

HARBOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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COMING OUR WAY!

Take a couple of thousand kindhearted and enthusiastic members of our community, a dedicated former U.S. President and his wife, enough building materials to fill lots of semis, the week of June 19, 2005 in Benton Harbor, and what do you get? The privilege and challenge of hosting the Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) 2005.

Harbor Habitat for Humanity is announcing the terrific news that our affiliate will be one of the two host affiliates for the JCWP 2005, with Detroit being the other host affiliate that will blitz-build as least 35 houses during the week. Additionally, most or all of the other 85 Habitat affiliates in Michigan will also participate in the JCWP 2005 and support house builds during this same week, however, former President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter will only be on site at the house builds in Benton Harbor and Detroit.

Since the very first Jimmy Carter Work Project in New York City in 1984, President Carter has been drawn to Habitat for Humanity's efforts in communities others have abandoned. At a derelict tenement building in the heart of the inner city, President Carter picked up a hammer and rolled up his sleeves more than 20 years ago. In 2005, President Carter and Habitat for Humanity International will lead Michigan in a statewide effort to build from within, and to bring about a spirit of renewal to families and communities.

Many details of this once-in-a-lifetime experience are still being worked out, but this is what we know to date:

- 35-50 houses will be built in Benton Harbor at sites yet to be determined.
- The blitz build will take place during the week of June 17–June 25, 2005.
- The emotional, physical, spiritual, and financial support of our community is essential.

So get ready! Start thinking today about how you can help be a part of a historical and life-changing experience in the summer of 2005. The work will be hard, the conditions less than glamorous, and the rewards unlike any other you have yet to experience.

Don't forget the Carpenter's Club! For \$40/month, or \$480/year, you can join and help make home-ownership a reality for a family that couldn't otherwise own a home. Or, if you would prefer to support HHH via some other way, please do! Any and all donations would be genuinely appreciated. If you have any questions regarding how to make a contribution, contact HHH at 925-9635.



“MUD, SWEAT, & TEARS” THE JCWP 2003 EXPERIENCE

Imagine red Georgia clay in June. Add four inches of rain in 24 hours. Follow it up with 90-degree temperatures and 90-percent humidity. Pour on a little more rain and a lot more sun. Throw in some tools, lumber, thousands of volunteers, and one former head of state, and you're in LaGrange, Georgia at the Jimmy Carter Work Project 2003. You're there for seven days to build 22 homes for Habitat for Humanity partner families, and it's one of the best experiences of your life!

On Saturday morning, starting with just a slab floor, the rain clouds looming, and a rag-tag—but motivated—group of volunteers, building a home in one week seems like an insurmountable task. Even so, you get to work. You work shoulder-to-shoulder with people you've never met to set the walls in place. Strangers become a team and get into a rhythm. When the skies let loose a downpour, you keep working and trudging through the mud. At the end of a long day, you're exhausted AND exhilarated. You are a soggy, muddy mess, but the shell of a house has emerged. And as you get on the bus, you realize that your task might be possible after all. Then, later that evening, you share stories and a well-deserved dinner with newfound friends, all nursing overworked muscles and looking forward to the next day.

First on the agenda for each new morning is fellowship, then you're off to meet with the team leader to get your assignment of the day. The combination of your aptitude and your attitude determines if you'll stick to one project or become a Jack- or Jill-of-all-trades. Either way, you spend your days working hard and sweating like you never have before. But so is everyone else, and you smile and laugh much more than you grimace or moan. You're having a great time!

Lunchtime is when you comprehend how many of you there actually are, as volunteers begin making their way from their work sites to the massive food tent. This gives you the chance to meet fellow “Jacks” and “Jills,” and occasionally, an opportunity to spend a brief bit of downtime with your partner family. And it's funny, no matter what is served that day, it tastes wonderful, and you leave the table replenished physically—and spiritually.

You then walk back to the work site, amazed as you see the progress occurring before you. Windows are in. Roof is done. Now the siding! Day by day, you witness the completion of another step from a dream to reality.

By Friday, those one-time strangers with whom you labored and laughed, both volunteers and the partner family, feel like extended family. You cry tears of happiness because you realize that your sweat and love are now part of someone's home.

Upon leaving the new community you helped create, you reflect on the building blitz of the past week. Mud, sweat, and tears come to mind, so it's only natural to laugh when you admit that you can't wait to do it again.

Without a doubt, count me in for the 2005 JCWP. Mud or no mud, I'll be there.

Barbara Pitcher

Volunteer with Harbor Habitat for Humanity and JCWP 2003

VISION 20/20

Believe it or not, the JCWP 2005 is merely the beginning of our challenge in the 21st century to eradicate substandard housing in Benton Harbor and Benton Township.

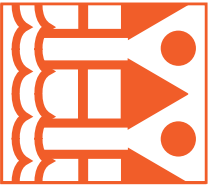
In collaboration with Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat affiliates in Michigan are researching local housing needs and available resources, then setting a date by which substandard housing will be eliminated in their respective communities—usually no more than 20 years out.

This challenge is called Vision 20/20, and this challenge cannot be taken lightly. It is a massive task that requires successful partnerships with other housing providers, a myriad of organizations, be they governmental, social, faith-based, private, etc., and unselfish individuals who want to leave more than their footprints behind.

With so much potential housing construction being planned, indiscriminate placement of dwellings can have adverse effects. We think planning and developing a housing strategy for our community is long overdue. That's why we are proceeding with this local initiative.

Harbor Habitat for Humanity invites the entire community to first embrace this enormously significant concept, then to work together to bring about the change that we need. Working together and sharing resources is the only way to meet the challenge.

As our local affiliate develops an achievable and believable plan, you'll be informed. In the meantime, think about how you may contribute to Vision 20/20 and its guaranteed exciting results.



**Harbor
Habitat for
Humanity**

Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.harborhabitat.org

Harambee!

(pronounced ha-RAM-bay) Swahili
1. Unite. 2. Work together.

AMBITIOUS VISITORS

More than 95 business administration graduate students from the University of Michigan Business School recently visited and worked in the Twin Cities. On August 27th and 28th, Whirlpool hosted the students as part of a "Global Citizenship" opportunity.

After a picnic at the Silver Beach Shadowland Pavilion, the students met at Whirlpool's St. Joseph Technology Center and participated in a panel discussion addressing economic development in our community. The following day, the energized students worked on various projects at HHH sites, including building planters, insulating, roofing, and landscaping.

We appreciated their help, and enjoyed their company.

IT'S NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S BASKETBALL SHOW

What a combination! High-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball-handling, and family comedy routines led by a great positive role model for young girls, Ladé Majic. The Queen of Show Basketball is the only woman coach/player of an all men's professional team, the Harlem Ambassadors.

Ladé Majic, who puts her master's degree in counseling psychology to work as an adjunct professor at a New Jersey college, is the prime vehicle for the Ambassadors' twin messages: Stay in school. Stay off drugs.

More than a passive show on a basketball court, audiences are reached by the Ambassadors—especially kids.

"It's more than just something to watch," says Ladé Majic. "We get the crowd involved. We dance with them. We share."



Be part of the crowd at Benton Harbor High School on Saturday, October 25th, at 6:30 p.m., when the Ambassadors play the Legends, the home team comprised of local high school standouts and local celebrities.

Advance tickets: students \$6.00; seniors \$6.00; adults \$8.00.

Available at: Harbor Habitat for Humanity, 785 E. Main St., Benton Harbor.

At-the-door tickets: students \$8.00; seniors \$8.00; adults \$10.00.

To keep up-to-date on the JCWP 2005, Vision 20/20, and other HHH happenings, check out our new and improved web site at www.harborhabitat.org—and, tell your friends to do the same!



BULL'S EYE!

Not only is our build schedule right on target, an additional house was added to our 2003 season. At the direction of Gov. Jennifer Granholm, the seventh house will be funded by MSHDA, Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Director of Construction, Brad Allen, attributes the successful on-time build schedule to super volunteers who are willing, ready, and able to work hard to help make a difference in the lives of our partner families. A big THANK YOU to all of them!

Assisting Brad in the near future will be a construction liaison hired through AmeriCorps. If interested, apply at the HHH office before November 1, 2003.

AmeriCorps members serve a 1-year term constructing houses with a local affiliate. While in service, AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance and insurance. An education award is granted upon completion of a successful term of service. Opportunities are available to adults age 18 or older who possess a high school diploma or GED. Previous construction, community service, and/or leadership experience is helpful but not required for acceptance into this program.

RESTORE GRAND OPENING

Balloons, hot dogs, pastries, beverages, and smiling faces were clues that a celebration was taking place at the ReStore on September 12th. Sales exceeded expectations on the official opening day of the ReStore. Being the win-win-win experience that it was, the grand opening was definitely something to celebrate.



From left to right: Tim Walls, Manager, Harbor Habitat ReStore; Paul Harvey, Benton Township Supervisor; Rae German, ReStore Chairperson; Robert Mesa, Retail Manager.

- Happy customers left the store with great deals on a variety of items, including a door, windows, paint, brushes, a steel cabinet, a dishwasher, and a washer and dryer.
- Donors of these items received tax receipts for their donation and didn't contribute to the overfill of a landfill.
- Harbor Habitat for Humanity received some much needed financial help through better-than-expected sales.

And more good news! Additional products continue to be available at the ReStore, so check them out at 2302 Plaza Drive, Benton Harbor.

For ReStore info, call 927-0006 or visit www.harborhabitat.org/restore1.htm

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