



The Ridge Vent

July 2004

Newsletter of the Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity, International

Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity
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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.

Groundbreaking ceremony falls on owner's special day

On May 15th, our newest Habitat homeowner, Barbara Rasmussen received a wonderful birthday present - the groundbreaking celebration for her new home!

Barbara and her daughters Brittany, Caitlin and Madeline were joined by her family and friends from out of town at the groundbreaking. Afterward, they went off to have a birthday celebration dinner. Also present at the ceremony were Father Joe from St. Joseph's Church, many Habitat partners and local business supporters.



A wonderful birthday present... The Rasmussen family breaks ground on their new home on Barbara's birthday (pictured with her daughters Brittany, Caitlin and Madeline and President Pat Cleveland).

Madeline ruled the day as she took her shovel from the groundbreaking and, along with Caitlin, they tried to dig the foundation themselves! - submitted by Pat Cleveland

Hammer and nail time: Volunteers needed, no experience necessary

After a slow start this year, we are finally getting to the point that our volunteers like - hammer and nail time!

Our days on-site for construction are every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to about 4:30 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to show up at the site to work or if you would like to arrange for a group of people, you may schedule a date that you would like to bring your volunteers. To arrange a date for a group of volunteers you may contact Pat Cleveland at 332-3950 or by e-mail at pc0cvhfh@westelcom.com. We may also be able to accommodate your group on a Sunday, Monday or Tuesday with advance notice.

We have already had support this year from Mark Allen at Lee Custom Homes II who excavated our foundation - twice! The first time we requested a level ground to build the foundation and then decided that the

crawl space walls would stand too high out of the ground. A decision was made to excavate another three feet. Once Mark was able to get his equipment back from a job in Lake Placid, his crew was again able to donate a Saturday in completing the additional excavation.

Phil Moore from Moore's Flat Works and Foundations also came to the site several times to put in the concrete footers. The walls and, finally, the floor was poured on the June 30. We had work to be done between his jobs to get the next step completed.

Ward Lumber, Gregory Supply, Nortrax Equipment, Lowe's Home Center, *cont'd. page 2*



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

- Ghandi

Support Habitat for Humanity

Interested in joining our Habitat affiliate as a board member? Nominations are currently being accepted for a three-year term. Contact Pat Cleveland for more information. Monetary donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 55, Peru, NY 12972.

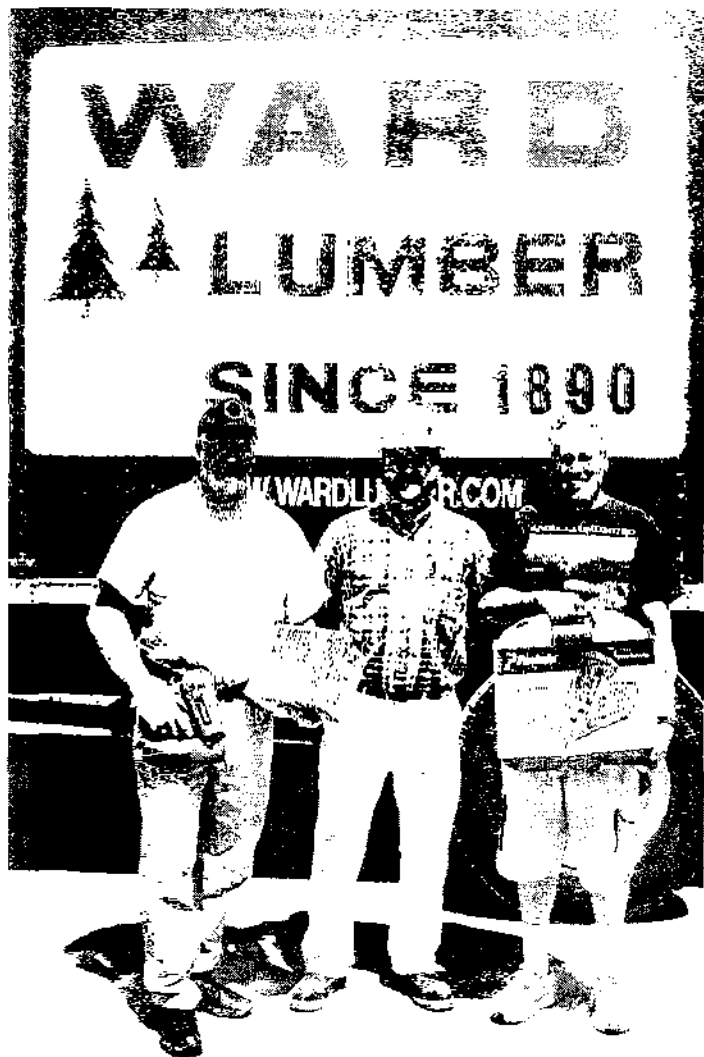


Photo by Mary Rankin

Jay Ward of Ward Lumber (pictured above, middle, with Pat Cleveland, CVVHFH President, and John White, Vice President) arranged with John Crissman of Pasload to donate a Pasload Finish Nailer and a Framing Nailer to CVVHFH. In addition, Jay has also coordinated with Porter Cable to donate a screw gun.

Volunteers, cont'd from page 1

Moore's Flat Works, Lee Custom Homes II, the Town of Plattsburgh Highway Department, Town of Plattsburgh Water and Waste Water Department, Plattsburgh State's Project Help as well as our volunteers have already provided services on the site.

The following contractors have agreed to work on the home: Carl's General Contracting, roof trusses and sheeting; J&B Roofing, roofing shingles; and Lake City Siding, vinyl siding. The following local businesses have had their vendor representatives donate materials to the house: Gregory Supply and Wolverine Siding, Ward Lumber and IKO Roofing, Cabot Stains, Moore paints, Hunter-Douglas mini-blinds, Yale locks, Larson Storm Doors and Whirlpool appliances.

We hope to have more people come to the site to help in the construction. We will need the help from this time until the home is completely built and we have scheduled a house dedication ceremony. For those people that do not want to work in construction, but would like to help in other ways, please call Pat Cleveland or e-mail a request, and we will be able to find ways for you to help complete this home.

Support appreciated...

We are grateful for the support provided by the following that have enabled Habitat to build a home each year since the year 2001:

Town of Plattsburgh	LAKE CITY Siding	MOMOT Trailer Sales
LEE CUSTOM HOMES II Derek Allen	GRAYMONT Materials	IBM Essex Jct VT
Carl's General Contracting	Sawyer Construction	HUD SHOP GRANT
J & B Roofing	F W WEBB	LOWE'S Home Center
Plattsburgh Window & Door	NYSEG	VERIZON Telephone
Rushford Trucking	KRIFF Furniture	CHAZY Hardware
Applebee's Bar & Grill	Mail Boxes Etc	NORTRAX Equipment
Sawyer Construction	Monette's Furniture Store	LARSON Storm Doors
F.W. WEBB	WHIRLPOOL APPLIANCES	Hunter-Douglas Mini-Blinds
NYSEG	P A R C	Champlain Valley Electric Supply
JIM YOUNG Building Mgr	Farm & Family Center	ICI Delux Paint Center
RSVP Volunteers	RAMBACH Bakery	IKO Roofing
Marty's Carpet	K of C Council	WINDOVER Hardware
BOUYEA Enterprises	FOSTERS	James Keable Attorney
The Cabinet Gallery	Aud Dorrance	CVES Drafting Class
WOLVERINE Siding	E-Z- Sto	Plattsburgh State Project HELP
BARCOMB'S TV & Furniture Center	HULBERT Brothers	
	GREGORY SUPPLY	
	HYNES Electric	
	VERIZON Wireless	

WAL★MART

ALWAYS LOW PRICES.

During the
grand open-
ing on July

14th, Wal-Mart Superstore presented Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity with a \$1,500 donation. This donation will be used to purchase building supplies, the cost of which has risen this year.

If you are interested in following the progress of the house and to know what work is being scheduled next, we have a daily update by e-mail that is available to anyone. Send an e-mail to pc0cvhfh@westelcom.com to be added to our e-mail updates.

- submitted by Pat Cleveland

A piece of the puzzle



Each Habitat family is presented with a house puzzle. The pieces of the house are removed when the family receives the puzzle and then, for every 10% of their sweat equity hours completed, they are given back a piece of the house they've been working on. Barbara Rasmussen has 250 sweat equity hours to work with Habitat to make her home "her castle". Barbara has just earned her first 10% of her house with 28 hours. She is very enthusiastic about working on the house and looks to the future when her home is complete.

Momot students volunteer at site

On Friday, May 14, a group of energetic Momot Elementary School fourth graders showed up at the Habitat houses. They were accompanied by Michelle Ouellette from the Champlain Valley Family Center, their teacher and a master gardener. The class had worked for several weeks on coming up with a way to help improve the environment and decided to plant flowers at both houses.

The boys and girls stepped off the bus loaded with shovels, gardening tools, black dirt, fertilizer and lots of marigold plants. They were divided into two groups and went right to work preparing the ground for the flowers. It was fun to watch these youngsters get so excited about their project. They worked well together and everyone had a chance to either dig, plant or fertilize in front of the house. No one seemed to mind the fact that they were getting dirty even though there were rubber gloves for them to wear.

Thanks to the hard work of these youngsters, the Habitat houses on the

Annual yard sale fundraiser set

The annual Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity yard sale fundraiser will be held on Saturday, August 21 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Willow Brook Nursery at the north end of Peru on Route 22.

We are looking for donations of furniture, toys, household goods, books, exercise equipment, etc. Unfortunately, clothing will not be accepted.

Items can be dropped off the week of August 15-20 at Willowbrook Nursery. To arrange to have donations picked up, please contact Sandy Lashua at 643-8862 or SLashua@aol.com.

All proceeds from the event will be used for building materials.



**"How far that little candle throws his beams!
So shines a good deed in a weary world."**

- William Shakespeare



Photo by Helen Rock

Michelle Ouellette's fourth grade class from Momot Elementary school volunteers at the Habitat sites. The students planted marigolds at the houses built in 2002 and 2003.

Wallace Hill Road now have some colorful marigold flowers in front of their porches. Be sure to check out their handiwork the next time you are in the area.

Helen Rock from Habitat for Humanity was

kind enough to show up with her camera to take pictures. She and I both were pleased with their enthusiasm and willingness to serve.

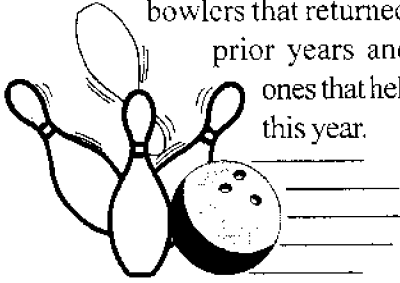
- submitted by Sandy Lashua

Bowl-A-Thon raises \$4,000 for CVHFH

Our annual Bowl-A-Thon was a success again this year. We raised over \$4,000 toward the construction materials needed on the new home.

Sandy Lashua oversaw the Bowl-A-Thon from planning the date to getting flyers and sponsor sheets made up and distributed. She obtained a donation from Stewarts Shops to pay for the bowling, worked with many local businesses who donated services, products and merchandise to be awarded to the bowlers.

A sincere thank you to all the bowlers that returned from prior years and new ones that helped us this year.



Search is on for volunteer services

We are in need of persons who would like to serve on the Champlain Valley Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. If you are interested in helping as a board member, we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the United Way Building on the Tom Miller Road in Plattsburgh. The meetings start at 7 p.m. and are over by 9 p.m.

If you would like to be part of the Board, please contact Sandy Lashua at 643-8862 or by email at SLashua@aol.com.

We are also seeking volunteers that would like to work on our committees. The following committees are in need of more members: Development/Fund Raising, Finance, Site Selection, Church Relations, Publicity and Construction.

Donations of professional services may be used as tax deductions on your annual income taxes. Services that are needed involved CPA service to review

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- **Board of Directors**
 - **Committee volunteers**
 - **Professional services**
 - **Grant writers**
 - **Treasury assistance**
-

our financial statements and may include an annual audit in the future.

We could use the service of anyone that can form a committee and prepare grant proposals for funds to support our home construction efforts.

Also, assistance is welcome for our Treasurer position. If you would be interested in providing a service in this capacity, please contact Austin Davis at 643-7198 or email kd2dm@together.net.