



Sept. 2010 | Office: 641.424.8978 | ReStore: 641.423.1688 | [www.habitatnci.org](http://www.habitatnci.org)

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# Habitat Happenings

## ED Corner

Wow, it's hard to believe that summer has ended, kids are back in school, and fall is upon us! The past couple of months have been extremely productive and eventful ones for Habitat. The Thrivent Financial/Eaton Corporation build in Belmond has been going strong and is finishing in record time - thanks to the dedication of some amazing volunteers! We have some great new Partner Families to work with as they approach their dream of homeownership. A Groundbreaking Celebration was recently held, and one more will follow this week, as we kick off two new house builds in Mason City. The relocated Mercy house is also being renovated and prepared for a new family to call "home," as well as a handicapped accessible home in Forest City. In addition to these projects, we've started full-speed ahead to salvage great reusable items from the flood buyout homes (*see article below*), and other area homes scheduled to be torn down in the Mason City/Clear Lake area. With this influx of excellent building materials and home improvement items, we recently opened a "satellite location" for the ReStore twice a week - much to our customers delight! (*details also listed below*) A lot of exceptional opportunities are upon us, as well as the need for lots of volunteers. If you've always wanted to get out on a job site - or have volunteered in the past and miss that great feeling of accomplishment and camaraderie that go



Habitat for Humanity North  
Central Iowa

for all the latest updates on our  
organization!

*Help Change a Life!*

~~~~~  
DONATE NOW!



**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!

**BE CREATIVE!**

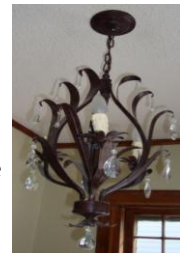
Help Habitat purchase needed office supplies by donating your used ink cartridges or Staples Rewards points.

along with making a difference - just give us a call! We'd love to have you involved and would welcome you into our family of volunteers with open arms!



**Efforts Have Begun to  
Salvage Reusable Items from  
the  
Buyout Houses**

Dedicated volunteers have been on a mission lately helping Habitat salvage wonderful reusable items from homes damaged in the floods of 2008. Some of the salvaged materials will be used in upcoming Habitat homes, and the rest will be made available to the public through the Habitat ReStore. Either way, there are a lot of great reusable items to save from the landfill - and there is a need for both volunteers and tools to make the salvage efforts possible. The houses targeted to salvage suffered primarily basement flooding, but still need to be removed from their current locations so that they will not flood again in the future. A majority of these houses are still lived in, while the occupants await their buyout, and are filled with items such as new and used carpet, replacement water heaters and furnaces, kitchen cabinets, vanities, sinks, toilets, light fixtures, etc.



Habitat for Humanity NCI was originally approached by the Mason City Historic Preservation Commission to figure out a way to save some of the beautiful items out of the historic houses on the buyout list. From there, the process grew to working on all of the salvageable houses in partnership with the Growth

For information on these and other ways to donate, please call the office at 641-424-8978.

## Put Your Faith Into Action - Volunteer Now!

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Volunteer opportunities abound! Sign up now to help on any of the following projects:

### Mason City:

\* S. Tyler & 6th St. SW  
Mercy House & New Build

\* S. Pennsylvania & 7th St. SE -  
Partnership with the NIACC  
Building Trades Class

### Belmond:

\* Warren House - Sponsored by  
Thrivent Financial & Eaton  
Corporation

### ReStore Deconstruction Crew

\* Mason City, Clear Lake and  
surrounding areas.

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

Development and Planning office, which oversees the buyout process.

Habitat had previously been approved to partner on this immense project with the Emergency Public Jobs (EPJ) Program, a Federal disaster recovery program administered through the Iowa Workforce Development Department. The EPJ Program would have given jobs to skilled workers who are currently unemployed while supplying the needed manpower for the salvage efforts. The program would also have provided the needed tools and transportation. Unfortunately this program ended on June 30, 2010, and now Habitat for Humanity NCI is lacking the needed manpower, tools and transportation.



Habitat will continue to forge ahead with volunteers and tools at-hand while searching for additional funding and grant opportunities. Four homes have been salvaged to date, all with wonderful volunteers who did thorough jobs. Two of the houses were recently salvaged by Principal Financial Group and Mercy Medical Center through the United Way Day of Action. "I really enjoyed my experience and am so glad that these impressive reusable items are being saved," said David Patrick of Principal Financial Group. "We worked with some great people from Habitat and I definitely plan on helping again when I can."



If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer experience, or have funds or tools to donate towards this cause, please call the Habitat office at (641) 424-8978 or check out our website at [Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa](http://Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa) and send us an [e-mail](mailto:) with "flood volunteer" in the subject line.

call 641-424-8978  
to confirm time and locations.

## Wish List

\* \* \* \* \*

To help Habitat continue with the salvage efforts, the following items are currently needed:

*Generator*

*Small handtools*

*Work gloves*

*Battery operated drills*

*Crowbars*

*Flatbed trailer (or use of)*

If you would like to donate any of the above items, please drop them at the office or call

641-424-8978.

## Mark Your Calendars!

\* \* \* \* \*



HAAS CHIROPRACTIC  
MASON CITY



During the month of September, Haas Chiropractic will be donating 20% of all New Patient First Day Services to Habitat of North Iowa.

*Together building healthy people and better communities.*

Call for your appointment today at (641)424-6531

Visit their website at [www.haaswellness.com](http://www.haaswellness.com).

*Thank you Haas Chiropractic!*

## Burdick Recalls Rewards, Challenges During 2 Years as Board President

Bill Burdick recently ended his two-year term as President of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa- but it won't end his commitment to the group that has spanned decades. "I was first involved when I was in South Carolina," Burdick stated. "I was on the Board when we originally formed a Habitat chapter in Clarendon County (South Carolina). That was in the early '60s."

Burdick retired from NIACC in June and has been on the Habitat NCI Board for about four years. He says the accomplishment he is most proud of during his tenure is being part of the Personnel Committee that



## Prince Family Groundbreaking

Date: Thurs., Sept. 30th

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: 527 S. Tyler

(Rain date will be  
on Thurs,

Oct. 7, 5:30pm)

*Come and join the celebration  
with one of our newest Partner  
Families as we break ground  
for the next Habitat build  
in Mason City!*

\* \* \* \* \*

## World Habitat Day 2010

Monday, October 4, 2010

*Interesting facts on  
World Habitat Day:*

- *The first Monday in October  
was designated World  
Habitat Day by the U.N.*

hired Melissa Schoneberg as Executive Director of the local chapter. "I believe (that) has made the biggest contribution to our unit," Burdick says.

Burdick's long involvement with Habitat for Humanity reflects his belief in the group and its mission. "I believe in what Habitat stands for and who it is trying to help, and how Habitat is not a 'hand-out' organization, but a Christian organization that is trying to help families grow and improve themselves through working within their families and reaching out to others."

As expected, Burdick's service with the local chapter has had both rewards and challenges. "The most rewarding time is when we have the Dedication Ceremony and turn the keys of the house over to the family. It is rich just seeing and witnessing the reactions of the entire family. They haven't just received a gift that will change their lives forever, but they have been a central part in making it happen."

Burdick says it has also been rewarding to see the "marvelous growth" of the Habitat ReStore over the past three years. The growth of the store is of great importance to the local chapter, he says, and the promise for the future of the store is great.

"The most challenging aspects that I've seen being involved with Habitat, are finding the money and the right families," Burdick says. "Also challenging is the need to keep several balls in the air at the same time", he says, "such as the acquisition, moving and rehabbing of a home from Mercy Medical Center North Iowa, the deconstruction and salvage efforts from homes flooded in June 2008; in addition to all of the regular activities of our home construction."

Before retiring, Burdick worked for more than nine years in the Department of Continuing Education at NIACC. Prior to that, he spent more than 30 years in manufacturing management. His wife, Leslie, also retired in June from her job as office manager at First United Methodist Church.

The Burdicks are native Iowans who lived in Michigan, Indiana, South Carolina, Ohio and Kentucky before returning to their home state. They have two children: Scott lives in the Cleveland area and has four children, and Christi lives in Minneapolis and has two children. The Burdicks' grandchildren, two boys and four girls, range in age from 2-1/2 to 13 years old.

Although Burdick will no longer lead the Board, he will remain active in the group that he first connected with so many years ago. "I am a firm Christian (who) believes in helping others- and I will do that in many ways; and that

*General Assembly in 1985.*

- *World Habitat Day calls attention to the tremendous need for decent, affordable housing all over the world. It recognizes the basic need all human beings have for adequate shelter.*
- *One billion people, one-sixth of the world's population, live in deplorable conditions in dilapidated slums and shantytowns.*
- *By 2030, that number is expected to rise to 2 billion.*
- *World Habitat Day reminds people everywhere of our collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.*



## New Satellite Location for the Habitat ReStore!

Due to the influx of great new & used home improvement items salvaged from the Buyout Homes, the ReStore now has a new Satellite warehouse location!

will continue to include Habitat."

## Multi-Generational Family Looks Forward to Move to Healthy Home in Forest City

One deserving family will soon get a "new-to-them home" and a new hometown when they leave behind their flood-damaged home in Mason City for the comforts of a Habitat for Humanity home in Forest City.

Linda and Bob O'Dell, their daughter Valerie, and her three children have lived in Mason City for 21 years. Their move to the neighboring town will mean a home with a healthier environment, more space and handicap accessibility that will make everyday living much easier.

"We were boated out," Linda says of the day in June 2008 when devastating flood waters rolled through Mason City. "They came with a boat right to our door."

Their home at 402 Second Street had been flooded before, but the family had redone the basement and created a bedroom and playroom for Valerie and her three children, Brooklynn-14, Audrey-12, and Jakob-6. When Linda went downstairs that June morning, she encountered 2 inches of water and a sump pump that couldn't keep up. Water started coming through the walls and quickly became 2 feet, then 3 feet deep. "I'm 5 feet tall and it was up to my shoulders," Linda says. "Then it rose to the first floor." "They totally lost everything," Linda says of her daughter and children, "and the first floor was ruined."

Several months later, while they waited for the buyout, the family installed new drywall and insulation in the basement. But when they discovered mold, Valerie and her children had to move upstairs, turning living space into a makeshift bedroom. The three-generational family has been living in the over-crowded conditions ever since.

Frustrated by lack of financing options for them through



**Address: 305 8th St. SW**

*(just west of S. Federal Ave. on 8th St.  
SW)*

### **Salvage Warehouse**

#### **Hours:**

Wed. / Fri.  
10am - 2pm

Operations will also continue as usual at the permanent ReStore location:

**1411 S. Taft Ave.**

*(at the end of Commercial Park Rd. off of  
South Taft Ave.)*

#### **Store Hours:**

Mon. - Fri.: 9am - 6pm  
Sat.: 9am - 4 pm

#### **Additional Drop-Off Location in Clear Lake:**

Woodford Lumber and Home Co.  
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.*

*Special Thanks to the*

banks, Linda learned a year ago about a neighbor who had been chosen as a Partner Family to receive a Habitat home. Linda looked up the Habitat address in the phone book, walked into the office and asked if her family might be eligible for a home. Staff members asked about the family's needs. "You wouldn't believe our needs!" Linda told them.

In addition to the flood devastation, Linda says both she and her husband are on disability and Valerie also has had health problems. When staff members told Linda they had a home available for a family with handicapped accessible needs in Forest City and asked if they would be willing to move, Linda's response was immediate: "As long as it isn't in a flood plain, sign me up," she says.

The family has been working toward their "sweat equity" (the 250 volunteer hours required of each adult in a Partner Family) since April. Linda says logging the hours has been a challenge. They have been able to complete their hours through helping at the Habitat ReStore, the Habitat office, and with the flood salvage efforts.

The Forest City house, built in 2005, was vacated in 2007 due to some unfortunate family circumstances and then returned to Habitat. Built for a family of six, the house is larger than most Habitat homes, but will be perfect for the size of the O'Dell family - giving them some much needed healthy living space away from any flood plains!

## **Habitat Seeking New Partner Families**

Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa is searching for hardworking families who want to partner with Habitat to own their own home.

Habitat currently has homeownership opportunities in Mason City, Hampton, and Kensett - however applications from throughout the six counties will be considered. Counties served are: Hancock, Franklin, Cerro Gordo, Winnebago, Worth, and Wright.



To become a Habitat Partner, a family must have a need for affordable housing, a stable income, and be willing to work on their home or other Habitat projects. Families chosen to partner with Habitat have demonstrated their



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

Habitat for Humanity  
NCI is a United Way  
Partner Agency.



ability to make regular monthly payments, however are not able to obtain traditional financing through a bank.

Families who are selected will have a 0% interest mortgage with a 1% downpayment. The monthly payments help Habitat to continue providing homes for future families.

Interested families who think they may meet the guidelines and want to become homeowners, are encouraged to start the application process now by calling the Habitat NCI office at **641-424-8978**.

1411 S. Taft Ave. Mason City, IA 50401 | Office: 641.424.8978 | ReStore: 641.423.1688  
[www.habitatnci.org](http://www.habitatnci.org) | [habitatnorthiowa@netconx.net](mailto:habitatnorthiowa@netconx.net)