



April-May 2011 | Office: 641.424.8978 | ReStore: 641.423.1688 | www.habitatnci.org

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Habitat Happenings

Volunteers Wanted! Habitat Needs Help on Five Homes and Salvage Effort

Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa's need for volunteers has never been greater than it is right now: three Habitat homes are currently under construction, two more homes will be started in May, and salvage efforts will continue this summer on 25-30 flood buyout homes - with approximately 60 more to follow through the fall of 2012.

Five homes are the most the local organization has ever had under construction simultaneously. Add to that the salvage efforts from the June 2008 floods, and Habitat's plate is more than overflowing.

"There are lots of volunteer opportunities," says Paul Charlson HFHNCI Board President, issuing a plea to all area residents to pitch in and help with Habitat's mission to provide affordable housing to area low-income families. "The need for volunteers is great, the need is immediate, and the tasks are diverse."

One home is ready for soffit, siding, drywall work and insulation. Another home is ready for hanging doors and cabinets, and installing woodwork and siding. The Mercy home being rehabbed is ready for paint, window replacement and cleaning. The warmer weather to come will mean landscaping and yard work at all three homes, as well as two more that were finished over the winter. And once ground is broken on the two new homes, initial construction will be under way.

Mark Your Calendars!

~~~~ GROUNDBREAKING

S:

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**April 28: Principal House
for Carrie Smith and
Family,**
1061 17th St. NE, 4:30 p.m.
*Rain date: Tuesday, May
10th*

**May 17: Thrivent House for
Janine Schrieber and
Family,**
1055 17th St. NE, 5:30 p.m.

*Both lots are just southeast
of the Highland Golf Course*



ReStore Info:

ReStore location:

1411 S. Taft Ave.
(end of Commercial Park
Road
off of South Taft Avenue)

The salvage efforts include removing doors, cabinets, windows, vanities, railings, decks, replacement water heaters/furnaces, light fixtures and numerous other parts of homes that were damaged when floodwaters rolled through the city almost three years ago. These homes were mostly cleaned up and have continued to be lived



in, however they are now slated for the landfill due to their location on the flood plain. The salvaged materials will either be used in Habitat homes or sold to the public through the Habitat ReStore. Proceeds from the sale of salvaged items go back into Habitat's mission to provide safe and affordable housing to those in need.

"This flood house salvage project is a large undertaking and we are appreciative for the City's willingness to let us save these great items from needless destruction," says executive director Melissa Schoneberg. "It will require a lot of coordination and effort, and a significant amount of dedicated manpower will be needed to pull it off successfully and efficiently."

Habitat has been awarded grants through the DNR for \$20,000, United Way of North Central Iowa for \$10,000, and the Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors for \$6,240 to purchase needed tools, generators, heaters and trailers for the salvage efforts. There is still a large need, however, for the manpower to use the tools and do the salvage work.

An initial salvage effort has been completed on seven houses to date, thanks to the help of some great dedicated volunteers. Beginning in May, about 25 more houses scheduled to be demolished will be ready for salvage if the manpower is available. "Salvaging the homes is important for several reasons", says ReStore Manager Monte Kloberdanz. "Great reusable items are kept out of the landfill, Iowa citizens are able to obtain affordable home improvement items to maintain and improve their homes, and Habitat is able to provide additional safe housing to area families in need... who in turn contribute back to the property tax base. It truly is a win-win situation for the entire region."

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with any of these important projects is urged to call the office at **641-424-8978** to add their name to the volunteer notification list.

Habitat Turns Strangers into Neighbors

A few months ago, Tiffany Prince and Billie Query didn't know

Store Hours:

Mon. - Fri.:

8:30am - 5:30pm

Sat.: 9am - 4 pm

Additional Drop-Off

Location

in Clear Lake:

Woodford Lumber & Home

210 N 4th St

Clear Lake, IA 50428

(641) 357-2134

**Please call for an
appointment.**

*For more information
about the ReStore, call
641-423-1688.*

***Help Change
a Life!***

DONATE NOW!

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each other. A few months from now, the two single moms will be neighbors and their children will have several new playmates, thanks to Habitat for Humanity.

Their neighborhood near Sixth Street and South Tyler Avenue will get a youthful shot in the arm after both families move into homes there this summer. Tiffany has four children, ages 2 to 8, and Billie has three, ages 4 to 7.

The two women were strangers prior to being selected as Partner Families, but they've now met through their Habitat connection and are likely to see a lot of each other in the near future. Here's a look at the two families who will soon call each other "neighbor"...

### **Prince Family Gets Much-Needed Space**

Tiffany Prince and her four children have been living in a two-bedroom house since last June. Dylan, 8, and Dmitri, 4, share one bedroom; Jocelyn, 6, and Ava, 2, share another bedroom; Tiffany sleeps on the couch. All that will change this summer when the family moves into their new, four-bedroom Habitat for Humanity home.



Tiffany says she looks forward to having a bedroom again, and all of the space that the new home will offer her family, and her business.

In addition to her children, Tiffany usually has an additional four children underfoot, ranging in age from 9 months to 5 years old, who come to the registered daycare center she has operated in her home for five years.

"It will be wonderful because we'll have more room for the daycare and it'll be a great neighborhood for us," Tiffany says.

Tiffany says she knows a woman who bought a house through Habitat a few years ago and had nothing but good things to say about the experience. Tiffany decided to apply for a Habitat home after finding it difficult to find a big enough home at an affordable price that also would allow her to operate her daycare.

"I really didn't think they'd pick me," she says. "It's a hugely wonderful thing."

Her eligibility was based at least in part on the fact that the Prince's were living in a home too small for a family of five. In their new home, the girls will share a room, the boys will each get

**Your investment in  
Habitat  
can help buy:**

\$10 = Box of nails  
\$35 = Roof shingles  
\$75 = Window  
\$100 = Kitchen sink  
\$150 = Front door  
\$300 = Lighting  
\$500 = Bathtub  
\$1,000 = Siding  
\$2,000 = Flooring

If everyone pitched in to support the purchase of one item, a new family could experience the joy of a safe and secure Habitat Home!

**Put Your Faith  
Into Action -  
Volunteer Now!**

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Volunteers are needed to work on the three Habitat homes now in progress in Mason City:

204 7th St. SE
527 S. Tyler
836 6th St. SW

their own room, and Tiffany will once again have a bedroom to call her own.

Tiffany likes the location of their new home - mainly because her children enjoy going to parks and a neighborhood park is close by. Jocelyn also enjoys tap and ballet, and the older children like to swim, ride bikes, play soccer and T-ball.

"I'm really very excited," Tiffany says. "I'm so glad Habitat gave me this opportunity."

Query Kids Hope to Add Pets to Family

After five years of apartment living, Billie Query and her three children will move into a home of their own this summer, thanks to Habitat for Humanity NCI and an expansion project at Mercy Medical Center North Iowa.

Billie and Jaden, 7, Kailey, 6, and Gavin, 4, will move into one of several houses that Mercy sold for \$1 each, provided buyers move the homes to make way for Mercy's new Emergency Department. Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa received one of the houses from Mercy, moved it to 836 Sixth St. S.W., and is in the process of rehabbing it for its new occupants.



The Query's will be happy to leave their three-bedroom apartment at Westside Manor for a three-bedroom home in a neighborhood. Billie says they enjoy watching movies, playing outside, swimming, riding bikes and spending time together.

"We will get to have our own yard," Billie says, "and there is more room. It's much bigger."

Billie says they also are looking forward to not having the restrictions imposed by apartment living. The children are excited to have a house and a yard, and Billie says Jaden and Kailey already have asked to get a puppy... and Gavin would like to get a kitty. Billie just says, "Maybe someday."

Employed at Wal-Mart for the past seven years, Billie applied for a Habitat house last summer because the apartment was too small for her family and she wanted a house to call her own. She was referred to Habitat by a co-worker and current Habitat homeowner, Trena Roppe. After being approved as a Partner Family late last year, Billie has been working to complete her required 250 hours of "sweat equity" volunteer time with Habitat. Her dream of becoming a homeowner will become a reality in just a few months.

Build hours are irregular and hours and location may change due to the weather.

Volunteers should call the office at
641-424-8978
to confirm build hours, location and project for a particular day.

Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome and training will be provided if necessary!

Habitat for Humanity Facts:

Who founded Habitat for Humanity?
- Millard & Linda Fuller

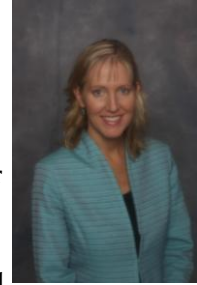
What year was HFHI International incorporated?
- 1976

How many Habitat homes have been built worldwide to date?
- 400,000!

Where are the operational headquarters for HFHI located?
- Americus, GA

ED Corner

The snow has melted, the birds are singing and things are heating up here at Habitat! As spring is typically referred to as a time of new life, I'll personally be an example of this as we welcome a new baby to our family: Olivia Grace. She is certainly a future Habitat volunteer in the making - but until she's up and running... we have a lot of open slots for volunteers to fill this year.



This will be one of the busiest years ever for our affiliate as we work on completing three houses, beginning two more this spring, and salvaging from approximately 25 additional flood buyout homes (see article above for more details). It's a very exciting time for Habitat, as we strive to serve more area families in need of safe and affordable housing than ever.

We are very thankful and privileged to partner with two great home sponsors this year - The Principal and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. What amazing companies to support the community the way that they are - especially when economic times continue to be a challenge nationwide. We hope that you will consider supporting their efforts by joining us on a build site - or bringing refreshments to keep the other volunteers happy and productive. We'd also love some extra hands to salvage beautiful reusable items from the flood buyout homes, or to work with us behind the scenes to pull it all off.

As the old adage says, 'Many hands make light work!' We hope that your "hands" will continue to join us on the many great projects to come this year with Habitat!

~ Melissa Schoneberg

*HFHNCI Executive
Director*

Special thanks



*to the Church of Christ
in Mason City
for helping to sponsor our
e-newsletter!*

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