

2003 - YEAR IN REVIEW

Traditionally, the New Year gives us an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look forward to future ventures. At Harbor Habitat for Humanity, we have found that to be as true for our organization as it is for us individually.

Certainly, 2003 was a wonderful year for the entire Harbor Habitat family. It was a time of great change and growth. Throughout the year we experienced quite a few staffing changes, including bringing on Mike Green as our Executive Director mid-construction season. Mike has been with Harbor Habitat for Humanity since its inception and is a past president of the Board of Directors, so we feel very fortunate to make use of his extensive experience and continued leadership. Along with these changes, we continue to refine our processes and strengthen our organizational capacity, enabling us to do even more in the future.

Meanwhile, we were able to more than double our production from the previous year, building homes with more partner families than ever before... all in a year of firsts—our first Faith Builds, our first Blitz Build, and our first Women Build! To start our construction season off, a number of churches gathered in partnership to fund and build two homes in 2003. In September, the one-week blitz build took place on the Whirlpool Corporate campus with a house built by Whirlpool employees. The home was later moved to its Benton Township lot for the Bowman family. In October, the Women Build! home was dedicated with Gov. Jennifer Granholm in attendance. Each of these projects generated a lot of excitement in the community and we look forward to the future possibilities it brings.

We have a great deal to be grateful for, and thank each and every donor, volunteer, supporter and partner family. It is the fellowship that makes this fun and rewarding and the partnerships that make a year like 2003 possible. Thank you all!

Bob Story – President,
Harbor Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors



Gov. Jennifer Granholm (far right) points out special features of the Women Build! house to homeowner Lue Williams (far left) and her family.

Building on Success: 2004 Outlook

No time to rest on our laurels! The Harbor Habitat for Humanity Construction Committee is getting ready for an exciting 2004 build. To start off, we have scheduled a total of 12 homes for the year, but we were able to leave some room in the schedule for the possibility of more builds, providing volunteer and funding needs are met.

The schedule begins with six homes — three starting in April and another three in May—all with an 8-week construction time frame. Just as we are finishing up the punch list on those homes, we will launch into a four-home Blitz Build one week in June. These blitz builds are required by Habitat for Humanity International in preparation for the Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) and will use the same home designs that have been chosen for the JCWP in 2005. On the first day of the blitz build, we will have the help of 200 Americorps volunteers from all over the state as part of the 2004 Americorps Signature Service Project.

Rounding out the build season, the two final homes are scheduled to begin in July with a 12-week construction time frame. Because all of our 2005 construction will be in Benton Harbor, most of our construction will be focused in the same area of Benton Township as in 2003 in order to maximize impact to the community, although 4 of the 12 homes in 2004 will be built in the City of Benton Harbor. The plan is to complete all 12 homes by October so the construction staff can attend the 2004 JCWP in Mexico, then use the remainder of the year to organize for JCWP 2005.

Volunteers will be needed almost every weekend in the 2004 build season. Barring conflicts with holidays or special events in town, we will be working most Saturdays and some Sundays, with the help of Seventh Day Adventist and Jewish work teams. Additionally, special arrangements may be made for groups to work mid-week or weekend build days. Contact Lilly Massa, Volunteer Coordinator, to arrange for your group to come out.

Of course, we must keep in mind that this schedule not only represents 12 houses, but also 12 families. Habitat partner families are selected on three criteria: need for adequate housing, ability to pay the mortgage, and willingness to partner with Habitat. The partnership comes, in part, in the form of 300 hours of sweat equity for each adult member of the household. Volunteers will work side-by-side with partner families, building relationships as they build a home.

Family Services is working hard to identify the families for 2004 but more applications will be needed for our plans for 2005. Contact Helen Mitchell or Kathy Brown in our Family Services office to inquire about applying to become a Habitat partner family.

The Harbor Habitat Construction Committee is motivated for the 2004 season and looks forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces on the build sites, as well as many new ones.

Bill Muller – Chair, Construction Committee



Millard and
Linda Fuller

A Legacy of Love

I've always believed that the catalyst for Habitat for Humanity is a love story, so it is appropriate to share near St. Valentine's Day. Millard Fuller, a successful attorney and entrepreneur, was a self-made millionaire before the age of thirty, but it nearly came at the cost of his marriage. That was when his wife Linda told him she wanted a divorce.

This was a wake up call for Millard, who doesn't take well to failure in anything – whether it be business, marriage, or changing the world. The two of them did some soul searching and recognized material things had overshadowed their deep love for each other. Together they decided to sell their possessions, give the money to the poor, and dedicate themselves to a life of service.

For the nearly three decades since Linda and Millard Fuller founded Habitat for Humanity, hammers have beat out a passionate heartbeat across the globe. Habitat affiliates build homes in more than 3,000 communities in 92 countries with countless volunteers giving of themselves to work alongside more than 150,000 partner families who no longer must live in substandard housing.

And so it is that the Fuller's rediscovered love for each other has given us a legacy, and the great opportunity to put our love into action by building homes and building lives.

Barbara Pitcher – Chair, Public Relations

Join the Carpenter's Club



For \$40 a month, or \$480 per year, you can join the Carpenter's Club, helping to make home-ownership a reality for a family that couldn't own a home otherwise. Drop the following form into the mail, or contact us to let us know of your interest. You can donate by check, credit card, or we can arrange to have your contribution sent to us directly by your bank.

Cut along dashed line

Yes! I want to be a part of the Carpenter's Club to help fund the construction of homes in the Benton Harbor area!

I can contribute: _____ \$40 each month
_____ \$480 for the year
_____ a gift of \$ _____

Method of payment:

Check _____ Direct Withdrawal (DW) _____ Credit Card _____

First/Last Name _____

(DW) Account Number _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date (Mo./Yr.) _____

Signature _____

Please send your contribution to:

Harbor Habitat for Humanity
785 E. Main St.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

or contact us at (269) 925-9635 or info@harborhabitat.org
to make arrangements to get involved in other ways.

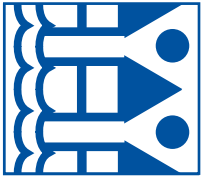
DREAM by Gaynell Wilcher

Last night I had a dream—
God had a plan it seemed.
People were coming from far and near
With hammers, nails and wooden beams.
Young folk old folks black and white—
This dream was rather nice.
People smiling, some laughing loud,
As walls went up and floors went down.
All these people seemed so proud.

In this dream it appeared to me
That they were building a community!
A beige house over there, a blue one across the street,
And a quaint little sage one—a color of green—
With a creek running by on a slight hillside
And dandelions growing free.
I could see children playing gleefully,
A tire swinging from a tree.
It seemed like home to me.

People were praying
and holding hands;
Smiling faces.
It felt grand.
In this dream
it dawned on me,
I wanted to be there,
be a part of this scene.
And suddenly, it came to me,
How could this be possible?
Who made this a possibility?
As I looked over this proud crowd, a voice said
THANK HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!!!!

Gaynell Wilcher is the mother of Kiley Lofton, one of the newest members of the Harbor Habitat Partner family. The poem was written in honor of, and presented at the dedication ceremony for the Lofton home in November 2003.



Harbor
Habitat for
Humanity

Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.harborhabitat.org

Harambeel!

(pronounced ha-RAM-bay) Swahili

1. Unite. 2. Work together.

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