

Volume 1, Issue 9  
March 7, 2000

PO Box 223  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
(315) 568-4872

www.habitatseneca.org  
E-mail: info@habitatseneca.org

# Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County

## Possible Partner Families invited to meeting March 30

The Family Selection Committee will host a community meeting at 7 p.m. March 30 to give local families interested in becoming our first partner family a chance to learn about Habitat and how to apply.

The meeting is being planned in conjunction with continuing efforts to buy a lot in Seneca Falls to be a location for our first house. It's hoped that the location for the home will be finalized before the March 30 meeting.

The meeting, which will be advertised in various ways in an effort to attract potentially eligible families, is the important

first step in the application process.

Families that decide to apply will have to complete an application process. A home visit will then take place, as well as all of the legal procedures for buying a house — credit checks, etc.

Of course, the family will be picked based on the three Habitat criteria: ability to pay, need for adequate housing and willingness to partner with Habitat.

Following its review of the applicants, the committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors which has the responsibility for making the final decision.

## Organizational plan adopted by board

An organizational plan designed to provide us with a framework to begin the job of building homes in Seneca County was adopted by the Board of Directors at its January meeting.

The plan builds on the structure of the Board of Directors and existing committees by adding additional committees to help divide the work more evenly and provide a clear reporting mechanism.

The new committees now need volunteers to fill them out and take on the various responsibilities involved. (See article on next page.)

The plan makes no changes to the Board of Directors. It does establish a seven-member Executive Committee, all of whom are members of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee includes the affiliate's four officers and three other members.

Each of the seven members will have specific responsibilities. The president is responsible for the overall operation of the affiliate.

The treasurer is responsible for the Finance Committee and the Fund Raising Recorder.

The secretary is responsible for the Public Relations Committee.

The vice president and the three other executive committee members will divide up four roles.

One will be responsible for the Family Selection and Family Partnership Committee. Another will work with the Site Selection and Construction committees. A third will be responsible for fund raising activities, and a fourth will head up a new group of committees: Volunteer Recruitment, Church Affiliation and College/University Affiliations.

Some of the spots have been filled in with names, while others are still open. Tony Ganzon has joined the board and the Executive Committee as the member responsible for Site Selection and Construction. Martin Toombs, as secretary, takes on the job of public relations. Treasurer Lucille Cook will head the Finance Committee.

Vice President Jim VanKirk will be responsible for the Family Selection and Family Partnership committees. Tom David will be responsible for fund raising activities. The executive committee member for the Church Affiliation, Volunteer Recruitment and College/University Affiliations is open, even though some of the other posts are filled. Father David Gramkee will be heading up the Church Affiliation group and Kitty Peterson will head up Volunteer Recruitment.

The affiliate's Legal/Tax Committee, consisting of Scott Porter and Dennis Bender, will serve as advisors to the board and the executive committee.

The Board of Directors will meet four times a year to set policy and take legal action on behalf of the affiliate. Scheduled meetings will be in March, June, September and December. In the other months, the Executive Committee will meet.

The Annual Meeting, when board members and officers are elected, takes place in June of each year.

As a direct result of the changes, Joyce Sinicropi has assumed the role as chair of the Family Partnership Committee, replacing Jim VanKirk, who is the executive committee member for Family Partnership and Family Selection.

## New web address:

<http://www.habitatseneca.org>

Our affiliate now has an address of its own on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.habitatseneca.org>

The new address should be easier for people to find who are interested in affiliate events.

Be sure and check out the new site, which also has more information. A primer for volunteers has been added, as well as the opportunity to sign up for an e-mail list consisting of people who are interested in developments involving Habitat for Humanity in Seneca County.

As we start work on our first home, pictures taken from the worksite will be featured on the web site as well.

The web site is a good place to check for the latest information on meetings and other events.

## Upcoming Dates

### Board of Directors

Monday, March 13, 7:15 p.m.  
Goulds Water Systems

### Community Meeting

Thursday, March 30, 7 p.m.  
American Legion, State St., Seneca Falls

## Volunteers needed for affiliate's new committees

As a result of the new organization plan and as we gear up for construction of our first home, additional volunteers are needed to fill out the new committees.

The Public Relations Committee will be responsible for creating and carrying out a public relations plan. Public relations are important both to attract supporters and to keep their interest in our continuing operations.

The Church Affiliation Committee, headed by Father Gramkee, has two other members and is at work. It will promote

Habitat activities among the county's churches.

The College/University Affiliations group will work with college students who want to volunteer. We've already had contact from students at the New York Chiropractic College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges and Cornell University.

The Volunteer Recruiting Committee, which will be headed by Kitty Peterson, will be responsible for recruiting, scheduling and communicating with volunteers.

Most of the affiliate's existing committees also would benefit from additional

volunteers.

There's also a vacancy on the Executive Committee for a person who would be responsible for the Church Affiliations, Volunteer Recruiting and College/University Affiliation committees. Anyone interested can let an officer know.

If you are interested in joining a specific committee, you can contact the person involved in the committee; call our affiliate office and leave a message on the answering machine; or send an e-mail to [info@habitatsseneca.org](mailto:info@habitatsseneca.org). Volunteers may serve on more than one committee.

## Habitat built 16,114 homes around the world in 1999

Habitat for Humanity International released figures last week which showed that affiliates around the world built 16,114 homes during 1999.

That's a 48 percent increase in house building worldwide, although most of the growth is occurring outside the United States. U.S. affiliates registered a 4 percent increase in homes completed over 1998, including 3,881 new homes, 375

major rehabs and 823 repairs.

The average cost of a Habitat house in the United States last year was \$37,583. There were 313 foreclosures nationally, or 1.2 percent of the total number of mortgages outstanding.

The affiliate that built the most houses was Jacksonville, Fla., which completed 136 houses during the year. The most productive on a per-capita basis was Farrell-

Sherrard Habitat for Humanity in Farrell, Mississippi, which built 3 homes in 1999 in a service area of 730 people.

Since it was founded in 1976, Habitat has built 87,098 homes worldwide, and will build its 100,000 home this year.

Habitat has chosen to dedicate one of the houses to be built in September during the annual Jimmy Carter Work Camp as its 100,000th house.