

President John Scanlon hopes to be able to present the plan at a general meeting in February.

Fund raising continues with the successful campaign of people paying \$1 to put their names on paper houses which have then been displayed in local businesses and other locations.

Site selection has focused on vari-

ous parcels as we wait for developments which could make it possible for us to select a site, hopefully one that will be donated.

While there has been a lot of discussion of a lot on Route 96A in Ovid, attention has now turned to other sites because of a problem with a covenant on the deed for that property.

Affiliate has received a \$10,000 donation

Our affiliate has received many generous gifts since our fund raising efforts began in earnest. Just before the first of

the year we received a \$10,000 donation, as well as a \$500 donation from a second individual.

Such support is vital as we move forward on our plans to build homes in Seneca County.

Foreclosures in Detroit make headlines

News from Detroit that 14 Habitat families were facing eviction made national news.

The story noted that the Detroit affiliate is foreclosing on 14 families — from among the 70 homes the affiliate has built. Many of the homeowners are months and even years behind on their payments.

The Habitat Northeast communications director, Chris Mattioli, issued a statement following the reports:

“The situation in Detroit is an extraordinary one.

“It is an extremely unfortunate situa-

tion, but the affiliate is in the process of not only resolving the current crisis, but making strong plans for the future to house more low income families in Detroit.

“They had gone two years without a paid ED and the volunteer board was unable to meet the challenges of servicing all the mortgages. A new ED and a new strategic plan envision building 50 new homes over the next couple years, a plan that could conceivably make them one of the most successful urban affiliates in the USA.”

Dennis Bender, vice president for

communications for Habitat for Humanity International, noted that “Our Detroit affiliate is coping with an extraordinary situation. Nationwide, Habitat homeowners are good partners, with a mortgage foreclosure rate of about 1 percent.”

“The Habitat model is based on partnership between volunteers, who help build houses side by side with the homeowners who buy Habitat homes with a zero-interest mortgage. When mortgage payments stop, partnership breaks down,” said Michael Crook, spokesman for Habitat for Humanity International.

Never be afraid to try something new.
Remember, amateurs built the ark.
Professionals built the Titanic.