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Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County

Affiliate Receives \$35,000 Grant

A \$35,000 grant to support the construction of its first home has been received by Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County.

The grant was awarded by Habitat for Humanity International from funds provided to support home construction by The Nehemiah Program, a national not-for-profit organization. The Nehemiah Program helps families who are unable to buy a home because they don't have money for a down payment.

Nehemiah donated \$1 million to Habitat for Humanity International, said David Baritell of Dewitt, N.Y., northeast regional director for the program. While Habitat makes the funding decisions, he did notify Habitat officials that he supported the application by Seneca County, Baritell said.

"I was excited when Tom David (our Development Committee chair) said there was a project going on,"

Grant emphasizes need for fund raising

While the Nehemiah Program grant has allowed us to push our work forward faster, it also serves to re-emphasize the need for affiliate fund raising efforts.

Without the grant we would not have raised enough money at this point to finish the Adams Street house. And we can't depend on receiving such a generous grant for future homes.

That means it's up to us to raise the money necessary to keep the affiliate's work moving forward.

Baritell said.

The funds used for the donation to Habitat came from surplus funding for Nehemiah's down payment assistance program. That program makes it possible for sellers to contribute money to Nehemiah which is then used for down payments by homeowners buying homes with Federal Housing Administration mortgages.

The grant will pay a large portion of the cost of the construction of the Adams Street home. Our fund raising program continues as planning has already begun for the affiliate's future home construction projects.

The affiliate welcomes donations of cash, as well as land and construction materials, if they meet the affiliate's needs or can be sold to raise money for our efforts.

Habitat Northeast Honors Affiliate Website

The web site of Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County was awarded the 21st Century Website Award at Habitat for Humanity's Northeast Training Conference Oct. 27.

The award was presented at the annual training conference, which took place in Fort Washington, Pa., a Philadelphia suburb.

Competing for the awards were affiliates in a 10-state region, including the New England states as well as New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

The criteria for the World Wide Web site award included the use of a top-level domain; inclusion of links to the Habitat for Humanity International web page and to the Habitat online donation service; regular updating of the site, inclusion of pictures of affiliate activities, and informational value. The web site is at <http://www.habitatseneca.org>.

Runners up in the web site competi-

tion were the affiliates in New York City (<http://www.habitat-nyc.org>) and West Philadelphia (<http://www.habitat-wphilly.org>).

We received the award in our first year of eligibility, as the affiliate was granted affiliation status Nov. 1, 1999.

Habitat for Humanity of Wayne County received the newsletter award for the Northeast Region at the same event.

The regional training conference won't be staged next year because Habitat worldwide will be celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary with a huge event to take place in September in Indianapolis.

More information on the anniversary celebration will be forthcoming in the next few months.

Upcoming Dates

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, Nov. 13,
7:15 p.m.

Goulds Water Systems

Adams Street Construction Progressing

Since the Tribble home is our affiliate's first, we didn't really know when it would be completed, but many of us had hoped we'd be able to have Susan Tribble and her two children move in before Christmas.

Christmas is now only about seven weeks away and there are still many items which need to be finished up. John Scanlon says he'd like to have the closing by Dec. 15, but notes that it will take a lot of work to

make sure that happens.

With the holidays and all of our own family events to take care of, it would be best to get as much work done in the next few weeks as we can to get the final work done.

During the past few weeks, some new volunteers have added to the mix and helped move the construction of the Adams Street home along.

The drywall finishing is done and the painting is in its later stages.

Work on the baseboard heat system is under way and the kitchen cabinets are in place. Next to come will be the bathroom fixtures, interior doors and trim. The water and sewer service has been installed, and the work on the natural gas should be done soon.

There's still plenty of work to do and there's still time to get involved if you haven't so far. We're hoping to make it possible for the Tribbles to spend Christmas in their new home.

Work has begun to prepare for affiliate's next home

As the last couple months of work winds up on our affiliate's first home, the process of deciding on the second one has begun.

At its October meeting, the affiliate's executive committee agreed to take title to

two pieces of property. One is a house in need a rehabilitation in Ovid and the other is a vacant lot in Tyre.

The receipt of the \$35,000 grant from the Nehemiah Program has been a boost to our efforts, but it has

not eliminated our need to raise money to further our home-building work. Finishing this house would have been difficult financially without the grant, and we do not have enough money on hand to finish a second house.

An exact construction schedule for the second house remains to be determined, although it's likely major work on the home won't begin until early spring, in part because of the need to concentrate on fund raising.

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