

FREEBORN/MOWER HABITAT HAMMERINGS



Summer 2009

P.O. Box 28, Austin, MN 55912

habitfmc@charternet.com

President's Letter



Another year is half over, and a lot of things are in process. We selected a family for our build in Freeborn County, and they will be working on getting sweat equity hours in so we can start the building. We also have a new VISTA who's anxious to get started working with the churches in the area.

Now that we have a family selected for our Freeborn build, we are now looking for people who want to help with the project. We also are in need of a site supervisor. If you know anyone with that training or interest, would you please have him call the office to volunteer. If you are not able to help on the project but still want to support the effort, a financial donation would also help us build.

Thanks for the interest and support, and I look forward to talking with you again on how well the project is going.



Barry Irish

Playhouse to Be Ruffled

Some lucky person is going to win our beautifully decorated playhouse for \$1.00.

The name will be drawn sometime in October so you will want to have your name in soon.

Aluminum Cans Still Being Collected

Collection sites for aluminum cans are scattered throughout Austin and Albert Lea. Please drop cans off at SuperValue, HyVee, RCC, and Family Video in Austin; or Wal*Mart in Albert Lea.

Habitat 500 Bike Rider Rides Again

July 12-18, 2009 was the week of the 17th Habitat 500, the 500 mile bike ride that raises funds for local Habitat affiliates. I was participating for the 13th year and raised over \$10,000 for our local Freeborn/Mower affiliate once again. Although I never dreamed I would be riding all of these years, it has become an annual event for me that unites an opportunity to raise funds, work on homes, be reunited with friends gained over the years, and increase my personal health and vitality. What could be better?

This year's route began and ended in Faribault, Minnesota. We traveled south to Rochester and on to Rushford where we had the opportunity to work on a Habitat home which had been devastated by flooding in 2007. Working with community members and meeting the family was a wonderful reminder of why we do the ride - it's all about the families and how they can be supported by their communities. From there it was on to Grand Meadow and Albert Lea, with a stop at the Spam Museum en route. By this point in the ride the northwest winds were starting to be a factor and the ride from Albert Lea to Lake Crystal was quite challenging and cold. In Lake Crystal we heard from another Habitat home owner who was also a cancer survivor. The final day's ride was back to Faribault and a happy ending to a great week.



I am so humbled, grateful, and pleased that many generous people have enabled me to raise almost \$11,000.00 this year. I not only have become one of the top fundraisers, but also have the most donors. For the past several years, I have had at least 200 individual donors. Some riders have large checks from corporate sponsors; I have the joy of many checks from personal friends, family members, and a few total strangers who have heard about me. Thank you for helping put God's Love in Action.

Lilah Aase

Habitat Welcomes VISTA Worker

Habitat for Humanity is pleased to welcome Andy Sundal to join our organization as the 2009-2010 Americorp VISTA member.

Andy is a native to Austin, graduating from Austin High School in 2005. This past May he completed his undergraduate degree in Architecture from the College of Design at the University of Minnesota.

Andy has been very active in community outreach, participating in the U of M and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity groups. His commitment to service was awarded, as he was the first Community Engagement Scholar to graduate from the College of Design.



During the brief period in which Andy will be serving with us, his primary focus will be on Church Relations. With over 100 churches in the Mower/Freeborn County area, the primary goal of the position is to increase partnerships with these churches. “The religious community is very important to the success of our organization,” Andy states, and to strengthen those ties will be instrumental to both Habitat and the community.”

Andy’s values and dedication to service will aide in increasing this religious support. He has strong opinions and insight on current housing issues believing “Habitat is the ideal non-profit organization to be contributing to in the current state of our economy, and I hope others will see that. I believe one of the main contributors to our economic decline has been predatory lending which goes hand-in-hand with the mortgage crisis. I’m excited to see Habitat’s impact on the U.S. as more people are losing their homes, and are turning to great housing programs such as ours.” Andy’s service will end next August based on the Americorp’s VISTA agreements.

We are hopeful to see growth in the support from our Churches this year, and a more prominent role in addressing the housing issues in our area. Andy’s own vested interest in the Mower/Freeborn communities coincides with his personal goals, as he states, “My hope this year is to bring growth to Habitat and our community, where my success will be measured by the interest I spark in individuals and groups that will sustain my efforts for years to come.” We’re happy to have Andy this year and we’re looking forward to seeing his progress and the support he receives from our community.

What is VISTA?

Americorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is a federally funded program, which began under John F. Kennedy’s presidency in efforts to fight poverty. VISTA builds capacity in non-profit organizations and communities to help bring individuals and communities out of poverty. Nearly 6,000 VISTA members serve in hundreds of non-profit organizations and public agencies throughout the U.S. – working to promote literacy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, or bridge the digital divide.

Homeowner Chosen in Albert Lea

Glenda Erickson has been chosen by the Habitat Board as the next person eligible to purchase a Habitat home. “I am extremely excited, and very happy that I have been chosen. I am thankful for everyone who had a part in naming me as the next candidate.” The Freeborn County Family Selection committee recommended her.

A site for the home remains to be determined. Three lots have been donated and are ready for homes to

2009 officers of Freeborn/Mower Habitat:

Barry Irish – President
Adrienne Thorson – Vice President
Tom Egan – Secretary
Kevin Hoversten – Treasurer

Other board members:

Daryl Franklin
Doug Lembke
Melody Lembke
Jane Loge
Kevin Siefken
James Siegel
Don Hebert
Marlys Broberg
Duane Feragen

be built.

Glenda is a lifelong resident of Albert Lea and has been employed eight years at the Ole' Shell service station. She is presently the manager. She has a two year certificate in business records and computers from Riverland Community College

Two daughters complete Glenda's family. They are Summer Rain, nine years old, and Sage Willow, two years old.

Restore Update

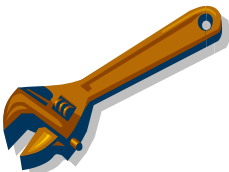
This sure has been a different summer! Even here at the Restore it has been a little different. We have been getting items we don't usually get: air conditioners, futon bunk beds, a cedar chest, and other such things. Perhaps the economy has something to do with it. We haven't gotten any kitchen cupboards or cabinets but have gotten lots of windows, some very nice.



For those who may not know, we have revised our hours of being open. We are now open Tuesday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to noon. This will facilitate sales for those who work during the week and can't get to the Restore. We are still taking donations daily...but...our truck went down the tubes, so we have no easy way of picking things up. If anyone knows of a truck (preferably enclosed) that someone would like to donate, let that person or us know. We just don't have the wherewithal to buy one.

Some of our specials are: a futon bunk bed (practically new) for only \$50.00, an 8000 BTU air conditioner for \$85.00, a two year old picture window (\$4000.00) for only \$400.00, a beautiful corner tub with all the hardware for just \$180.00, and many other great bargains!

As always, you can stop in and see us at 800 7th St NE in Austin. Or call us at 433-1349 during business hours.



As Mae West once said, "If you've got nothing to do, and plenty of time to do it in, stop over and see us sometime."

Hugh Alverson
Restore Manager

Habitat for Humanity Freeborn/Mower
has a new e-mail address:

habitfmc@charternet.com

Check out our Website
www.smig.net/habitfmc
E-mail: habitfmc@charternet.com
Fax: (507) 434-7661
Phone: 433-1349 or
507 area 800-300-1349
Cell 438-9523

Visit our office at 800 7th Ave. NE, Austin, MN

Office hours: Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
*Freeborn/Mower Habitat for
Humanity is a Mower Co.
United Way agency*

YES, I WANT TO HELP!
Send to: **Habitat for Humanity**
Box 28, Austin, MN 55912

_____ I am interested in Volunteering.
Circle one or more: builder, office, committee
(volunteer, building, church relations, family selection,
family support, site selection, fund development, public
relations), other _____

\$ _____ Here is my contribution to be used for:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to HABILITAT FOR HUMANITY
FREEBORN/MOWER

Applicants Needed

Habitat continues to seek applicants who live in inadequate, substandard, poverty housing to apply for Habitat housing. After a preliminary application, families who may qualify must work with the Selection Committee that reviews their needs and ability to afford a house. If they pass the Selection Committee's screening, they are recommended to the Habitat Board for partnering and building.

If readers know of potential, needy applicants, encourage them to seek applications from the Habitat office or one of the Selection Committees.



Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, grassroots Christian ministry with the goal of eliminating poverty housing and homelessness. Unwilling to ignore the fact that many county residents live without adequate shelter, Habitat for Humanity Freeborn/Mower Counties challenges individuals, churches, companies, foundations and other organizations to join in partnership with the low-income working families through our affiliate, to change the conditions in which they and their children live.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FREEBORN/MOWER

P.O. BOX 28 AUSTIN, MN 55912

Phone 433-1349; outside Austin 1(800)300-1349

STAFF:

Emmet Earl, Office Manager

Hugh Alverson, Restore Manager

Andy Sundal, VISTA Worker

Liz Richardson: Volunteer Newsletter Editor

If you would like to receive your *Habitat Hammerings* electronically, please send your e-mail address to: [**lizrich@smig.net**](mailto:lizrich@smig.net). We are currently sending over 700 newsletters out and e-mailing would save postage, paper, and time.





Habitat for Humanity Freeborn/Mower
Box 28
Austin, MN 55912
Phone: 433-1349

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