

Volume 3, Issue 2

Feb. 8, 2002

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Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County

Ovid house dedication Feb. 16

The dedication of the affiliate's second house will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event to celebrate with our affiliate and with Robert Baker and his sons.

Work on the house began

nearly a year ago, with most of the effort taking place during the Spring and Summer. The home was gutted — including removal of the floor — and entirely rebuilt. The roofing was replaced and new siding and windows installed. The two-bedroom home is now ready

for a family.

Habitat house dedications are important events as they bring together the people who are involved in the various parts of the effort to celebrate the completion of another home for a family from our community.

SHOP grant received for next 2 houses

The affiliate has received a \$16,340 grant from the federal Self-help Home Ownership Program which will aid the construction of our next two homes.

Half of the money will be available for land purchase and infrastructure costs for each of the next two homes. We

have two years to spend the money and three years to get homeowners in the homes.

A quarter of the grant will be repaid through a no-interest loan, but the rest of the money is a grant to the affiliate.

SHOP funds, which are federal

funds, can only be spent for land purchase and infrastructure projects, such as site preparation and sewage and water systems.

The grant, although it does put some additional reporting and paperwork requirements on the affiliate, is an impor-

New sites sought for future Habitat homes

The affiliate's Site Committee is constantly searching for new locations for either new home construction or rehabilitation projects. Everyone can help out.

The committee wants locations which would be good sites for family homes, and can be obtained and developed at a reasonable cost.

Donations of land or houses in need of rehabilitation are the first priority, although the committee also realizes that donations may not always be possible. Partial donations, sale of property to the affiliate at less than its market value, and sale prices which are reasonable also will be considered.

It's important that we obtain quality building locations because we want the Habitat Partner Families to end up with a home that will serve them well for many years. At the same time, there is a limit on what the affiliate can afford to pay for sites. Low-cost locations conserve money for other home construction costs and help keep the final cost of the home as low as possible for the Partner Family.

If you would be willing to donate or partially donate a site, or know of property which could be obtained at a reasonable price, notify Marilyn McDougal, the Site Selection Committee chair.

Upcoming Dates

House Dedication

10 a.m., Saturday Feb. 16

2246 Route 96A, Ovid

Board Meeting

Monday, Feb. 11, 7:15 p.m.

Goulds Water Systems

Board meeting schedule changed

At its January meeting, the Executive Committee voted to change the meeting pattern for the committee and the Board of Directors.

In the past, the Executive Committee met eight months a year and the Board of Directors met the other four months. Under the new plan, the Executive Committee and the Board

will each meet six times a year.

The Board of Directors will meet in the even months (February, April, June, August, October and December) with the Executive Committee meeting in the other months.

The change was made so that board members would be more involved in affiliate activities.

Welcome to our new supporters

In December 14,000 mailings were sent out, one to each address in Seneca County, seeking donations and other support. We received responses from more than 160 people, and 150 of them were not currently listed on our newsletter mailing and have now been added.

If this is your first newsletter, welcome.

| Committee Leadership | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Committee | Chair | Phone |
| Development | vacant | |
| Construction | Ed Leonard | 568-2135 |
| Family Partnership | Joyce Sinicropi | 568-5933 |
| Family Selection | Judy Toombs | 568-9125 |
| Functional Groups | Lucille Cook | 568-8133 |
| Church Affiliations | Rev. David Gramkee | 568-5203 |
| Public Relations | Martin Toombs | 568-9125 |
| Site Selection | Marilyn McDougal | 539-8427 |
| Volunteer Recruitment | Kitty Peterson | 568-2393 |

Strategic Planning effort is on tap

As a result of the affiliate review conducted by our Affiliate Support Manager, the affiliate has begun work on a strategic plan.

The plan will look at all facets of our affiliate's operations in an effort to prioritize our efforts and lay out a plan to resolve the problems which do exist. We know we need more participation by the community in the affiliate's efforts and

there is a large need to raise enough money to continue our building homes.

In 1998-99 during our formation stage, we saw a groundswell of support for Habitat in Seneca County. That support has not resulted in community participation in our ongoing efforts, however.

A core group of construction and other volunteers have made it possible

for us to put two Seneca County families in homes they would not otherwise have been able to afford. Those involved are looking for ways to make sure the work continues. It is Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County's strong desire to have a truly countywide organization.

If you'd like to get involved in the planning contact the affiliate office, or one of the officers.