



Habitat For Humanity-Greater Columbus
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Women Build to begin 7th home

Volunteers from Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus Women Build are celebrating the start of their 7th Habitat home this spring. By joining with Habitat's ReStore, Women Build is once again able to sponsor a home for a deserving Columbus family, with construction set to begin May 2.

Local WB volunteers have helped raise \$50,000 during the past three years in order to fund the group's 7th house. With the added contributions from ReStore, financial requirements for the home are now met.

"We are delighted to have Habitat's ReStore participate in the construction of this year's WB home," said EJ Thomas, CEO of Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus (HFH-GC). "Our affiliate values the historical contribution of what our dedicated women volunteers have offered to our partner families over the years. And given the importance of the ReStore to our overall operation of providing safe, decent and affordable housing to deserving families in Franklin County, I thought it only fitting to provide this important partnership link to assist our WB team this year."

HFH-GC Resource Development Director Sue Melnyk said the WB volunteers

did "an amazing job" raising funds. "This is the first time a committee of WB volunteers has raised \$50,000--half the cost of the house," she said. "In previous years we have had either a large corporate sponsor or the affiliate has funded the majority of the build."

In addition to Restore's co-sponsorship, Melnyk said several other corporate donors have made contributions to Women Build to help fund this newest home: Battelle gave \$11,000, Citigroup gave \$5,000, Lowe's gave \$5,000 and Delta Energy gave \$3,000. "The remaining \$25,000 was raised through the donations of "literally hundreds of individuals who have designated their Habitat donations to Women Build," Melnyk said.

A single mother with three children has been selected to receive the new WB home, which will be built on 9th Avenue in Columbus. The first day on site for WB volunteers will be Saturday, May 2. Those interested in participating can contact WB volunteer coordinator Heather Boughton at womanbuild@habitat-columbus.org.

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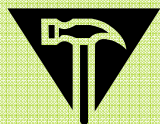
Women Build volunteers have been training and raising funds for their 7th build for several years. Participants learned construction basics at this WB Clinic sponsored by Lowe's.

Committee meets to plan new build



"We see ourselves as resources and tools--pun intended --for the Woman Build group."

--Jana Highwart and Deborah Lisheid, Co-chairs



"If you [can] build it, they will come!"

When the Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus Volunteer Director Deb Light invited people to come to two initial meetings to form a steering committee for the next WB house, women came--lots of them.

Dozens of volunteers offered their time to form a Women Build Steering Committee in order to make plans for construction crews, a food, handle marketing and publicity, and coordinate with the Habitat family for whom the house is being built.

This year's steering committee co-chairs are Jana Highwart and Deborah Lisheid. House lead is Barb Metz, and volunteer coordinator is Heather Boughton. Highwart will also serve as committee treasurer.

Food coordinator is Amanda Zeigler, family coordinator is Paula Stebbins, newsletter editor is Sarah Ortman, and marketing, PR and special events chair is Melanie Domyan. Jan Voelker and Beth Wherley are house lead assistants, and crew leaders are Sue Crawford, Katherine Fandrey, Debbie Gray, Allison Housman, Kelsey Logan, Jamie Mederer and Jan Voelker.

Sherry Bodine and Mary Merrill will assist with volunteer coordination, Sue Lashbrook and Liz Burrell will help out with family coordination, and WB merchandise coordinator Jamie Dixey and Sarah Ortman will assist with marketing, PR and special

events. Fundraising co-chairs are Carla Powell and Paula Wilson.

Although Highwart and Lisheid have not been involved with Women Build in the past, they see their steering committee co-chair positions "as resources and tools--pun intended" for the group.

Highwart said, "I am also hoping the vision of our responsibilities becomes more clear as time moves along."

When asked why they decided to volunteer to head the steering committee, Lisheid said, "I hadn't really thought about it--the opportunity was put on the table and I said 'sure.' In my professional/work life I manage and coordinate a lot of people and variables. I hope my skills translate over to the Women Build team."

With business experience and an MBA, Highwart said that after the initial interest meeting, she was contacted by Deb Light about being both steering committee chair and treasurer. "I have wanted to volunteer in some type of capacity for many years, and just never took the steps," she said. "My feet have now gone forward and I am happy to step up as needed. I'm looking forward to working on the project."

Lisheid said her goal for the new build is "to have fun with safety as the foundation of our build. I'd like to see this project gain so much momentum and interest in the community that it becomes a more frequent occurrence."



New steering committee members have volunteered to organize the 2009 WB home.

WB Birdhouse Auction to feature local celebrities and organizations

Women Build has been invited to sponsor a special Birdhouse Silent Auction at the Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus (HFH-GC) Annual Meeting, which will be held at 6 p.m. April 23 at the Holiday Inn on High in Worthington.

In the fall of 2007, Women Build held the first Birdhouse Silent Auction at the HFH-GC 20th Anniversary. Nine birdhouses were sent out to local celebrities who decorated them for Women Build, and then they were auctioned off for almost \$1400. Among the nine decorators in 2007 were OSU Football Coach Jim Tressel and two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin.

With a goal to build on the success of 2007 birdhouse auction, Women Build volunteer coordinator Heather Boughton expects to have 19 local celebrities and organizations decorate birdhouses to be featured in a silent auction at this year's annual meeting. "This is a great opportunity to interact with the local community, raise awareness for Women Build and raise funds for our build," Boughton said. Money from the silent auction will help fund the 7th Women Build home this summer.

The 19 wooden birdhouses were made by WB volunteer Jan Peters and are meant for decorative as opposed to outdoor use. Peters also made the birdhouses for the silent auction in 2007, and when asked this year, she said she was happy to build more. "Wood is a thing of great beauty, and creating items from it is really rewarding. I've enjoyed every moment of it," she said. "It's a pleasure to help those who appreciate it."

Boughton said nine individuals and six organizations have volunteered to decorate birdhouses for this year's silent auction, including Tressel and Griffin, who participated in 2007. New participants are Former Columbus Zoo Director Jack Hanna, CBS 10-TV anchor Andrea Cambern, NBC TV-4 anchor Colleen Marshall, ABC TV-6 anchor Yolanda Harris, Columbus Dispatch columnist Joe

Decorators for the Birdhouse Silent Auction:

1. Joe Blundo, Columnist, *The Columbus Dispatch*
2. Andrea Cambern, News Anchor, WBNS 10TV (CBS)
3. E. Gordon Gee, President, The Ohio State University
4. Archie Griffin, Two-Time Heisman Trophy Winner
5. Jack Hanna, Director Emeritus, Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
6. Yolanda Harris, News Anchor, ABC-6 and Fox 28
7. **Kelsey & Ghandi, DJs, WNCI 97.9 Morning Zoo**
8. Colleen Marshall, Anchor, NBC-4
9. Maureen McCormick, Habitat Staff Member
10. Jim Tressel, Head Coach, OSU Football
11. Wexner Center for the Arts
12. Columbus Blue Jackets
13. Columbus Crew
14. Kindercare Learning Center Pre-K class (Hilliard)
- 15.-19. LimitedBrands, Inc. teams

WB volunteer Jan Peters built 19 birdhouses to be decorated by local celebrities and organizations and then auctioned to the highest bidders at the Habitat Annual Meeting on April 23.



Blundo and OSU President E. Gordon Gee. Some of the groups decorating birdhouses include WNCI (97.9) radio morning DJs, the Columbus Blue Jackets Hockey Team and the Columbus Crew Soccer Team.

The Birdhouse Silent Auction will take place during the reception at the HFH-GC Annual Meeting, which begins with hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. Bids for each birdhouse will be accepted from 6-6:55 p.m. and the winners will be announced at the end of the evening. Bidding will be followed by a special awards program beginning at 7 p.m., including presentations by Habitat partner family members.

"This is a great opportunity to interact with the local community, raise awareness for Women Build and raise funds for our build."

**—Heather Boughton,
Auction Organizer**

First build day set for May 2

New House Lead is ready to start



“One of the purposes of WB is to empower women and teach them new skills in a non-intimidating environment.”

—House Lead Barb Metz

Building a new home as part of Habitat for Humanity is no small task, but Barb Metz, house lead for Woman Build's seventh home, is up to the challenge. A Habitat volunteer for 15 years, Metz said she became involved on her first build by showing up at a house site on Saturday morning. "That day we were installing chain link fences," she said. "A very helpful volunteer showed me what to do, and I was hooked."

Metz served as co-house lead with three other women on Women Build's sixth house in 2005: "Unfortunately for me and for Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus, they have all moved away. So I was left holding the 'bag of nails,' as they say."

Although her former cohorts will not be around, Metz says she is really looking forward to serving as House Lead this year. "Since I retired last April, I believe I'll have the necessary time to devote to this build, but I will also be depending on the House Lead assistants (HLAs) and Crew Leads for

lots of help," she said.

When it comes to decision-making, Metz won't be alone. She said as House Lead, she will report to Construction Director Eric Lambert, and Lambert or one of his superintendents will provide guidance.

"The House Leads also consult with each other to find solutions to particular building puzzles," she said. "I'll also ask for input from the HLAs, Crew Leads, and volunteers who are present to determine if someone has a suggestion for a way to solve a problem. We all learn from each other."

Metz said the site is ready for work to begin: "We are shooting for about a six-month build, but that depends on how many days we can get a crew on-site."

The build must be finished by the end of the year, she said, but part of how much time it will take depends on how many volunteers are available to work during the week. "We will work every Saturday and Thursday," she said. "I'll probably need another day for planning, scheduling, and getting ready for the build days."

Concerning numbers, Metz said she'd like to have 10-15 volunteers on site, which includes HLAs and crew leads: "Too many more than that tends to cause people to be idle while waiting for ladders, saws and other tools to become available. Having less than four to six people on-site makes it difficult to accomplish much."

On past builds, she said men have assisted in some efforts: "We try to keep the build days limited to just women, as they sometimes feel intimidated if men are doing the instructing. One of the purposes of WB is to empower women and teach them new skills in a non-intimidating environment."

As House Lead, Metz has multiple goals for this new build: "My aspirations are that we can build the house safely, learn something each time we get together, teach something each time we get together, make new friends, be able to laugh at ourselves when necessary, and provide a decent home for a family in need."



New House Lead Barb Metz was previously one of four co-leads for the 2005 WB home.

Volunteer works to promote WB through various fundraisers

Behind every successful non-profit organization are active volunteers--those who are willing to give their time and energy to a cause they believe in. Heather Boughton is one of the many women who have been active in helping the Habitat for Humanity-Greater Columbus Women Build program prepare to make a difference in the lives of another deserving Columbus family.

Currently serving as the group's volunteer coordinator, Boughton became involved with Women Build in the summer of 2007. "I have an interest in gender issues and in poverty," she said, "so when I came across the Women Build website, I thought it would be a great organization to get involved with."

Boughton's first experience working with Women Build was participating in the 2007 Build-a-Thon. In May 2008 she volunteered to organize the Lowe's Women Build Construction Clinics, which gave women volunteers an opportunity to learn skills they could apply when the time came to begin on the group's next home.

"The Lowe's clinics were exciting for me because when we started planning them, I really wasn't sure exactly how things would work out," she said. "But I received a lot of help from people within Habitat and in the end, the clinics were a great success." Boughton said the crew leads taught the women who attended the construction clinics how to do things they might never have considered doing before.

In addition to her work organizing the clinics, Boughton volunteered to participate in Macy's "Shop for a Cause" charity event in October. She helped sell discount coupons to Macy's customers, and the funds from the coupons she sold were in turn donated to Women Build.

In December she helped organize a "Women in Business" fundraiser by compiling a list of women business owners in the Columbus area, and then she helped call them to talk about the ways they could get involved with Women Build.



Heather Boughton

This spring Boughton is organizing the birdhouse auction that will take place during the Habitat For Humanity-Greater Columbus Annual Meeting on April 23. Boughton is working with several other WB volunteers, including Jan Peters, who is once again making birdhouses that will be decorated by Columbus area celebrities and sold to the highest bidder in the silent auction.

"As exciting as Women Build is for me in terms of personal development, the promise of the organization goes far beyond my own experience," Boughton said. "This year we have the opportunity to build a new home for a deserving family. This is a great contribution to our community and represents the true purpose of Habitat and Women Build."

Boughton would like to see more people become involved with Women Build, and she stresses that volunteer roles are not limited: "If women have a particular set of skills or interests that they would like to use, I would encourage them to brainstorm ways those skills can work for Women Build. The steering committee is always open to new ideas!"

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**-- Heather Boughton,
Volunteer Coordinator**

Logo gear sales raise funds for WB and promote Habitat

Habitat Logo Gear coordinator Jamie Dixey's background is perfect for her volunteer work with Woman Build. As former VP of Sales and Marketing for a small Christian apparel company in Worthington and a former product developer for a line of shirts sold in Hallmark and other gift shops, Dixey has had plenty of experience in merchandise sales.

After she became involved with Women Build in 2006, the group's steering committee suggested a line of clothing with the Greater Columbus Habitat logo, and Dixey offered to take the lead. "I like to make a contribution wherever I volunteer, and I look for a natural fit for my skills and experience. This was surely it," she said.

WB currently offers an extensive line of merchandise. The Habitat Logo Gear line consists of several shirts--including a new men's polo coming out at the annual meeting--a cap, a tote, a coffee tumbler, a hard hat in WB's distinct colors, a luggage gripper and identifier, license plate holders and WB logo stickers.

Dixey said WB also offers a line of Lucinda pins, which are crafted by hand over original designs. "This company was started by a woman who was homeless, and when she got back on her feet, she wanted to help others through charitable

organizations," Dixey said. "She developed the pin line as a fundraising tool and her story is printed inside the display card that the pin is attached to." Some of the pin designs feature houses and construction scenes in keeping with Habitat's mission, but Dixey has added Lucinda's flower pins which have also been very popular.

A denim shirt with a Habitat logo over the pocket has probably been the best seller in WB's merchandise line, Dixey said. At \$37 it doubles as shirt or light jacket and is worn by men and women alike. "But our stainless steel coffee tumbler, at \$13, has been very popular too, and it does a super job of keeping coffee hot for hours." Dixey is getting ready to reorder "electric green" hard hats with the WB logo (\$15) and she expects this to be a big year for WB tanks and shirts, which will be on sale at the HFH-GC Annual Meeting.

"The favorite of every Habitat volunteer for working on the job site is the basic sport grey T- shirt with the giant Habitat logo across the front," she added. "At \$16 it prominently identifies one as a Habitat volunteer, no matter where it is worn."

Since August 2006, WB volunteers have sold over 400 logo items, generating over \$3,000, Dixey said. All profits from merchandise sales have helped to raise the needed funds for the 2009 WB house.

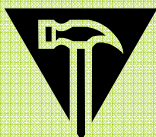
"Every person who wears or carries something with the Habitat logo on it becomes a walking ambassador for the Habitat cause, raising awareness and spirit for our mission," she said. Photos of the logo items are available on the Women Build section of the HFH-GC website, but WB does not have the capacity to sell and ship orders from the website at this time. Dixey is hoping that may be a possibility in the future.

Like most people in charge of a specific task, Dixey welcomes new volunteers. She said women with retail or fashion backgrounds who would like to help with the WB merchandise line should feel free to contact her at 2jamie@msn.com.



"Every person who wears or carries something with the Habitat logo on it becomes a walking ambassador for the Habitat cause...."

**--Jamie Dixey,
WB Merchandise
Coordinator**



Merchandise coordinator Jamie Dixey and volunteer Dee Ayers display a tank top featuring the Women Build logo.

Volunteers and staff members work to make a difference through Women Build



Clockwise from top left: House Lead Barb Metz talks with Habitat Volunteer Director Deb Light and WB volunteer chair Heather Boughton. Middle: WB Steering Committee members meet on April 14. Bottom left: Volunteers learn new skills at the 2008 Lowe's construction clinic.

WB newsletter stories and design by Sarah Ortman, Habitat volunteer