



A Quarterly Newsletter of Habitat For Humanity Lima Area, Inc.
Fall, 2004

House Dedications Highlight Fall Activities

There are smiles a'plenty when Habitat Houses are dedicated. The dedications of our two houses this Fall were no exception to this rule.



Rickie Jr. cuts the ribbon as Rickie Sr. Looks on

Nearly thirty persons gathered September 18 at 1014 S. Scott St. to celebrate with the Rickie Evans family. Sponsorship of this house was a collaborative effort by the local Sprint Telephone Company and Habitat in the use of homeowner mortgage payments. At the dedication Claude Cliborne of Sprint noted that this was the first corporate sponsored house in Lima. He expressed his hopes that it will be the first of many in which local business and corporations will step forward to sponsor Habitat for Humanity projects.

Closing on the house took place on October 6. For Rickie and his son Rickie Jr. it was an improbable dream come true. At first Rickie wondered if there was some "catch" that Habitat was not letting him in on, the deal seeming to be too good to be true. Now settled in the house, making it a home, he is a believer!

Two months later on November 18 seventy persons crowded into the house at 1019 S. Scott St. with partner Teresa Morton and her family for its dedication. This house was sponsored by area Catholic institutions and agencies led by a steering committee under the larger auspices of the area Catholic Collaborative. This house was built in memory of the late Louise Gauthier, late spouse of Carl Gauthier who worked until this past summer as one of our construction managers.



Teresa sings at the dedicaton

The dedication was made very special by a ritual of blessing of the four exterior walls and entry doors of the house as family members carried bowls of water, dipping their hands in the water to "paint" crosses on the walls and doors. Each room in the house was similarly blessed. Participants were warmed as Teresa sang a solo for the group of a song written by her nephew. Closing on the house took place on Thursday, December 1.

Twenty-two partner families now inhabit houses built by the Lima Habitat affiliate. The smiles all around at the dedications make the effort and hard work a great delight.

From the Interim Executive Director

Our last Newsletter was mailed six months ago, dated Spring, 2004. Since that issue much has changed with our Habitat affiliate. Perhaps most significant is the resignation of Judy Waller as Executive Director. Judy completed her work on May 31, leaving to prepare for a new chapter in her life. On September 3 she was married to Carl Gauthier, familiar to all of us as one of our affiliate's construction managers. Together they left Lima to move to Louisiana.

The last months of Judy's work were filled with the work of completing a grant application to Habitat for Humanity International, a "Capacity Building Grant." Our affiliate was approved for a grant of more than \$80,000 over three years for the purpose of hiring a resource developer. The long range goal of the grant is a 100% increase from four houses each year to eight over the three year grant. In the next issue of the Newsletter I will describe the scope of this grant in greater detail.

With Judy's leaving, the Board appointed me, Lavon Welty, to serve as Interim Executive Director. I had been working with Judy doing some of the day-to-day work while she focused on writing the grant. Having served on the Board for nearly nine years along with working with Judy, I confess that the "learning curve" has been steeper than I thought it would be!

Capacity Building Grants are given to affiliates to either hire executive directors or resource developers as a key to increasing the capacity of the affiliate. Since our affiliate already had an ED, our first step was hiring a Resource Developer. Jack Black, who retired from teaching at Lima Senior High School in May, 2004, was hired for to fill this role. He began working on July 1, 2004. (See the following article introducing Jack)

Many priorities competed for staff attention amidst all this change. Publication of the Newsletter was one of those priorities that did not get the attention it deserved. I hope to publish another before the end of the year and then return to the regular schedule after that.

Jack Black joins staff



A year ago Jack Black was teaching at Lima Senior High School, anticipating retirement at the end of the school year. Former Executive Director, Judy Waller, knew of his plans. She also believed that Jack would fit well the position of Resource Developer

should our application for the Capacity Building Grant

be approved. A comment by Judy to Jack at a school function was the beginning of Jack's journey with Habitat for Humanity.

The conversation became more serious with the word that the affiliate was given the grant. Jack wanted meaningful involvement in his post-teacher years and as he learned more about Habitat for Humanity, he sensed that this could be just what he was looking for. Habitat's Christian orientation was important to him as a person who wanted to live out his own faith in whatever he did.

Eventually Jack applied for the Resource Developer position and was chosen to fill the position. Key to fulfilling the commitments made in the Capacity Building Grant will be seeking out additional funding sources beyond those that we have depended on in the past dozen years. Jack is well-known in the business and corporate community in Lima and hopes to expand the involvement of that sector while maintaining and expanding the strong support we have enjoyed in area churches.

Jack grew up in Lima graduating from Lima Senior High School 1969. He married his high school sweet heart, Debi. They have two married daughters and three grandchildren. Welcome, Jack!

Faith Builder Pilot Project a Success!

Habitat for Humanity International" Campus Chapter and Youth Programs Department was looking for an affiliate to host a pilot project which would offer youth groups an opportunity to do a service/mission project away from their home town. Lima was chosen as the local affiliate to pilot this project.

After months of planning by the Church Relations Committee, the stage was set for hosting the groups. The retreat center of Trinity United Methodist Church in downtown Lima was home base for the groups which came from New Jersey and Virginia (week of July 12-16) and the Chicago area (week of August 2-6). Both groups worked at 1019 S. Scott St. site providing much of the initial labor for the house sponsored by the Catholic Collaborative. As the first week began only the floor joists were on the foundation. By the end of the week, the shingles were on the roof and windows and doors in place securing it. Work during the second week including siding the house and putting up sheet rock on the interior walls.

We are deeply grateful for all the hard work done by our Faith Builder Youth and the many local folks and businesses who helped to host them. The pictures on the next page will help you see the progress made in building Teresa Morton's House.

The Faith Builders at work....



Floor joists ready for sheeting....



Mid-morning the first day....



The group at the end of Day 1



The Virginia girls begin the shed



With the rafters on, roof sheeting begins....with tar paper and house wrapped at end of Day 2



The front porch is added



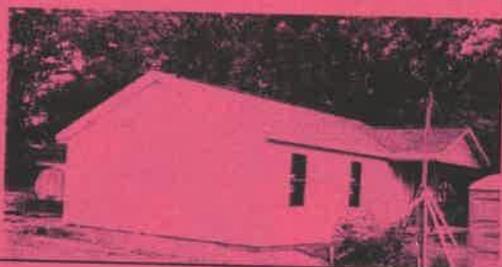
Interior walls framed in



....and shingling in process.



Week 2: Siding going on



....and completed



Rear deck added.....



Week 1... from New Jersey and Virginia



Week 2... from the Chicago Area