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Fall/Winter 2015



Mount Washington Valley

Habitat
for Humanity®



A place to call home...

Mount Washington Valley Habitat for Humanity, through volunteerism and community involvement, builds simple, decent homes with and for our neighbors in need.



Going Green

Building simple, affordable and decent housing for all is Habitat's mantra. But in the past decade, this concept has been expanded to include; "sustainability." For Habitat, sustainability is synonymous with "green" – designing and constructing houses that are efficient and durable, that use less resources, are healthy to live in and are affordable. The rationale is simple, building sustainability means taking better care of the environment and the homeowners.

All over the country, Habitat affiliates are building "Green" homes. With nearly 12 percent of Americans living below the poverty line, the immediate need to provide low-cost houses is obvious. But what is also becoming increasingly obvious is the ability to ensure that these houses are affordable to their owners over the long term. That means building homes that incorporate energy-efficient measures and technologies in their design and construction.

To that end, Habitat has formed Green Teams, responsible for providing education and training in the promotion of energy-efficient, environmentally friendly construction practices at the local habitat affiliate level. In addition to these practices, Green Teams also urge affiliates to incorporate plans for reclaiming and recycling leftover materials, minimizing the use of natural resources and reducing the impact on the land.

So where does the MWV Habitat for Humanity Affiliate fit into the 'Green' equation? Every house that the local affiliate builds is in full compliance with the NH Residential Energy Code and certified as such. Planning for the next house to be built recognizes that New Hampshire has some of the highest utility costs in the nation. One means of reducing long term utility costs for homeowners is by investing in solar photovoltaic energy generation to offset the homeowner's electricity demand while trying to keep the cost of the home and the no-interest 30 year mortgage at a reasonable, affordable amount.

This means the installation of a rooftop 5 KW photovoltaic solar array on the house being planned for Sokokis Pines in Tamworth. Habitat has already worked with its site planner to locate the home slab to maximize roof-top sun exposure. Agreements have been obtained from a local tree removal service to voluntarily help clear the additional trees necessary to meet exposure requirements for the array. Sited on the north side of the lot with the gambrel oriented in an east west direction, the pitch and location of the south facing roof will be positioned to obtain the maximum and necessary sun exposure for a roof top, 16 panel, 16 inverter PV array to provide 5 KW electricity generation.

It is expected that this system will be able to supply approximately 85% of the family's electricity needs. Currently the MWV Habitat Affiliate is working with a well known company in the Northeast that has installed over 4500 solar energy systems in the last ten years. How Deni and Evan Shangraw, the selected family about the prospect of going solar? Here is what they had to say:

"First, I guess would be that to be energy independent should be a goal of almost every household in America! The less resources we use as a society the better for us and the planet.

Second is the cost. The initial investment is definitely worth the long term pay out. It will give our family relief in the future from heavy electric bills. Especially when we have older children in the house thus our power demands go up.

Living with the ideal to reduce and reuse for some seems like they want to fit into a social group, but for Deni and I, we just want to do our part for future generations by being responsible. Habitat is greatly helping us be able to do that with the assistance to go solar. We are very thankful and excited."



John Arruda trying out his new autographed Adirondack chair

and projects related to the construction trades. Under the tutelage of Joe Riddensdale, School to Career Director and Anthony Ruddy, Habitat construction site supervisor, the students went right

Thursday morning, Jul 16th, eleven students from the MWV School To Career Construction Camp visited the Habitat for Humanity house construction site on Grison Road, Madison. The students participate in a week-long summer program designed to introduce local youth to the wide variety of career opportunities available to them as they get older. Run on a day-camp model, students participate in hands-on activities

to work building an interior wall separating the house living room and bedroom. At the noon time break, the students presented John and Kelly Arruda, the home owners to be, with an autographed Adirondack chair they had built at their school shop. In turn, Habitat presented each of the students with Habitat shirts and invited each to autograph interior framing inside the house.

The Mt Washington Valley Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contribution may qualify as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

Ways to donate:

Donate Now Online

Help support the MWV Habitat mission by making a secure donation online via Paypal. You do not need a Paypal account to donate.

Donations by Mail

Please make your check out to MWV Habitat for Humanity and use the enclosed envelope.

Do You Use Amazon.com?

We participate in the AmazonSmile program. Amazon will donate .05% of all purchases made by those who select the MWV Habitat for Humanity as their preferred charity. There is no cost to you, and nothing is added to your purchase price.

Do You Goodsearch?

Did you know you can raise money for MWV Habitat affiliate every time you search the Internet? If you use Goodsearch.com and designate Mt. Washington Valley Habitat for Humanity as your charity of choice, you will!



26 Grison Road in Madison – Nearing Completion

Just as was noted that the 42 North Road complex presented some unique challenges due to the architectural design, so too has the Grison Road house had its own particular problems. Normally a Habitat house is built on flat land with a slab foundation. Not so with Grison, unlevelled terrain dictated a multi-level design house. Why did we select the lot? The price was right! One of the attendant problems was designing and building a stairwell from the first level to the second. Roger Aubrey, new board member took the problem head on. To keep the project on schedule, Roger fashioned the stairwell pieces at home in his workshop and brought them back to the worksite for assembly.

There were plenty of contractor volunteers who donated either their time or who charged reduced rates for time and material. So it was with the likes of local contractors such as Land Tech (site plan/engineering); Presby Environmental (septic system); Milford Flooring; Burnham Co. (site clearance, excavation); H.R. Hoyt (foundation, trusses); Chris Martin & Paul Jean (roof construction); Mike Lyons (roofing); NH Aluminum (siding), Ken Fecteau (plumbing) and construction materials provided by Chick Lumber, Lowes and Silver Lake Hardware. There were also volunteer groups starting with Women Build in May followed by School to Career, Hale Estates and the N. Conway Rotary.

A great deal of recognition has to go to the new home-owners, John and Kelly Arruda. It is common knowledge that the prospective homeowners are obligated to contribute 300 hours of sweat equity. To play on words, "it was no sweat." They probably accumulated those 300 hours faster than any other couple, at least so it seemed. With Kelly arranging for and delivering lunches to the volunteer crews each Thursday, John could be seen either on the roof, up on scaffolding, moving materials, dry walling or whatever else it took each Thursday to accomplish the goals for the day.

As completion of the project draws closer, enough cannot be said for the dozen or so faithful Habitat volunteers who show up religiously each Thursday. No matter who you ask, you get the same reply to the question, "why do you do it?" It is always the same answer, "I'm working with a great bunch of fellow volunteers, I'm having fun and enjoying the camaraderie, and I feel good making a difference in someone's life!"



Pictured above: (top to bottom) At the beginning; Hoyt raising the roof trusses; Mike Lyons roofing; and toward the finish

A Typical Volunteer

Who is a typical Habitat volunteer? He or she comes from all walks of life. Has heard about Habitat; maybe talked with someone who is a volunteer; wasn't sure how to go about joining; certainly shares a common value with other volunteers-wants to make a difference in someone's life. Well, meet one of Mt. Washington Valley Habitat's newest volunteers, Andy Trowbridge.

For some time, Andy had been thinking about joining Habitat. He knew about it, what great work the organization does but just never knew how to get involved until he was talking with Pete Tracy recently. Pete has put together volunteer work groups in the last year or two from the home owner's association where he lives, Hale Estates. He allowed not only what fun it was working with a great bunch of people, but how rewarding it is to work next to the family whose home this house will become. Pete suggested to Andy, "why don't you send Anthony Ruddy, Habitat Construction Chairman, an email and tell him you're interested?"

At Anthony's invitation Andy showed up one Thursday morning bright and early at the Grison Rd. site and immediately fit in. No stranger to the basics of wiring, plumbing, framing, etc. as well as indulging



Andy Trowbridge

in woodworking as a hobby, he immediately fit right in. When asked about his first day, he replied: "I had a blast yesterday! It was very rewarding and I enjoyed meeting the future homeowner as well." Andy has lived in the Valley for over 10 years and is currently employed as an insurance agent for Chalmer's Insurance. He and his wife Brienne live in Madison.

The Habitat Health Club

The Mt. Washington Valley Health Club is offering a package deal that consists of helping to build a house, traveling to new and different places and membership fees waived when joining its health club in the next three months. Sound too good to be true? Well, first, let's talk a little bit about the health club that you probably have not heard of.

Actually it is not one of the traditional health clubs to which you may be accustomed! The members are a group of habitat volunteers who climb stairs (our version of a stair master), lift weights (move furniture and appliances) and travel to new and different places in the valley collecting those donations for Habitat's three annual yard sales. These dedicated volunteers are the ones who jokingly refer to what they do as the "Habitat Health Club."

Now, a number of these volunteers, even though their spirit is willing, are finding that their muscles and backs are not as willing! As a result, Habitat is looking for younger men and women who can drive a box truck, (see photo) are willing to spend half a day or so a month collecting furniture, appliances, and building materials and transport them to Habitat's storage facility.

The importance of what they do cannot be over emphasized. The proceeds of the yard sales help purchase materials used in building a home for a family in need of



decent and affordable housing. Approximately one third of a house is represented by yard sales. Obviously, without this income Habitat's ability to achieve its mission would be seriously hampered. Habitat has had a core group of volunteers who for over ten years have climbed stairs, lifted and moved furniture and met incredibly generous donors who have helped our cause.

If you can spare a few hours each month you will come to know what it means to make a difference in someone's life when you see them accept the keys to a new house that you helped make happen. Give the Habitat office a call at (603) 356-3832. Just think, when asked where you got that nifty Habitat tee shirt, you can tell them, "The Habitat Health Club!"



New Board Officers

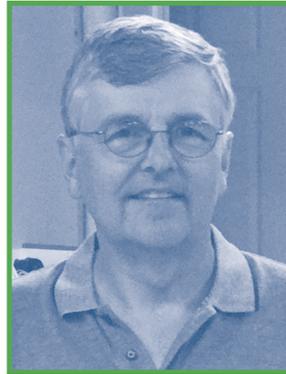
In the late spring-early summer time frame, four new board members were selected to replace losses due to attrition as well as to expand its expertise base. As can be seen from the following biographical sketches, Habitat's ability to provide services in the Family Selection, Family Support and Construction have been greatly strengthened.

Roger Aubrey

Roger is a Mechanical Engineer, retired from Alstom Power (Combustion Engineering) in CT after 33 years as a Project Manager/Project Engineer providing for the design and installation of new power plants and plant upgrades.

His introduction to Habitat occurred after hurricane Katrina in New Orleans where he and his wife Joan volunteer their services one week each year. Impressed with the needed work Habitat performs, he didn't hesitate when asked to join the MWV Affiliate.

Roger was on the building committee for the new Jackson Library and is presently a Trustee and Treasurer for the Library. He is also a member of MWV Kiwanis. Hobbies include golf, skiing, hiking and woodworking.



Marianne Jackson

Marianne has happily returned to Mt. Washington Valley after obtaining her Master's Degree in Public Health and having worked in Chapel Hill at Univ. of North Carolina in the Healthcare in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety programs. She previously served the New Hampshire North Country as an Ob-Gyn for 25 years. It was here that she was introduced to Habitat for Humanity, having participated in one of the first Women Build projects in the Valley.

Now retired from clinical practice and living in Madison, she has resumed her relationship with Habitat, serving on the board as Chair of the Family Support Committee. The Committee works with young families to facilitate their transition to home ownership.

Marianne is also putting her energies toward her interests in aging in the community as well as renewable energy with both the Gibson Center and the Mount Washington Valley Citizens for Energy Efficient Communities.



Marie Lee

New Board member Marie Lee moved to the Mount Washington Valley ten years ago from Mass. She's been a member of the MWV Kiwanis Club for nine years, is a past president, and is co-director of the Angels and Elves program which provides gifts of toys, boots and warm clothing to over seven hundred local underserved children each Christmas.

Marie is a retired senior mortgage loan officer and regional sales manager of a large east coast bank. She served many years as a board member of the Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership and Haverhill Neighborhoods Association, two non-profit agencies dedicated to the revitalization of inner city neighborhoods and the education and financial assistance of low-to-moderate income first time homebuyers. She also served fifteen years as an instructor of the Fannie Mae required First Time Home-Buyer classes, where she worked with families, explaining the qualifications and requirements necessary for homeownership.

Marie looks forward to serving as an active board member and continuing to be involved in helping families secure safe and affordable homes. She lives in Intervale with her husband Jack, is a member of the Wentworth Ladies Golf League, and enjoys kayaking on our local lakes and rivers.



Barbara Reilly

Barbara is a Paralegal having received her degree from Johnson and Wales University in Providence, RI. She has been a resident of Mt. Washington Valley for the past 20 years. For over ten years Barbara has worked as a family law paralegal in several private law offices. In Feb. 2012 she started her own paralegal business, Legal Eagles, LLC in Conway, NH.

Well schooled and experienced in civil litigation, legal research, property law, dispute resolution, and general psychology, she was chosen to serve on the Board's Family Support Committee whose mission is to provide families with the support and skills necessary to become successful long-term homeowners.

Barbara also volunteers her time as a SCORE counselor and as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Mt. Washington Valley. She was recently elected to the Kiwanis Club's board of directors and has been serving for several years in support of the Kiwanis K-Kids organization at Pine Tree Elementary School.





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Mt. Washington Valley Habitat for Humanity is an organization based on Christian principles.

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Message from the Board of Directors

By the time you read this last portion of the newsletter, you will recognize that a lot of “new” things have been going on with the MWV Habitat For Humanity Affiliate. The lead article speaks to “new” innovations that will be incorporated into our next home construction in Tamworth, designed to reduce energy costs for the “new” homeowners as well as demonstrate Habitat’s commitment to the environment.

There is also an article introducing the reader to four “new” board members, each of whom bring “new” ideas and expertise to the organization. All four strongly endorse and actively promote energy savings, use of renewable energy and conservation methods to protect our environment. As important, the Shangraws, future homeowners of the Tamworth build, are extremely eager to work with Habitat in ‘Going Green’

Energy saving methods will greatly reduce

monthly costs to the homeowners, making the home all the more affordable. However, there are upfront costs that now have to be factored into the cost equation that also fall into the “new” category.

But what is not “new” is our dependence upon the generosity of all those who contribute monetary donations to Habitat, ensuring our ability to provide affordable and decent housing for our neighbors in need. Publishing this newsletter at the end of the year serves two purposes. It keeps our supporters informed of what has been going on in the Habitat community for the past six months. It also affords an opportunity for those who have yet to determine a recipient for an end-of-year tax-deductible donation to consider Habitat and support its quest to provide affordable and decent homes that conserve energy, reduce costs and protect the environment.