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Mark Your Calendar

Join us as we celebrate
the Dedication of the
Hjelmgren home!

1810 South Coolidge

Habitat Happenings

Volunteer Spotlight: Steve Meyer

It takes hundreds of volunteer hours to build a Habitat for Humanity home in North Central Iowa, and at least one local man is doing more than his part.

Steve Meyer has been an avid and active volunteer since 2006, and last year donated about 200 hours of manual labor to Habitat NCI. His reason is simple:

"Service to God," he says.

The volunteer carpenter works primarily on Saturdays and Tuesdays for HFH, and he's done almost every phase of construction from beginning to end.

"From raising walls to putting on roofing, siding, doors and windows, interior walls, sheetrock, laying floors, finish carpentry..." The list goes on.

Steve volunteers through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a faith-based, not-for-profit financial services agency. He has financial products with Thrivent and became involved years ago. Thrivent has provided 65% of the funding for a Habitat NCI house every year since 2006. The fraternal benefit society has chapters nationwide and provides funding for Habitat throughout Iowa and the nation.

"Steve is truly a remarkable person, and we have been so blessed to have him as a faithful and hard-working volunteer," says Melissa Schoneberg, HFHNCI executive director. "If there was a way to clone him-we would! We really are so thankful for *all* of his efforts."



Mason City

February 18th

Open House
4:30-5:30pm

Dedication Ceremony
5:30-6:00pm

The dedication ceremony marks the completion of construction on the home. The family will receive the keys to their house, the rooms will be blessed, and refreshments will be served to all who are there to celebrate this special day!

*Help Change
a Life!*

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**DONATE**  
**NOW!**



Your investment in Habitat can help buy:

\$10 = Box of nails  
\$35 = Roof shingles  
\$75 = Window  
\$100 = Kitchen sink

Steve has worked in civil engineering design at Yaggy Colby for 33 years, and comes by his carpentry skills the old-fashioned way, "being a homeowner for 30 years and trying to do it myself as much as possible," he explains. "I've had a lot of help along the way. I've learned from others."

Steve credits his wife, Diana, for her moral support and says she also helps on the houses occasionally. Their three children are getting themselves established right now and haven't been too involved yet, but he hopes that will happen in the future.

With a role model like Steve, it's likely only a matter of time.



## Beautiful Set of Kitchen Cabinets Among New Donations to ReStore

A Clear Lake family is doing a complete remodel and has decided to donate many wonderful items to the Habitat ReStore in Mason City. Among these donations are a complete kitchen cabinet set in solid oak with stained glass accents, a center island with a hanging stained glass light unit, countertops, sink, and stove.

Van Butler of Van Butler Construction in Kensett, is doing the remodeling and has been a great supporter of the ReStore. He made sure that the items were all removed carefully and delivered them personally to the ReStore. "It just makes sense to donate items like this to the Habitat



\$150 = Front door  
\$300 = Lighting  
\$500 = Bathtub  
\$1,000 = Siding  
\$2,000 = Flooring

### BE CREATIVE!

Help Habitat purchase needed office supplies by donating your used ink cartridges or Staples Rewards points.

or

Include

[Goodsearch.com](http://Goodsearch.com) and [Goodshop.com](http://Goodshop.com) on your

Internet homepage as your search engine and designate Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa as the recipient. Each time you use this search engine or shop site, Habitat will receive a donation! It's free and easy!

For info on these easy donation options, call the office at 641-424-8978.

**Put Your Faith  
Into Action**

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Volunteer Now!

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ReStore," says Van Butler. "Tons of waste is kept out of the landfill, the donor can receive tax benefits, and other area homeowners can find great usable items for their homes at affordable prices. In addition, local families in need are given homeownership opportunities with the funds received through Habitat. It's truly a win-win for everyone involved!"

In addition to the kitchen items, many other fabulous donations came from this Clear Lake home including thermopane Andersen windows, two sliding glass patio doors, oak trim, bathroom vanities and cabinets, light fixtures, and medicine cabinets.

Other items currently in stock at the ReStore include: a brand new solid wood dining room table, new crown molding in maple, cherry and hickory, various sinks, paint, primer and stain, wallpaper and borders, windows, interior and exterior doors, office cabinets, shutters, desks, ceramic tile, indoor/outdoor lights, hardware, shower doors, toilets, bathtubs, bathroom countertops, and much more!

The ReStore is located at the end of Commercial Park Road off of South Taft. Hours are Mondays - Fridays, 10 am - 6 pm, and Saturdays, 9 am - 4 pm. For more information, call the ReStore at **641-423-1688**.

## Applications Now Being Accepted for Homeownership Opportunities

Each year, several area families move into new homes they help build, thanks to Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa. As 2010 begins, the search is on for families who will reap the reward of their efforts and gain safe, decent and affordable housing.



Habitat currently has home opportunities available in Forest City, Belmond, Mason City, and Hampton. The service area covers Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, Winnebago, Worth and Wright counties. To date, Habitat has helped 33 deserving families throughout north central Iowa.

The process that ends with being handed keys to a new home begins when a family contacts Habitat and expresses interest in a home.

Families need to meet three guidelines: 1-need, 2-ability to pay, and 3-willingness to partner.

1. Need can be based on several factors such as housing with structural or utility problems, failure to meet city codes, or overcrowding. Another need may be if a family's monthly payments for their housing is too high for their given income.

2. Ability to Pay: In order to qualify, a family must be paying their rent and other bills on time, must have had a stable income for the past year,

Habitat NCI needs volunteers to help at the ReStore.

Volunteers will also be needed soon to help with home salvage efforts for the ReStore. If you can help, please call 641-424-8978.

For details, click on the links. To get involved, click on "Sign Up Now!" and put your preferred project in the Subject line.

[Sign Up Now!](#)

## Thank You!

You, our sponsors, donors & volunteers, help us fulfill our mission:

Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa believes everyone deserves a decent place to live. Habitat does this by working in partnership with families to build simple, decent, affordable housing for those who might not otherwise become homeowners.

and must be managing their debts. Partner families buy the home interest-free from Habitat through low monthly payments, and must be able to afford the mortgage, property taxes and homeowner's insurance. Habitat works with the family to develop a budget that will ensure they can make the payment. Habitat's partner families fall within the 30-60% median income range for the area. The range for a family of 3 is \$15,750 - \$31,500; for a family of 4 the range is \$17,500 - \$35,000; for a family of 5 the range is \$18,900 - \$37,800. Income can include child support, disability, SSI, food stamps, etc. (For a full list of income guidelines, [click here.](#))

3. Willingness to Partner: Each family member over 18 years old must provide 250 hours of "sweat equity." Extended family and friends can work up to half of those hours. Sweat equity may include working on their home or other Habitat homes, providing or serving food for volunteers, working in the Habitat office or ReStore, attending budgeting classes, workshops and other meetings, and appearing at public functions.

Families who meet the guidelines listed above are encouraged to submit an application. To request an application or get further information, interested families should call the office at **641-424-8978**.

## Staff Spotlight:

### Laura Little, Project Manager

Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity back in the 1990s has turned into a career for Laura Little, Project Manager with Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa.

"I started at this Habitat affiliate as a VISTA volunteer in February 2006," says Laura, now a paid staff member with Habitat NCI. "I chose Habitat after volunteering with a church group at the Kansas City Habitat several times in the mid 1990s."

Habitat is a perfect fit for her education and experience. She majored in Interior Design at Iowa State University with a minor in Architectural History, managed a fabric and clothing store, and spent several years working in banking.

As Project Manager, she works with partner family support, home construction and office bookkeeping.

"My favorite part of the job is working with the families," Laura says. "They are such wonderful people who work amazingly hard. I am



## Habitat ReStore

The ReStore is at the end of Commercial Park Road off of South Taft.

Store Hours:

10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Mondays - Fridays

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturdays

For more info, call the ReStore at 641-423-1688.

blessed to get to know them." She adds, "The dedication of the homes is the greatest experience. Having the kids show me their rooms and tell me where the furniture goes is the best reward!"

Laura's family moved to Mason City about 10 years ago from Ames. Her husband, Dave, is Assistant District Engineer with the Iowa Department of Transportation at the District 2 office in Mason City. Their twin sons, Matthew and Andrew, are seniors at Mason City High School.

She stated that, "All three have volunteered on the Habitat build sites here in Mason City, usually willingly, however sometimes they do get drafted to do some of the less popular chores."

When not at work or following her sons' activities, Laura likes to sew quilts and stamp cards with friends. They are members of First Presbyterian Church.

Habitat for Humanity NCI is a United Way Partner Agency



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