



Habitat Hammerings

www.habitataustinmn.org

Spring 2010

P.O. Box 28, Austin, MN 55912

habitfmc@charterinternet.com

Building simple, decent, affordable homes for people in our community in need!

President's Letter

I think it's fitting that the large horse races and track events take place in the spring, for it sure seems like we're off and running. The building committee is just finishing up the agenda for our



Freeborn County build which will be starting any time now. The Board has been making some adjustments to committees that should also help streamline some of our processes. Andy has been doing a great job with the churches keeping them in the loop and the volunteer interest is up. I think everyone is excited to get going and get a house built.

There are some other activities going on too; the Restore is planning a sale this spring and a local women's group Zonta International is hosting a wine tasting fund raiser for Habitat on April 30th. I hope the momentum keeps up, there is even some talk about doing a build this summer in Mower County.

Thank you everyone for your interest and support.

-Barry Irish

Paperless Newsletter!

<http://www.habitataustinmn.org/contactus.htm>

Fill in your name and email to put yourself on the E-newsletter list.

Third Annual Zonta Wine Tasting for Habitat for Humanity

The Austin Area Zonta Club, Apollo Liquor and the Eagles are joining with Habitat for Humanity Freeborn/Mower County to raise funds for this worthy cause.

Tickets are available at Apollo, Eagles Club, Bursch Travel, Zonta members, Habitat office or members. You can also purchase them at the door.

There will be a silent auction, vendors and drawings for Prizes.

Come and join us for a fun-filled evening.

WHEN: APRIL 30, 2010

WHERE: AUSTIN EAGLES CLUB

TIME: 5:30 – 8:00 PM

\$15.00 donation.

Annual Meeting Update

February 1, 2010 was our 19th annual meeting. This year there was no change in officers, two vacant spots were filled with reinstatements of service.

All the committees gave their reports highlighting our new website, family support efforts, church relations program, and growth in ReStore Sales.

The affiliate heard a presentation by Pastor John Holt. His message brought inspiration as we enter our build season this spring.

Thanks to everyone involved!

Calendar

April 22—Volunteer Fair , Northbridge Mall

April 30—Wine Tasting Fundraiser & Silent Auction at the Elks

May—Building to begin in Albert Lea

July 11-17—Habitat 500

What's Inside?

Green Building in Albert Lea

Habitat 500 Bike Ride

First Luth. Spotlight

2010 BIKE.HOME. - HABITAT 500 Bike Ride



Join us for the 18th annual Habitat 500 Bicycle Ride Fundraiser! The ride will take place July 11- 17, 2010 and will travel through scenic northeastern Minnesota!

Participants will ride 500 miles over seven days through northeastern Minnesota to raise funds and awareness for Habitat for Humanity. The scenic route starts and ends in Sandstone and loops through Isle, Hill City, Grand Rapids, Hibbing (two nights) and Esko. The route follows lightly traveled county roads and paved bicycle trails.

Registration is now open – recruit participants to ride and raise funds for YOUR affiliate! For more information about getting involved with the Habit 500 Bike Ride, please contact the Habitat Office or Jenni Ebert at Jenni@hfhmn.org or 877-804-3466 ext. 4. Additional information is also available at www.Habitat500.org.

Few words do a better job describing what the Habitat 500 Bike Ride is all about. The bike.home. embraces our participants' passion for cycling and their desire to create homeownership opportunities for those in need. This year, the fifth annual bike.home. will be located in Hibbing near the scenic Mesabi Bike Trail!

The bike.home. will be funded, designed, and built in part by Habitat 500 ride participants. The design incorporates "green" or sustainable design principles into Habitat for Humanity's existing mission of building safe, decent and affordable homes for low-income families.

A highlight for many is that the family selected for the home receives a donation of bikes and bike supplies to help share Habitat 500 participants' love and passion for cycling!

Our goal is to one day be able to fully-sponsor a Habitat home – we invite riders to think about designating at least 10 percent of their funds raised to this home.



Our own Lilah Aas did it !!

We are very proud of Lilah Aas for her continued and outstanding endeavor to raise money for Habit for Humanity. Last year Lilah road through southern Minnesota on her loop in the Habitat 500. Her dedication and support has raised thousands of dollars for our affiliate. She is planning on riding again this year as well. More information on her ride last year can be found online through the Albert Tribune or Austin Daily Herald.

Lilah Aas, you are truly a blessing to Habitat for Humanity Freeborn/Mower.



GoodSearch Toolbar raises money online

Our new Habitat for Humanity Freeborn/Mower (HFH-FMC) toolbar is free to download and allows you to raise money for our cause every time you search or shop online! Once added to IE or Firefox, each time you shop at more than 1,300 stores (from Amazon to Zazzle!) a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to HFH-FMC -at no cost to you (and you may even save money as the toolbar provides coupons and deals as well!). The toolbar also has a search box and each time you search the Internet, about a penny is donated to HFH-FMC.

Please hurry and do this now so that we can earn the \$1 bonus per toolbar!

To generate your customized toolbar download page, please follow these steps:

1. Go to www.goodsearch.com
2. Enter your cause into the "Who do you GoodSearch for" box
3. Click on "Get the GoodSearch toolbar"
4. Copy the url from that page - that is your customized toolbar download page

Lastly, in case you haven't seen it yet, here's what the customized toolbar looks like this.





ReStore Update

The long, hard winter is over and it's time to start those remodeling jobs you've been putting off. The Habitat Restore is the place to find doors, windows, sinks, vanities, toilets, and many other items to fix up your home. We have some excellent windows that are priced just right. One is a \$5000 window, only three years old, thermal pane, for \$400. A beautiful two sink vanity top, including hardware for an incredible \$45. Many other like new sinks for \$10. Stainless steel kitchen sinks for \$6. Just to name a few items.

We will be having an open house April 20-24 being promoted by A.C.E.S.(Austin Coalition for the Environment and Sustainability). Stop on in and see the bargains.

As always we are open Tuesday thru Friday from 8a.m. to 4p.m. and Saturdays from 11a.m. to 3p.m. We take donations Monday thru Friday. All items must be in good condition and working order. If nothing else, stop in and say "Hi" to the great people who work here and browse. You never know what you might find.



-Hugh Alverson, Restore Manager

Green Building in Albert Lea

Starting this May, **the 29th Habitat home will begin construction in Albert Lea**. The building committee recently met with a green building consultant with Habitat Minnesota to discuss their plans to build an energy efficient home.

The home would decrease monthly costs for homeowners and also make Habitat eligible to receive green building grants. Volunteer with us this summer to find out some of the strategies used in the construction! Visit: www.habitatuaustinmn.org/volunteer.



Community Growth Initiative.

The purpose of the community growth initiative is to uncover growth opportunities for minority workers and entrepreneurs in Steele, Freeborn, and Mower Counties. They are in the process of recruiting community members to assist with this and are actively looking for minority participation. **If anyone is interested in contact Adrienne Thorson at 507-369-1263.**

Organizational Spotlight

Habitat for Humanity Freeborn/Mower extends our deepest gratitude towards First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea. They have provided continuous financial, volunteer, and spiritual support.

Pastor John Holt spoke at Habitat's Annual Meeting of First Lutheran's trip, with a group of people from southern Minnesota churches, to Mobile, Alabama with Habitat for Humanity. His presentation was a great reminder how Habitat bonds congregations through the common goal of fighting poverty and putting our faith in action. Thank you John for your inspiring presentation!



Thank you congregation of First Lutheran for your continued support!

(extended version found online or in faith builders insert)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FREEBORN/MOWER

P.O. BOX 28 AUSTIN, MN 55912

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Hugh Alverson,
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Andy Sundal,
VISTA Worker

2010 Board Members

Barry Irish – President

Adrienne Thorson – V. President

Tom Egan – Secretary

Kevin Hoversten – Treasurer

Daryl Franklin

Doug Lembke

Melody Lembke

Jane Loge

Kevin Siefken

Vacant

Don Hebert

Marlys Broberg

Duane Feragen

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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.



Check out our Website
www.habitataustinmn.org
E-mail: habitfmc@charterinternet.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
 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FREEBORN/MOWER



Faith Builders



In Partnership with God and Our Faith Community



Our New Prayer Partners Insert!

Organizational Spotlight

**First Lutheran Church,
Albert Lea, MN**

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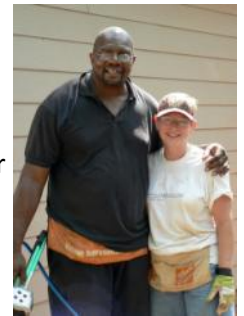
*Tom Larson, John Holt, Jane Loge,
Steve Zenk*

Pastor John Holt was the keynote speaker at the Habitat Freeborn/Mower annual meeting in February. He spoke of First Lutheran's trip with a group of people from southern Minnesota churches down to Mobile, Alabama with Habitat for Humanity. His PowerPoint presentation was a great reminder how Habitat bonds congregations together through the common goal of fighting poverty and putting our faith in action. Thank you John for your inspiring presentation!



The team from southern MN stands next to their signed 2x4s their congregation helped sponsor.

Currently, other members of First Lutheran are heavily involved in Habitat. Jane Loge serves on the board of directors and works on church relations. Wayne Hansen and Tom Larson are the building supervisors for our upcoming build in Albert Lea. They are busy working out the construction details for our new homeowner. Lilah Aas raises an enormous amount of awareness and financial support every summer with her dedication to the Habitat 500 mile bike ride. Keep it up Lilah!



These are only a few of many members of First Lutheran who volunteer with the Habitat organization. Thanks again First Lutheran! With the help of faith partners like these Habitat is able to continue building with families in need, giving them a hand-up!

Redeemer Lutheran Church Alden, MN

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Alden, MN has been a tremendous long-term supporter of Habitat for Humanity. They have a Habitat speaker come annually, give an offering to Habitat every 5th Sunday, send members out to build sites, and have Habitat mission focus month.

If you're not familiar with the church in Alden, it has membership of about 630 and worships an average of about 170 per week. They have a very active missions committee that plans monthly events: speakers, opportunities for our congregation to support financially and volunteer, etc. They support their local food shelf, Hospice, King's Aids, Freeborn County Homeless Shelter, Jamaica orphanage schools and much more. Their congregation is very mission minded giving support to other tragedies such as the Haiti earthquake! Blessings for their work! Thanks for your work with Habitat!

Westminster Presbyterian Youth raise awareness for No More Shacks!



The middle school youth group at Westminster Presbyterian church in Austin, MN took part in the "No More Shacks!" event. Over 3 Wednesday nights, the youth learned

about housing issues, scriptures, teamwork, and a little bit about design.

The group split into two teams to begin the project. Each team had the task of gathering materials and constructing their very own "shack."

The groups "scavenged" around Austin looking for any supplies they might build their shacks with. The following week the two teams then used their supplies to design and build their very own shacks.



The shacks will now be used to raise awareness for adequate housing in our community. Following that, the National Honor Society will use these shelters in their Habitat "Sleep-out." Where NHS students spend the night outside in cardboard boxes to raise funds for Habitat for

Humanity Freeborn/Mower.

Thanks to the youth pastor Mike Olmsted for making this possible and adult leaders Gary Ofstedahl and Dave Sundal.

Great job middle schoolers!



How Can Your Church Help?

- We are currently signing up church groups for our build in Albert Lea on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Your congregation will have the chance to sign their name or write a message on a 2x6 board that will be built in the home, as part of our Pillars of Faith campaign! Call the office to coordinate the event!

Prayer Requests

Lord, Help keeps us mission minded as we exit the Easter season. Keep our minds on the sacrifice of your son. Help us to remember our roles as Christians in this world.

Prayers for Habitat for Humanity and the work of the church partners. Help them come together to fight poverty and changes lives.

Prayers for the Habitat partner family. Help them see your almighty grace through the construction of their home.

Prayers for the guidance and leadership of the Habitat committees and board members. Help them to find the right partner family for our next build.

Prayers for all the mission work of the churches in our community. Help them to reach a helping hand to all those causes that are in need of God's love.

Prayers for the victims of the Haiti and Chile earthquake. Lord, be with the people helping and hurting to get them through the rebuilding process.

In your almighty name we pray, Amen

(Have any major prayer requests you'd like us to put in? Email or Call the Habitat office so we can put those in our next quarterly newsletter.)