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[www.habitatseneca.org](http://www.habitatseneca.org)

# *Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County*

## Calling all volunteers

### *House construction needs many more workers*

When our Habitat chapter began forming nearly two years ago, there were many people who said they'd love to get involved in the construction of the home, but didn't want to work on the organizational effort.

As a result, one possibility was that once construction started, the problem would be that we'd have so many volunteers they'd get in each other's way.

That hasn't happened. While many different people have worked at least a day on the house, the majority of the work has been done by a group of six or seven volunteers who have been working on the house three days a weeks since mid-June.

Their efforts will result in the house getting done. But it is unfair for so

much of the burden to fall on a small group. And it's important as we plan for our second house that we have available a large enough group of volunteers that we know we can proceed with construction in a timely fashion.

Construction work is done three days a week — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Since the house was closed up some time ago, weather is no longer a factor as nearly all the remaining work needed is interior.

While many people are understandably unable to work during the week, the Saturday work crew has been only marginally different from the Tuesday/Thursday one.

The insulation in the home should be complete by the time you read this and it will be time for the



drywall to be installed. It's a job were many-hands-makes-light-work is a fact and additional volunteers will be needed.

Drywall finishing, final electrical, final plumbing and finish trim are the big jobs coming up after that. Then it will be time for the painters.

If you want to find out what's happening at the house at any time, you can consult our web page, <http://www.habitatseneca.org>, which is updated at least weekly. In addition to information about pending work, there are pictures of past efforts beginning from

the groundbreaking.

While it would be helpful in planning for people would fill out our volunteer skills survey (you can do that on the web site as well) that's not required. For planning purposes we do ask that you call the Habitat office a few days before you'd like to work and leave a message on the answering machine saying when you'd like to work and how you can be contacted.

For example, if you know on Tuesday you would be available the following Saturday, call the office and leave a message on the answering machine to that effect. Depending on the number of volunteers needed and the work that's scheduled to be done, you may receive a return call regarding the day you want to work. If you don't hear back, you can assume your contributions are needed and you can show up for work.

Since fewer people are able to volunteer during the week, anyone who can work on Tuesday or Thursday is going to be welcome.

### **Upcoming Dates**

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Monday, Sept. 11, 7:15 p.m.  
Goulds Water Systems

## Regional training conference is Oct. 26-28

A regional training conference for Habitat affiliates in the Northeast will take place Oct. 26-28 in Fort Washington, PA.

Four of us went to last year's event and it was a worthwhile experience. This year the featured speakers are Tony Campolo, an internationally known speaker and evangelist; and Terry Axelrod, author of *Raising More Money — A Step-by-Step Guide to Building Lifelong*

*Donors.*

The first day of the conference, Thursday, Oct. 26, is a special leadership program. The main conference will take place on Friday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Oct. 28. The program to date shows 35 seminars on Friday and 37 on Saturday, as well as the plenary sessions. Seminars are grouped according to the various Habitat committees.

The registration cost for the seminar

is \$80 per person for Friday and Saturday; there will be an additional \$25 charge for payments received after Oct. 5.

We also have received information on the motels in the area for those who are interested in attending.

See John Scanlon or Marty Toombs for additional information, or send an e-mail to [info@habitat-seneca.org](mailto:info@habitat-seneca.org).

## New web site provides information exchange

Habitat's affiliate information system used to be based on a computer bulletin board which required special software, a fact which kept many people from using it.

That's all changed with the Aug. 1 launch of Partnetnet ([www.partnetnet.habitat.org](http://www.partnetnet.habitat.org)).

Partnetnet is a web site for Affiliate

volunteers. It's an opportunity to join message threads on a variety of Habitat-related subjects as well as download information including Habitat manuals, background information, and pictures.

You do have to register to use the web site but that's done online and doesn't require any special steps. All you have to

do is create a user name and a password for yourself and you've got access to the system.

There are message threads on a couple dozen different subjects where affiliate volunteers can exchange information and opinions on affiliate operations as well as more detailed subjects, such as house construction.