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**Building Houses.....
Building Hope**

A Quarterly Newsletter of Habitat for Humanity-Lima Area, Inc.

Early Summer , 2008

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Board Development Committee

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Andy Chappell-Dick
Dwight Hartman
ReStore Director

Chuck Eichelberger (Interim)
Staff Accountant
B. Emanuel Goode
Executive Director
Lavon J. Welty

ReStore Launched

Some fifty invited guests assembled for the official ribbon cutting and launching of the Lima Area Habitat ReStore on Tuesday June 3, 2008. The Open House allowed local community leaders to visit the building at 123 E. Wayne St. that our Habitat affiliate had taken occupancy in late March.

In the three months that the affiliate has had the building the first floor has undergone a transformation from its dark cavernous space to house not only the ReStore but also the affiliate office for Executive Director Lavon Welty and a warehouse for tools, scaffolding, and a wide variety of other items used in the affiliate's house building ministry.

Board Member Charles "Chuck" Eichelberger accepted the responsibility last fall of chairing a Task Force that guided the development of the ReStore. He has also managed the ReStore on an interim basis these initial weeks of operation. I asked Chuck to reflect on the first weeks of the ReStore's operations:

As you worked with the Task Force in planning for the ReStore, what were your greatest anxieties and concerns?

As we began planning for the ReStore, I wondered "Will it really work?" We knew that it has worked in hundreds of locations across the US and Canada, but when it is Lima, Ohio and you have some responsibility for the success of the venture, you become a bit anxious about the outcome.



Chuck Eichelberger and Lavon Welty are surrounded by Board members as they cut the ribbon officially launching the ReStore on June 3

I also had some concern about whether we would be able to get enough donations to have something to sell.

The ReStore has been open a month now. How has business been these initial weeks? What were your total sales for the first month? How did this match your expectations going in?

I'm very pleased with the response of the public in this first month of business. Our sales were \$4,400 which is considerably higher than I anticipated. We had some very good, quality donations that sold quickly and that helped us reach this level of sales.

Were there any surprises in these first weeks? Any new concerns?

I shouldn't be surprised but the public has been very good to us in both purchasing what we have and in donating things so that we have many good items to sell.

What kinds of things have been donat-

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On my mind...from the Executive Director Lavon J. Welty

I really wanted to get out as soon as possible. My limited imagination kept me from seeing the potential of the building that Mrs. Esther Cary was showing us on a cold rainy December day. However, my colleague Chuck Eichberger, chair of the ReStore Development Task Force, saw things differently.

We needed to use flashlights to find our way around. When we did find the light switches the lighting illuminated a space that only seemed more dank and uninviting. The tile flooring in the space that is now my office was coming loose and strewn about.

Then there was the proposed monthly lease. Compared to the free space we had used for nearly a decade provided graciously by Market St. Presbyterian Church \$800.00 per month seemed like a lot to me. Chuck, with his real estate knowledge knew it was a bargain considering the 50,000 square feet available in four floors and basement. For him it was an offer that could not be refused. So amidst my doubts I agreed to a three year lease.

What has taken place in four months is nothing short of a transformation, not only of my thinking but of the building itself. Today it stands as the fulfillment of dream I have had since become the Executive Director. Today it serves as a hub for all Habitat activity—an operational center for our house building ministry with a lovely office for me as Executive Director, a warehouse for building materials used in our house construction activity, and a new ReStore.

Construction Manager Dwight Hartman deserves much of the credit for making it all happen. We were between houses in our construction work so Dwight and Stan Bauman were able to focus their energies on the remodeling that needed to be done.

Their first task was to gather from various spaces—the semi-trailer provided for several years by Wright Brothers Trucking, a small warehouse building that we were using owned by Allen Metropolitan Housing and other smaller venues—the many things used in our construction work. Finally in one organized space they could see what we already possessed. They also along with several faithful volunteers brought to the building shelving and displays from a local major store that was going out of business.

The first major renovation was adding a ramp for handicap accessibility. A new exterior door was installed at the top of the ramp. New fluorescent lights were installed throughout much of the area the Restore would occupy. The purchased shelving was set up and supplemented by more built-in shelving in the ReStore. An open space in the entry way was framed in forming a separate room for my office. Fresh paint and new carpet has created an inviting



and spacious office large enough for smaller committee meetings.

We contracted with several local businesses for more technical work who often did their work for free or at cost:

1. John P. Timmerman Co, inspected the existing heating and air conditioning units to make sure all were working properly. They donated a high efficiency furnace to replace one that had seen its better days.

2. Master Maintenance, Inc. provided a crew of workers to literally scrub the floor in the ReStore area.

3. Ellis Door and Window installed a new overhead door where most donations for the ReStore will be received.
4. Trisco Systems with the cooperation of Jeffers Crane Service sealed the aging brick above the access ramp to prevent the brick from chipping and falling on customers.

Special thanks to each of these businesses for their significant contributions. I could not be more pleased with what has transpired as we have developed the building into what we now know as the LIMA AREA HABITAT CENTER. I am more accessible to staff and I believe we feel more like a team as we lead the Habitat work. Our construction managers have talked about having a fuller awareness of what materials we have in stock thus saving on purchases. We look forward with the added space to accepting offers in larger quantities of donated items when national manufacturers make them available.

The project has not been without costs. We did check out possible sources of grants but none came through. Nearly \$5,500 was spent for materials to renovate the building for general use and affiliate offices. Another \$8,000 was spent on materials to develop the ReStore. While we will continue to pursue grants, we invite donations designated for these renovations. You will find a form on Page 3 with which to make your donation.

As an affiliate we will always be grateful for the generosity of Market St. Presbyterian Church in providing office space and Otis Wright Trucking and Allen Metropolitan housing for storage space in the past. Centralizing our operations now in **The Lima Area Habitat** Center will position us for the next stage of growth as we move to a time of consistently building 8-10 houses annually. If you have not stopped by to see our new digs, please do so. I will be glad to show you around!

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ed? What seems to be most in demand on the part of those who come to shop the ReStore?

A really wide variety of things have been donated and an equally wide variety of things have been selling. People seem to be interested in windows but they need to be a specific size to meet their needs. We have people that have come every Thursday, the first day of the week that we are open after getting donations in, and are looking to see what we have in that is "new and different."

What could make the ReStore function more smoothly as you look forward to the next block of time?

I believe that as we develop routines for the common place things, the operation will run more smoothly. All in all, I think things have gone pretty well considering all the new things that we have had to learn.

ReStores often depend heavily on volunteers. Are more needed? How can one let it be known that they are available?

Certainly more volunteers are needed. Folks who are interested can call the office and leave a message if no one is available to take the call. That number is 419-222-4257.

Is a more high visibility "Grand Opening" planned? When will it be?

We are planning to have a "Grand Opening", probably sometime in late August or early September. Information will be out as soon as a definite date is scheduled.



Karen Miller, member of the Board of Director, with the cake she baked for the June 3 Open House

Executive Director Lavon Welty presents a plaque to Karen Rust Jarvis, Outreach Committee at Market St. Presbyterian Church a plaque expressing appreciation for the church's donation of office space in their building for more than a decade.



January—June 2008 Highlights

January — Construction continues on the house at 438 E. McKibben St. A crew from Halker Drywall and Plastering, Columbus Grove, had framed the house in one day on December 29 as their gift to company owner and CEO Dave Halker.

February 9 — Halker Crew returns to 438 E. McKibben St to hang sheet rock—entire house finished in approximately six hours!

March 19 — Board President Bruce Hilty signs lease with Cary Properties, Inc. for building at 123 E. Wayne St. Renovation work begins almost immediately.

April 8 — Board of Directors officially designate 438 McKibben house "The Halker House" in honor of Owner Dave Halker and crew of Halker Drywall and Plastering Co.

April 20 — Dedication of house at 438 E. McKibben St. with new partner family Nancy Miller.



May 31 — Thrivent Builds Day — first day of construction on Thrivent/Lutheran sponsored house at 436 E. McKibben St. in Lima.

June 16-19 — Immaculate Conception Church, Celina, volunteers frame house, roof and side house at 440 E. Pearl St., Lima sponsored by the Lima Area Catholic Collaborative.

DONATION FORM

Lavon, here is my donation to assist with the costs of renovating the Lima Area Habitat Center.

_____ \$100.00
 _____ \$50.00
 _____ \$25.00
 _____ \$_____

Please clip this form and mail with your donation to:
 Habitat for Humanity, Lima Area, Inc.
 123 E. Wayne St.
 Lima, OH 45801-4141



ReStore

123 E. Wayne St., Lima, OH 45801-4141 Phone: 419-222-4257

ReStore Hours

Thursday
1:00—7:00 p.m.
Friday
10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Saturday
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Items accepted

- Large appliances (in good working order)
- Kitchen and bath cabinets and vanities
- Doors, windows, and shutters
- Full gallons of paint
- Lumber (eight feet or long-

- er)
- Tools (in working order)
- Kitchen and bath fixtures
- New tile and linoleum
- Lighting fixtures
- Boxes of nails, screws, and tacks
- Decking materials
- Electrical accessories

Items not accepted

- Upholstered furniture
- Toys
- Clothing
- Used carpet

Clip and Post on your Refrigerator!

Habitat for Humanity—Lima Area, Inc.
works in partnership with God and people everywhere to develop simple, affordable housing
for people in need and empower them to grow into all that God intended

*"Building hope, one home, one family at a time."
www.habitatlima.org*

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Lima, OH 45801-4141



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