



The Ridge Vent

January 2004

Newsletter of the Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity, International

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And now a few words from our volunteers...

"I volunteer because I've always thought building houses for families who might otherwise never experience home ownership is a wonderful endeavor. It is helping your neighbor in a tangible and gratifying manner. Although I receive personal reward throughout the construction phase by envisioning a family comfortably living in the new home, my more selfish motivation for volunteering is that I truly enjoy the house building process. The camaraderie and friendships I have developed these past two years are more compensation than I had ever anticipated."
- T. Meschinelli

"AWESOME! You should be proud of the work you do. I think it's just wonderful that someone can, and will, do this for strangers."
- Steve William,
Hannaford

To include information in The Ridge Vent, email submissions to Allison Swick-Duttine at allison.swick@plattsburgh.edu or Pat Cleveland at pc0cvhfh@westelcom.com.

Help wanted

Interested in joining our Habitat affiliate as a board member or a site volunteer? Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the United Way on the Tom Miller Road.

If you would like to help by making a tax-deductible contribution, checks can be made payable to Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity and can be mailed to P.O. Box 55, Peru, NY 12972.

"The one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

- Albert Schweitzer

"How was my experience? Rewarding, fun, and it downright just felt good to be involved. I felt appreciated for doing so little, hard to top that these days. I do regret that I was unable to help more but enjoyed the few hours that I spent at the "home". What impressed me most is that whoever was there wanted to be there, and that it is definitely a house that love built. (A house is made of Brick and stone, a home is made of love alone.) The quality, the caring, and the love and sweat that went into it must make every moment a joy to be within those walls. I am hoping to be of more help next year and will be looking forward to seeing everyone again. Congrats on a great job!"
- Cathy McCann

Plattsburgh State fraternity adopts CVHFFH as official philanthropy

Fraternities and sororities are based on four core principles: friendship, scholarship, leadership and service. Plattsburgh State continually challenges these organizations to exemplify these standards. During an effort to reevaluate their commitment to service involvement, Pi Alpha Nu, a local fraternity at Plattsburgh State University, adopted the Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity as its official philanthropy. The fraternity will assist the affiliate in its fundraising efforts,

as well as dedicate volunteer hours on site when classes are in session.

Within a month of adopting CVHFFH as its philanthropy, Pi Alpha Nu raised more than \$200 by selling lottery tickets. The fraternity will set additional fundraising goals for Habitat during a retreat at the beginning of the Spring 2004 semester. They welcome any feedback or fundraising ideas and may be reached through the PSU Center for Greek Affairs at (518) 564-4825.

Check out the International website at www.habitat.org.

What does it take...

(cont'd from p. 2)

the use of heavy equipment. We also had discount accounts with Ward Lumber, Gregory Supply, Lowe's, F.W. Webb, Graymont Materials, Hynes Electric, Farm & Family Center and Aird Dorrance.

Other businesses that helped Habitat during the construction were E-Z Sto, Bouyea Enterprises, Windover Hardware, Chazy Hardware, Moore's Flatworks, Momot Trailer Sales, Northern Sanitation, Champlain Valley Electric, Fosters Tent Rentals, James Keable (Attorney), AES Surveying, Tom Golden for top soil and lawn and Mail Boxes, Etc.

We could not have completed any of our three homes without the support and services provided by Andy Abdallah, Bruce Meagar, Don Lee, Effa Sullivan and Wayne Gonyea from the Town of Plattsburgh Offices.

Volunteer Hours

Besides the 107 volunteers, it also took us 97 work days, 4,963 volunteer hours and an average of 51.16 volunteer hours per day.

If there was one full-time worker that put in these hours on a 40-hour work week, it would take that person 124.075 work weeks or 27.920 work months to build the house on their own.

Donations to Habitat

Tax-deductible donations toward the construction of our next home may be sent to:

Champlain Valley HFH, Inc.
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 55
Peru, NY 12972

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated by Habitat. When we are not building a home, we have committees that need help to prepare for the next project. These committees include: Development/Fundraising, Site Selection & Construction, Finance, Church Relations, Family Selection & Support, Publicity and Volunteer. It could take as little as three or four days a month to help in between the construction phase and any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

More from our volunteers...

It warmed my heart greatly to be a volunteer for Habitat this year. It was a pleasure to become acquainted with the other "regulars" who worked the same day I did each week, and I also enjoyed getting to know Amos, Helen, and Deb and her son, as they participated in building their home-to-be. In addition to the camaraderie which gradually developed among workers, a side benefit was learning new skills from Jim, Pat, and others who willingly shared their expertise. It was interesting to watch the progress each week, capped by the emotional dedication ceremony before the new owners moved in. I'm really looking forward to participating in building the 4th house starting next Spring! - **Sally Goddard**

Sincere congratulations to you and everyone for an outstanding effort - great job!

- **Rose Anderson (admiring from the sidelines)**

Great job. Congratulations and give my best to the Baucoms. I know them well. - **Gordie**

I put off getting involved with Habitat for years. During my very first visit to the site the second week of April, I knew I was hooked. The friendships and bonds that were made will last a lifetime. As for the jobs that I disliked the most, they became the most rewarding. Jim has a way of motivating volunteers that makes the body want to do more. I just hope we have a winter project to bring everyone together again. - **Dave Joy**

Congrats on another great project completed!

- **Sidney "Jay" Ward III**

Looking for an affordable opportunity to buy a simple decent home?

Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity's Family Selection Committee is currently accepting applications.

CVHFH will look at three areas when reviewing potential homeowners:

1. Your family's actual housing need based on the suitability of your current shelter.
2. Your current income and ability to pay for a Habitat house.
3. Your willingness to participate as a partner with Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Accepting applications until January 31.
For information, call (518) 564-HOME.

"From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life."

- *Arthur Ashe*

Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity
PO Box 55
Peru, NY 12972

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