

Building Faith

In Columbus



Issue 3 - November,

2009

Shack City Raises \$7500 for Thrivent !

A recent chilly October night saw about 80 youth brave the elements to raise \$7,500 for Thrivent Builds, a joint effort of Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. In return, the kids learned just how difficult it would be to live in substandard conditions night-in and night-out. They learned that living homeless means having to deal with the elements, other people, and one's own loneliness.

The event was held at Messiah Lutheran Church in Reynoldsburg on October 3rd. Five churches and one school participated: Dublin Presbyterian, Epiphany Lutheran in Pickerington, Faith Lutheran in Whitehall, Prince of Peace Lutheran in Reynoldsburg, Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church, and St. Charles Preparatory School. The kids constructed their shacks out of cardboard and tape. Some students built stand-alone shelters and others built larger structures to house their entire youth group. Thrivent volunteers Mark and Cindy Keller organized the event, which also included a worship service and an activity that drew the kids' attention to the unequal distribution of wealth in our world. In addition to raising money, the event



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**Habitat for Humanity –
Greater Columbus Looks
to Increase Youth**

was a great educational experience for the participating young adults, and also helped spread the word about Habitat's mission, as a reporter from WBNS was present chronicling the event for 10TV news.

By raising \$7,500, these kids proved how much their energy and passion can contribute to the affiliate's ministry! Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus hopes that this experience will light a spark in these teens' hearts to devote a portion or all of their lives to serving others.

Involvement

With Ethan Beiler now serving full time as Faith and Youth Relations Coordinator at Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus, the affiliate is looking to increase youth involvement in its ministry. Currently, there are a number of youth who volunteer on construction sites or within the ReStore. The affiliate hopes that with better organization of its young volunteers, they will be able to accomplish more.

The four main objectives of our youth programs are advocacy, education, fundraising, and building. Already, clubs have begun forming within schools around Columbus. If your church has a youth group interested in working with Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus, contact Ethan Beiler at ebeiler@habitat-columbus.org or by calling (614) 364.7015.

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Spirit of Thanksgiving is... Giving, Thankfully

Each year as we approach that traditional November

Thursday, thoughts drift toward travel, family get-togethers, and turkey with all the “fixin’s.” And when dinner is on the table and those we care most about are gathered all ‘round, a prayer will be offered to acknowledge those things that each of us considers blessings in our lives.

I suppose our life experiences over the last year will bring a few of those blessings to top of mind. Those we may have enjoyed for many years may actually slip our consciousness, not to be recalled while our heads are bowed before dinner, and that’s human nature. As such, allow me to share a thought or two



Introducing Ethan Beiler

I am excited to introduce myself: My name is Ethan Beiler and I am the Faith and

Youth Relations Coordinator at Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus. As an AmeriCorps VISTA member, I will be working diligently to reinvigorate the affiliate’s religious outreach as well as building a foundation for future youth programs.

I was born and raised in Celina, Ohio, but I came to Columbus in 2004 in pursuit of a Business Administration degree with a specialization in Marketing at The Ohio State University. While there, I was a leader in a number of university-wide organizations as well as coordinating an Alternative Spring Break trip which took twelve volunteers to a wilderness preserve

and suggest what each of us can ensure is on our list, especially if that Thanksgiving table is sitting in a nice warm home that we've lived in for a while. So, here goes....

Think about offering thanks for the home that has kept everyone you love safe and secure for the years you may have dwelt within it. Whisper a word of thanks for those we as Habitat for Humanity have built homes for this year...those partner families who, before 2009, may never have really thought a home of their own would be, well, theirs. Let's offer up thanks for all those who have provided the resources, so that we could build those houses, along with our sincere appreciation for all the volunteers who made construction of them possible. You'll recall that our Habitat volunteers and staff don't just build in the warm months when it's most comfortable to be out on site with hammer in hand, but also during the grey days of winter when construction still carries on, while we plan our builds for the coming warmer seasons.

2009 has been a great year for our Habitat affiliate in just about every area of our ministry and, for the ability to successfully perform our mission this year, we give thanks. For the coming year we whisper a word of hope that Providence will help guide the way for an even better 2010.

And, as the blessed season of Christmas approaches, let us give thanks for our God above who gave us his only son for

in Florida. I have spent all or part of my past five summers as a counselor at Lutheran Memorial Camp in Fulton, Ohio. Throughout high school, I was an active member of my home church's youth group, and I continue serving with them today as a chaperone on summer mission trips. I would not be the person I am today without the work I have done for others; the effort that I have expended volunteering has manifested itself in me as I mature with every experience. I am excited to spend this year at Habitat for Humanity because it will allow me to further refine my character, develop my career path, and, most importantly, grow the ministry here at Habitat.

I hope to become acquainted with every church that serves with us - whether through an Adopt-a-House partnership, volunteering in the ReStore, the Thrivent Builds Homes Campaign, or other avenues. I am looking forward to working hard to strengthen the relationship between our affiliate and the Columbus faith community. Please, feel free to contact me at ebeiler@habitat-columbus.org or by calling 614-364-7015.

our sake. In my opinion, the most important message that Jesus left us with was, "Service to others." Such thought is embodied in our Habitat ethos and, personally, I am thankful for all of you who carry Christ's message forward in helping put a roof over those less fortunate, but no less deserving, whom we "serve" every day.

Happy Thanksgiving!

E.J. Thomas, CEO

Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus

Prayer Requests & God-Sightings

- * Habitat's mission is reliant on the partner families we serve. Pray that we are able to meet and work with qualified families in new areas of town.
- * Please pray that we are able to find land to build on in 2010. We are always looking for affordable plots for our new homes.
- * 2009 has been an especially tough year for many people. Pray the discouraged and despairing among us are able to hold on to their Faith and Trust that the Lord will provide, even in times of trial.
- * The start of the school year has brought a number of school groups to HFHGC with the desire to start a chapter of the ministry in their school. Praise the Lord for instilling an attitude of service in our young people!
- * Our ReStore continues to thrive. Give Thanks for all the dedicated volunteers who make it possible for a store-staff of five people to manage such a large operation. Also, we need to Thank God for our generous donors and patrons.
- * Here at Habitat we are appreciative of the cooperation and patience of our longtime volunteers. We thank God that he has blessed us with your continued support.

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“Prayer Works”

Habitat Homeowner Profile: Thomas Truss



Thomas Truss loves to share the good news: prayer works. Truss, a new Habitat homeowner and a member of Liberty Baptist Church in Columbus, will eagerly tell anyone who wants to know that prayer has truly changed his life.

He recounts that, like a lot of people going through difficult financial circumstances, he felt depressed about his future. Engaged to be married, he often wondered where he and his wife-to-be would live, and he longed for a home of his own as he envisioned being able to cook Thanksgiving dinner for his family and friends. A good friend encouraged him to apply to Habitat for Humanity for a house, but he quickly dismissed the idea, thinking “They’re never going to give a single man a home.”

Nevertheless, after much prayer, he picked up a Habitat application and filled it out. Three weeks later, he received an envelope in the mail with Habitat’s logo on the front, but he didn’t open it, afraid that it would contain a rejection. He told his son about receiving the letter, and his son told him a story about a man who had been looking for some land upon which to build.

The man in the story had neither money nor means of purchasing land, but he had tremendous faith in the Lord. So he dug up some dirt from the land he wanted to purchase, put it in a plastic bag and began to pray over it. Before long, the man’s circumstances changed, and he was able to purchase the land he sought.

Deciding he had nothing to lose, Truss followed his example, and dug up a handful of dirt from one of Habitat’s available building sites. He prayed over his bagged dirt that God would grant him

the chance to build a home for his new family. And then he opened the letter from Habitat. In big blue letters he read, “You have been approved...”

On October 10, 2009, Truss carried his new bride across the threshold of his new Habitat home, where they held the reception and stayed for their honeymoon. “We are so blessed, and so thankful,” Truss says. “I can go out on my porch, drink my tea, and contemplate the blessings of my Lord.” And reflect on the often miraculous gift of prayer.

Written by Gina Law, Habitat Volunteer



Bob Radcliffe

‘Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God —this is your spiritual act of worship.’

-Romans 12:1

Bob Radcliffe, a founding member of the Hilliard Adopt-A-House group passed away on October 11, 2009. He is survived by his wife Mary Radcliffe, brother Jack Radcliffe, his son Bryan Radcliffe, and two daughters, Kathryn Mustaro and Karen Smith. Bob was a grandfather of seven and great grandfather for two. Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus offers our sincerest sympathies to the Radcliffe Family, Hilliard AAH, and Bob’s home church Scioto Ridge United Methodist Church. We have an abundance of appreciation for everything Bob did for our ministry in Columbus. Bob heeded St. Paul’s charge in Romans Chapter 12 that we must offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. He was an integral member of the Hilliard AAH from the beginning, serving as a construction crew leader on the partnership’s very first project on Audrey Road in 1996. He continued leading crews on each new home and rehabilitation project from 1996 to 2005 when his health made it impossible for him to continue. He loved teaching others how to build showing great patience in doing so week after week. When he could no longer build he offered his support and encouragement at monthly meetings.

Bob was a faithful servant always, to his Church and Habitat for Humanity. Bob leaves us at the age of 80. In addition to serving locally in Columbus, he served in the Ohio National Guard for 41 years, achieving the rank of Colonel. Please remember him in your prayers. Thank the Lord for his service to others – for his ‘spiritual worship.’

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Scioto Ridge United Methodist Church and designated for Habitat for Humanity or SRUMC Building Fund. Please send all contributions to Scioto Ridge United Methodist Church, 4343 Dublin Rd., Hilliard, Ohio 43026.

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Hooked On Habitat

People are called to Habitat for Humanity in a multitude of ways. Some respond to a mailed request for support. Some arrive through volunteer service with their congregation or workplace. Many are drawn by the desire to give back to their community. And still others just love to get dirty.

Just ask Roger Powell, Site Superintendent for the Greater Columbus affiliate. Roger, a native of Upper Arlington, first became involved with Habitat by volunteering to perform warranty work on Saturdays in 1996. "It was a really positive experience," he says, "I was about to turn 40, and was going through a big transition in my life, and I wanted to do something meaningful. I own a property management business, and so warranty work was just a good fit."

Then in 2004, long-time Habitat volunteer John Fisher spoke to the Men's Group at his church, Trinity United Methodist, a member of Habitat's Northwest Adopt-A-House Partnership. Roger was inspired anew to give back to the Columbus community through new home construction with Habitat. "I wanted to expand my construction knowledge doing new builds and I certainly didn't mind getting dirty for a good cause."

After volunteering with the Adopt-A-House group on several more houses, Roger got another chance to make a difference, by volunteering with the East St. Tammany Habitat in Slidell, Louisiana, after Hurricane Katrina hit. He spent 10 weeks after the disaster living in a church recreation center and leading construction teams on three houses. He came away from the experience with compassion for the homeowner families he had worked alongside, and gratitude for the amazing volunteers he met from all over the country. Roger was awarded the George Merrill Award for outstanding volunteer service by the East St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

Roger has built lasting friendships with some of those volunteers, and continues to travel south each winter to volunteer with Habitat along the Gulf Coast. In 2006, he was offered a position as Site Superintendent with the Greater Columbus affiliate, where he oversees construction on as many as 12 houses at a time. "I love my job, and I know I'm making a difference. I can drive around Columbus and see the evidence of that every day. That's a pretty good feeling."

"It gets in your blood," he says of Habitat, and adds with a chuckle, "And definitely all over your clothes."

Written Maureen McCormick, Development Coordinator

2009 Dedication Ceremonies

- ☑ **Saturday, November 14th**
 - * 10:00 a.m. - 2805 E. Ninth Ave
 - * 11:00 a.m. - 2811 E. Ninth Ave
- ☑ **Sunday, November 15th**
 - * 2:00 p.m. - 157 S. Oakley Ave
 - * 3:30 p.m. - 801 & 807 Bellevue Ave

For the most current information, please check out the calendar of events page on HFHGC's web site:
<http://www.habitatcolumbus.org/calendar.php>



Roger Powell (center) during the John G. McCoy Circle 200th House Wall-Raising Ceremony in 2008

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Dublin AAH Improves Fundraising Considerably

The Dublin Adopt-A-House, along with the Worthington and Clintonville/Beechwold groups, is working hard to finish a Habitat Home at 2811 E. 9th Avenue. For Dublin AAH, established in 1996, it is their 14th house, and sixth house under the direction of House Lead, Jim Whitmer. Noteworthy is that this group has not fallen complacent by virtue of its experience and success. Instead of relying on donations from the group's five member churches as has been done since their founding, they have organized a number of fundraising events this year to successfully raise \$23,000!

The first, held on April 4th, was a very successful tennis party that raised \$8000 at the newly built Elysium Tennis Club in Plain City. 124 participants received instruction from eight tennis pros and had plenty of opportunities for a competitive match! For those who didn't want to work up a sweat, a number of social activities were on tap with enough tables to encourage interaction. A silent auction was ongoing including a number of autographed sports memorabilia.

On May 22, the Dublin AAH hosted a four-man best ball scramble at Rolling Meadows golf course in Marysville and was the second year for this event. Jim Whitmer, as planner, was able to round up enough golfers and hole sponsors to raise \$5000. For all 20 hole sponsors, Jim built a replica house with the business name. After the outing, those small houses went to the businesses for display during the coming year. This year's scramble was won (coincidentally!) by a team led by Habitat's construction director, Erik Lambert.

Later that same Memorial Day weekend, about 185 runners dashed through the streets of Dublin on their way to raising \$10,000 for Habitat for Humanity. Again, it was Rich Brown and Dave Altafar from Dublin AAH working with the Muirfield Civic Association and the Columbus Running Company to plan this event. In addition, a number of local businesses sponsored this event. To add some fun, the event also featured kids' runs, a baby jogger contest, and 'The Stiletto Sprint.'

These were only the most notable of the fundraising events Dublin AAH has held this year; other events included concerts, dance lessons, a car wash, and high canopy zip line tours in Hocking Hills State Park. The Dublin AAH includes volunteers from Dublin Presbyterian, Jerome United Methodist, New Hope Reformed, Prince of Peace Lutheran, and St. Brigid of Kildare and each church has a representative on the group's executive board. To help schedule these events, as well as of all the group's meetings and build days, they use meetup.com, a website that makes it easy for groups to self-organize.

Habitat for Humanity – Greater Columbus is proud to see its Adopt-a-House groups passionately support us in our mission to end substandard housing. Dublin AAH is doing so, not just by building, but with fundraising, advocacy, and education as well!

Publisher's info:

Building Faith in Columbus

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Habitat for Humanity - Greater Columbus

For info on how to submit content for the newsletter, new recipients to be added, or other questions/comments, contact Ethan Beiler (ebeiler@habitat-columbus.org or 614-561-1530.)

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