

Blueprints Newsletter

God Bless Our Home



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Special points of interest:

- Habitat dedicates house #35.
- Habitat 500 Bike Team raises \$5,600!
- Habitat wants to share our story with community.
- Wells Fargo donates \$10,000!

On February 27, 2013, Habitat had the distinct privilege of presenting the keys to the homeowners of the thirty-fifth home built in partnership with our community and partner family Tony Naber and Taylor Christensen. The couple will reside at their new home with their two-year old daughter, Elly. The family now has the opportunity to live and grow into all that God intended.

Reverend Rod Veldhuizen from Riverview Reformed Church led the celebration with a house blessing. Family Support Mentors, Duke and Peg Ellingson presented the family with the Holy Bible.

The house was full of guests that were sincerely blessed by the beautiful voices of the Yankton Children's Choir under the direction of Deb Kruse. Michelle Fleer

provided the books that were presented to Elly to enjoy in her new home.

Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County is very proud of the accomplishments that Tony and Taylor achieved in order to have the opportunity to purchase a home of their own. In just 6-months, the couple exceeded the requirement of sweat equity hours, attended financial money management courses through Consumer Credit Counseling Services, in addition to homeowner classes offered by Habitat for Humanity!

Habitat's Christian ministry continues to be strong in Yankton County because of the labor of volunteers, the Federal Prison Camp workers, the support of our community and churches, monetary donations to

support Habitat's Carpenter Club, the Habitat 500 Bike Team and all the gifts in kind that we receive from our community and from our affiliation with Habitat International. The presence of the Lord helped Habitat built this home and harvest a dream come true for a very deserving family!



Above: Elly pictured in her new home

Below: Mike McVay, Taylor, Elly and Tony at loan closing



Habitat 500 Rummage Sale

On March 22 and 23, the Annual Habitat 500 Rummage Sale was hosted at First United Methodist Church. Wow! What a fantastic way to witness God's hands at work within our community. The church was full of furniture, household items, clothing etc.

It takes numerous donations and volunteer hours to pull off a rummage of this magnitude. The Bike Team and Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County extend a heartfelt thank-you to FUMC for allowing us to overtake their beautiful church for several days, to those who contributed items to be sold and to those who worked so hard to get

items priced, cleaned and sold. 2013 proved to be a record breaking year for the sale, raising over \$5,600!

On July 14-20, the team will hit the trails and highways of Minnesota to raise even more money for our local affiliate. Each bike team pays a higher registration fee of \$300 to participate so that the local Habitat chapter will receive 100% of all the money raised in their fundraising efforts. In addition to the registration fee, each team is expected to raise an additional \$950. The money raised from the annual rummage sale assists the bike team with their fundraising efforts. In

2012, the Bike Team raised \$16,319 to help further our Christian housing ministry in Yankton County.

The Bike Team seeks additional riders to participate as a part of a team to ride just a couple of days. Call the Habitat office at 260-4224 if you might have an interest in riding.

If you would like to assist the Bike Team, but bike riding is not your thing, please consider making a donation. Your gift can be mailed to the Habitat office; please just designate that it is for the Habitat 500 Bike Ride.



Above: Habitat 500 Rummage Sale Pricing Queen, Joyce Neuman

Below: Food Goddess, Carol Becker





Message from the President – Michael McVay

The past few months have been both busy and productive for Yankton County Habitat. We were able to complete the home at 110 Rainbow St. and celebrated the house dedication for Tony Naber and Taylor Christensen. The home at 120 Rainbow is just about completed. Emily Dryden is anticipating a move in date within a few months.

The Board of Directors has decided to proceed with building one home for 2013, and to expand our A Brush with Kindness program where we assist homeowners with minor repairs and painting of their houses.

The Board of Directors has also approved the concept of exploring the feasibility of a ReStore in Yankton. A ReStore is a retail store owned and run by Habitat. Habitat would accept select building materials, furniture and appliances

as donations and then sell them at a discounted price to individuals within our community.

The ReStore concept also provides a tremendous recycling opportunity for local construction firms and individuals who otherwise would take used material to the landfill. A ReStore would provide an additional revenue stream for our affiliate so that we can build even more homes for people in need, thus helping to fulfill our mission. Currently, we are exploring opportunities for funding, space and working with Habitat International on the process of a ReStore start-up.

We had a tremendous response for the Habitat 500 Bike Team's annual rummage sale held March 22-23 at First United Methodist Church in Yankton. The total proceeds from the rummage sale neared \$5,600 and will

continue to multiply with the future fundraising efforts that the bike team will be undertaking. The Annual Habitat 500 Bike Ride is the largest fund raiser for our affiliate and we are indebted to Tom and Jane Gilmore who continue to direct and organize this project over the years. Also, much thanks to Pastor Ron Johnson who opens his church to us, and all the volunteers who help make it possible.

I feel we are very fortunate to have a great Board of Directors who offers much expertise. I am very thankful for the hard work and ideas of Julie Dykstra our Executive Director, Tami Ruzicka our Volunteer Coordinator and Chris Frick, our Construction Foreman. We would not accomplish our goals without this great team.

"Habitat is exploring the feasibility of a ReStore in Yankton. A ReStore provides a tremendous recycling opportunity while providing an additional revenue stream to assist even more families in need of affordable housing, thus fulfilling Habitat's Christian housing mission."



"Home"...Where Our Story Begins – Julie Dykstra

Are you involved with a church, organization or business that you would like to encourage to get involved with Habitat's Christian housing ministry? Habitat can help! We are looking for opportunities to make a better connection with our local communities. That opportunity begins with sharing our story... "Why We Build." Please give me a call at the Habitat office to schedule a time to share the Habitat story with your group.

In March, I was blessed to have received scholarship funding that allowed me the opportunity to attend

the Habitat International Affiliate Conference hosted in Atlanta Georgia. The experience helped provide me with the necessary tools and contacts to help our story continue to grow in Yankton County. The motivational and spiritual content of the conference helped to reaffirm the impact that Habitat volunteers and supporters have on the lives of our partner families, our community and our world.

1 Corinthians 12:12 states "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form just one body, so it is with Christ." Yes, it

takes all of the parts of our organization, our partner families, our community and our global ministry to eliminate poverty housing from the face of this earth.

A house is to a family what soil is to a plant. It is a place to be rooted, a foundation on which children can grow, develop and become all that God intended. Alone this task can seem overwhelming, but together, "One in Christ", we can build so much more than houses. By building hope, we build relationships, strengthen communities and nurture families.



Elly Naber, putting her physical therapy to work, while climbing the steps of her new home!

Give Back Through Services Center Federal Credit Union

Services Center Federal Credit Union is giving its members the opportunity to recommend an organization to receive a charitable donation. If you are a member of SCFCU, we ask you to support Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County.

The selected charity will be presented with a match of up to \$1,000 from SCFCU in addition to all donations received by their members.

It's easy just send your request to Services Center FCU, attn: Dorothy Kuipers, PO Box 704 Yankton SD

57078 or email Dorothy at dkuipers@scfcu.net no later than **April 25, 2013**. Help support Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County. Make a difference in your community by building a home and hope in the life of a family in need of affordable housing.



Greetings from Church Relations

Our regional churches provide an invaluable resource for Yankton's Habitat for Humanity (HFH) and our ministry to provide affordable housing to those who would otherwise not be able to join the ranks of home ownership. The Church Relations Committee works to expand HFH's church partnerships. These partnerships provide us with an expanded volunteer base, a source for re-cycled tools, and financial support. The Church Relations Committee would be most grateful if you would ask your church to print this announcement in your weekly bulletin:

Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County is looking for volunteers. Habitat offers a variety of ways for this community of faith to demonstrate the love and teachings of Jesus Christ by putting your faith into action. Our workdays are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Our current immediate needs include:

1. **People/groups to provide the noon meal for our volunteers at our build site;**
2. **Habitat has formed a Christian ministry with the Federal Prison Camp (FPC) in Yankton and we need volunteers to help to transport the trustees back and forth between the FPC and our build site.**
 - a. **Drivers are needed to 7:30 a.m. to pick up the trustees at the FPC and drive them to the build site. This takes approximately 20 minutes.**
 - b. **Drivers are needed at 3:15 p.m. to pick up the trustees at our build site and drive them back to the FPC. This takes approximately 20 minutes.**
3. **Volunteer labor (skilled and unskilled) is always welcome at the build site.**
4. **Second-hand tools that are in good shape are always needed.**

Do you think that the members of this faith community would be willing to partner with Habitat in any of the ways mentioned above? If so, please contact: Julie Dykstra, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County. Phone: 605-260-4224 Email: habitatyank@iw.net

Thank you for all that you do to assist Habitat for Humanity.



Sister. Bonita Gacnik
Church Relations Committee Chairperson

"Pursue a life changing mission trip on a Global Village Build to Cambodia."

Build "Hope" with "Us" in Cambodia

Do you have an interest in pursuing a life-changing mission trip? And are you at least 18 years old?

Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County needs you! We will be joining other affiliates across our great state on a Global Build effort on November 1-10, 2013 to Cambodia and would like to take one member of our great community with us. Today, Cambodia is emerging from a traumatic past and is one of the twenty poorest countries in the world. The majority of children and families live in desperate poverty and

struggle to meet the most basic needs of food, clean water and shelter.

Join us and be a pioneer of Habitat for Humanity's Mekong Build in Cambodia. Aside from participating in Habitat for Humanity's mission of eliminating poverty housing this is an opportunity to connect with other dedicated volunteers from around the world. The cost to participate in the Mekong Build is \$850. This includes transportation, meals, lodging, travel, medical insurance and emergency evacuation insurance. In addition,

each volunteer is responsible for the cost of airfare, passport and visa. Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County will assist the eligible applicant with up to \$750 in financial assistance if necessary. To be considered for this life-changing experience, please submit a short essay explaining why you are interested in partnering with Habitat in this Christian housing ministry. Mail or email essays to Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County, 610 W. 23rd Street Ste. 11, Yankton SD 57078 or habitatyank@iw.net.



Homeowner Spotlight – "Habi-tot" to Volunteer

Habitat of Yankton County is pleased to announce that one of our own children will be "paying it forward" this summer in Mozambique located in Southern Africa. Alisa Ruzicka, daughter of homeowner and Volunteer Coordinator, Kent and Tami Ruzicka, applied for a Learn and Build scholarship through Habitat for Humanity International. Alisa was interviewed for this opportunity along with 105 other kids from across the country ages 16-18. The Learn and Build Experience is for individuals who are excited to learn about Habitat's mission and want the chance to go to an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people. In addition to building, Alisa will take part in various hands-on educational and community activities.

Mozambique is a country of great potential and many contrasts. Located in southern Africa, it has borders with six other countries and more than 2,500 km of Indian Ocean coastline. Pristine beaches and a promising coastal tourist economy give way to inland communities struggling with poverty. Its population is strikingly young, with 10 million children accounting for half of the total population of 20 million. Since the end of the civil war in 1992, Mozambique's economy has grown but still ranks among the world's poorest 20 countries. Mozambique also ranks 175 out of 179 countries on the 2008 Human Development index. More than 58 percent of children live below the poverty line. In 2004, Habitat committed to work only with the Orphans and Vulnerable Project to build simple, decent homes for children left behind in the wake of the AIDS crisis.

If you are interested in assisting Alisa with travel expenses, please send your gift to the Habitat office and make a note in the memo line for Mozambique Build and Learn.



Alisa Ruzicka as a Habi-tot in 1999





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About Our Organization...

Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County seeks to put God's love into action by addressing urgent housing needs in communities, nation and world.

Our mission is to work in partnership with God and the people of this area from all walks of life to develop a community in the Yankton area with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent homes which people can live and grow into all that God intended.

Since our beginning in 1996, the Yankton County affiliate has built and sold affordable homes to 35 families in need of a decent place to live.

Our goal for the future is to expand the current services that we provide so that we can assist even more people in need of a home in Yankton County.

President

Michael McVay, *Retired M.D.*

Vice President

Susan Kneiff, *Yankton High School*

Secretary

Bonita Gacnik, *Sacred Heart*

Monastery

Treasurer

Gloria Bohn, *Mortgage Lender,*

First Dakota National Bank

Steve Huff, *JMMW & H Prof., LLC*

Patricia Smith, *Retired Teacher*

Wayne Anderson, *Business Owner,*

Anderson Superior Concrete, LLC

John Sternquist, *Retired M.D.*

Marilyn Lofflin, *Retired R.N.*

Carla Addy, *VP Business Banking,*

First Dakota National Bank

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Blueprints

Wells Fargo Bank Donates \$10,000

610 W. 23rd St. Suite 11

Yankton SD 57078

Phone:

(605) 260-4224

E-Mail:

habitatyank@iw.net

We're on the Facebook!

Since 2002, Wells Fargo Bank and its employees have been committed to providing a "hand up" to Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County to continue its mission of building affordable housing in Yankton County. In December, Wells Fargo bank employees presented Habitat with a financial gift of \$10,000 for our two homes on Rainbow Street. In addition, the employees provided volunteer hours.

Wells Fargo Bank's partnership has

provided Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County with a grand total of \$182,500 plus volunteer hours!! The employees have participated in projects that include raising the walls, siding, roofing, staining and painting the partner family's home.



Our Director's

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