

Harambee!

Although it has been quite a while since I had last come across the above Swahili word, when I was recently informed that our PR Committee was going to use it in their material, I thought it was a great idea. After all, harambee means unite and work together, and isn't that what Habitat for Humanity is all about?

I'm honored to have been a member of our local affiliate that first met in the basement of Fairplain Presbyterian church over eight years ago, and I am now excited to be the executive director of this important ministry. What a great privilege to be involved in creating housing opportunities within the Benton Harbor community! With a sensational staff, a truly committed Board of Directors, and scores of enthusiastic volunteers and supporters, Harbor Habitat for Humanity has all the ingredients in place for a successful 2003 build season and beyond.

It has been a blessing to have been a part of our organization's growth and development. And, that's the way it should be viewed—as "our" organization. No one person could have accomplished so much alone. Collectively, our community is stepping up to the plate and doing what has been difficult to do in the past—unite and work together.

We have sought, and will continue to draw in partners to help, both from within and outside our geographic boundaries. Our task is huge. However, by bringing attention to the need for better housing conditions, we are helping to create an overall better Benton Harbor for the future. And it is this need to address our future that drives us and gives purpose to our efforts.

As a distinctively Christian housing ministry, HHH has the unique opportunity to put into action the words written by the apostle John in his first letter to the early church, "Let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth." John 3:18

I thank you for supporting Harbor Habitat's goal of improving our local housing conditions, and I look forward to working alongside you in the future as we continue our quest to end substandard housing.

Appreciatively,
Mike Green

PAST

- In 2002, Harbor Habit for Humanity won The Jimmy Carter Award for most homes built per 50,000 population in the midwest region.
- During the week of June 9th, several members of the HHH affiliate joined our 78-year-young former president, Jimmy Carter, at this year's Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP). For the 20th consecutive year, Jimmy Carter pounded away at yet another house-building blitz that alternates annually between the U.S. and other countries.

This year, a total of 92 houses were built in Anniston, Alabama and LaGrange and Valdosta, Georgia by 3,500 volunteers. An astonishing feat!

- More recently, and closer to home, HHH dedicated its first house of the 2003 season on July 13th. Welcome to your new home-sweet-home, Paris Boyd and family!



PRESENT



- Fund-raising for the Women Build house continues. Your support of this exciting experience is indeed welcome!
- Final touches are being put on the second house of our 2003 season, two more are well under way, and foundations were recently poured for our fifth and sixth houses.

FUTURE

- The Harlem Ambassadors will "have a ball" with us on October 25th, so keep that date open. It'll be a fun fund-raiser! Details will be announced at a later date.
- Construction of our last house in 2003 will actually take place on Whirlpool Corporation's campus on M-63 in Benton Harbor, and then be moved to 368 Linden in October. An adventure we're looking forward to!

Win! Win! Win!

You read correctly! We're talking about THREE wins, not the normal win-win situation. See why!

On 8/15, Harbor Habitat for Humanity opened the doors to its ReStore—a "thrift shop" for reusable building materials, appliances, household goods, fixtures, etc. The grand opening will be celebrated on 9/12. And although our ReStore will be new to us, more than fifty other Habitat for Humanity affiliates have already established ReStores in their communities.



And what will make our ReStore successful? The following win-win-win results:

WIN #1—Profits will help fund Harbor Habitat for Humanity's goal to build affordable housing in the Benton Harbor area. HHH projects that one home per year can be funded after our ReStore becomes established in a few years.

WIN #2—Bargain shoppers will enjoy buying quality new and used building materials at a fraction of normal retail prices. And if you miss Mike Young's, you'll welcome the ReStore with open arms!

WIN #3—Donors of products sold in the ReStore not only get a tax receipt for their donation, they also get the satisfaction of knowing that they're putting their material to good use rather than having it go to waste in some landfill.

AND HOW CAN YOU BE PART OF THIS WINNING COMBINATION?

- Donate (and also ask others to do so—including individuals and businesses), new and used materials such as full cans of paint, windows, appliances, and kitchen cupboards.
- Volunteer to staff the ReStore. Volunteers and partner families are needed to help its two employees.
- Shop! shop! shop! at the ReStore, located at 2302 Plaza Drive, Benton Harbor, near Nickerson Ave.

Need a donation pickup or want to volunteer? Make arrangements by e-mail at restore@harborhabitat.org or by phone at 927-0006. Want more info? Go to www.harborhabitat.org/restore1.htm



A REMINDER ABOUT HARBOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

• HHH is an ecumenical, grassroots Christian nonprofit housing organization that helps families improve their housing conditions. Through tax-deductible donations of money and materials, HHH builds homes with the help of volunteers and partner families.

• HHH helps people who want to help themselves. There are no “free lunches.” Houses are sold at no profit with no-interest mortgage payments, including taxes and insurance. Payments are made over a period of 10-20 years and deposited into a revolving Fund for Humanity, which supports the construction of more houses.

• HHH selects partner families based upon need, ability to make monthly mortgage payments, and willingness to partner with HHH by putting in “sweat equity.” Families wishing to be considered for a Habitat house complete an extensive application which is then reviewed by the Family Selection Committee, with final approval made by the Board.

• HHH believes that the best way to predict the future is to create it. And that’s what HHH is doing.

GREAT TRIBUTE TO A GREAT GUY

He liked to laugh, he liked to help others, and he really, really liked to propel a small ball into the 18 holes found at a golf course. That’s why this year’s Annual Whirlpool Employee’s Memorial Weekend Golf Outing at The Oaks was dedicated to Lee Swiger—a friend and colleague of many in our community to whom we said an unexpected goodbye way too soon.

Although the 140+ participants got a little wet, their spirits weren’t dampened in the least. Not only was it good to know that their collective effort of raising \$34,000 was going to cover more than half of the cost of the Habitat house that is being sponsored by Whirlpool employees and the Whirlpool Foundation, the golfers had the chance to visit with the Smith family who will be moving into this house in a few months. Then too, it was a lift to their spirits to know that Lee was undoubtedly smiling down on them as his fellow golfers were demonstrating what Arnold Palmer meant when he said, “Life and golf are the same. You’ve got to make the good things happen.”



Pleeeeeeeeeeeeeze . . .

• If you can spare multiple-line phones (5-6 lines), computers able to be networked, or various office supplies, i.e., paper clips, Post-it notes, pens, staplers, staples, trash bags, etc., let us know!



• If you would like to donate one square foot (or more!!!) of the Women Build house at \$55/sq. ft., send a check to HHH or pop into the office. Interested in making some other type of donation? Go right ahead! Harbor Habitat’s Women Build Committee is in need of funds to buy construction materials for the house.

• If you, or someone you know, would like to join the staff of HHH as the volunteer coordinator, please stop in or call the office at 925-9635. It’s a fun and rewarding position that allows you to meet lots of good people.

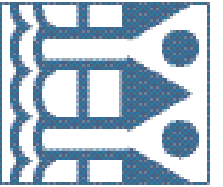
• If you are interested in joining the Carpenter’s Club at a contribution of \$40/month or \$480/year, do so either via a check, credit card, or direct bank withdrawal.



• If you are a woman excited about re-defining “homemaker” by building a house, call Kathy Brown at HHH to sign up to work at the Women Build construction site. (Thanks anyway, guys. You just have to work on the other houses.)

INTERESTED IN BUYING A HHH HOUSE?
Want an application? Have questions for the Family Selection Committee? If so, stop in or call the HHH office at 925-9635.

Printing courtesy of Lakeland Center for Health Enhancement.



**Harbor
Habitat for
Humanity**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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Harawbee!

(pronounced ha•RAM•bay) Swahili

1. Unite. 2. Work together.

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