

Blueprints Newsletter



Linsey Colgan and daughter McKenzie pictured with Wanda Mueller, Family Advocate



Planted in Memory of Cody Ellingson

House Blessing and Dedication –New Construction

On June 14, Habitat welcomed two new members to our family, Linsey Colgan and her daughter, McKenzie Thranum. The family, friends of the family, and their Family Advocate, Wanda Mueller worked more than the required 300 hours of sweat equity to build the home located at 903 Pearl Street. Linsey is very resourceful and utilized her talents to add some unique finishing touches to personalize their new home.

Tanner and Lauren Hanson led the dedication of a “strong” oak tree planted in loving memory of Cody Ellingson. The tree serves as a reminder to stand strong and never take one single breath for granted, live life to the fullest; representative of the way Cody lived his life until he lost his battle with cancer on June 4, 2014. The tree was planted in the front yard by Linsey and McKenzie, along-side Peg and Duke Ellingson, Tanner and Lauren Hanson, and other very close friends of Cody and his family.

The house dedication and blessing was led by Reverend Rodney Veldhuzen, Riverview Reformed Church. Guests enjoyed cake and refreshments while they toured the beautiful new home built in partnership with our community. This home is the 38th new construction home, built to serve a family in need of a decent, safe, affordable place to call “home.”

Habitat Dedicates Its’ 42nd Home in Yankton County

Habitat purchased 1209 Whiting Street from Barbara Hirsch, a Habitat partner who, because of health issues, made the decision to move to an apartment that offers accessibility to all. The decision weighed heavily on Barb’s heart. After much consideration, she decided to sell the home back to Habitat, but requested that Habitat consider selling the home to her daughter, Sara and her young family. However, because of a waiting list for housing, the home could not automatically be offered to Sara. The families on the list would need to give consent allowing Habitat to place the family before them. Plus, the family would need to apply and be accepted. In spite of not knowing the outcome of her request, Barb still felt that selling the home back to Habitat to recycle for another family in need was the right thing to do.

God had a plan, the Olson’s applied, received their letter of acceptance, and the 2 families gave their consent to allow the Olson’s the

opportunity to purchase the home.

Though the home did not require major repairs, there were many things to be done so that it could accommodate the needs of a family of six including: Dustin, Sara, Abigail, Deklan, Gabriel and Jaxx. Summer was put on hold as the family rolled up their sleeves and began working towards exceeding their sweat equity requirements.

On September 20, the Olson’s celebrated their accomplishments with family and friends as Reverend Ron Johnson, First United Methodist Church led the home dedication and blessing ceremony. Deklan and Gabriel greeted the guests with programs, while Abbi mingled with the guests. Beautiful special music was chosen and sang by Gena Brandt. The song’s title was “Everybody Needs”. The lyrics read “We all need a quiet place to pray, a place to call our home, and someone to bear our load.”

Family Advocate, Miranda Leusink shared, “Many may not know that Dustin and Sara contributed a

significant number of sweat equity hours 10 years ago when they helped to build the home for Barb and her two younger children. They worked hard then and they have worked hard now to accomplish their goal of becoming homeowners. Dustin, Sara and family are very deserving and I wish them years of happy memories in their new home.”



Dustin and Sara Olson and their children Abbi, Deklan, Gabb and Jaxx



Sara pictured with Miranda, Family Advocate

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President's Letter- Taylor O'Bryan

I hope that your summer treated you all well.

In the last few months, quite a lot has transpired. In Yankton, we've completed the home at 903 Pearl St. and have dedicated a recycled home at 1209 Whiting St. In Gayville, we've been able to bless a family with a wheelchair ramp. We've also opened up an application process for smaller projects in Vermillion.

One thing that I've learned in my short stint so far with the affiliate is that there is plenty of need in our immediate area for the type of work that Habitat does. Unfortunately, so much so that we have a growing waiting list of will-be

homeowners above what we're currently able to serve. Most businesses love to have that kind of demand, but at Habitat we see it differently. In fact, we look forward to a day when all this need for affordable housing dries up.

Thanks to the hard work of several in our community, I don't think there is a person in this part of the state that doesn't recognize that we have a shortage of affordable housing. I also think that we're fairly aware of what the shortage means to our prospects of the growth of businesses in and around our communities if we are unable to attract people from the outside. What I think we all fail to take into account sometimes

(myself included) are those that are already on the inside and are truly struggling to afford a healthy safe place to live.

I feel very blessed to be part of an organization that is working to make all the difference to those people. The Habitat model (volunteer labor, donated money and materials, no interest mortgages) proves time and again to meet the need where it's needed most. We do well to steward our vision faithfully and to continue to work toward "A world where everyone has a decent place to live."

Taylor

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Home Repair Projects

In conjunction with Make a Difference Day in 2013, HFHYC kicked off its new home repair program. Since that time, the affiliate has completed 4 additional projects to include a major repair at 417 Green Street, a painting project at 1805 John Street and the construction of 2 wheelchair ramps, one located in Gayville and the other in Vermillion. It is our goal to complete one additional roofing project yet this season before a major change in the weather. The home repair program is an effort to allow the affiliate to serve additional families in need of a "hand-up" due to either physical limitations or to financial need. One of the major goals of this program is to work in partnership with our community to beautify the neighborhoods in which we live.

The home repair program referred to as A Brush With Kindness mirrors our core program of homeownership, in that, it is not a giveaway program to anyone that asks. The homeowner must demonstrate a need, must prove the ability to repay a 0%, no cost loan, and must be willing to partner with Habitat. The whole process begins with the homeowner filling out an application, which is reviewed by the Family Services Committee to determine if all 3 requirements are met. If approved, members of the Building Committee will make an assessment of the needed repairs and determine an estimate of cost to repair. Upon completion of the project, the homeowner will sign a loan document and start making monthly payments to Habitat to cover the costs of materials needed to repair their home.

If you or someone you know is in need of a "hand-up" to repair their home, please contact the Habitat office to request an application. If you have an interest in helping with such a project either as an individual or a group, please contact the Habitat office. This is an awesome opportunity for you, the volunteer, to witness almost immediately the fruits of your labor.



Top: Wheelchair ramp - Vermillion

Middle: Carson and Merle Brandt, building wheelchair ramp -Gayville.

Bottom: Completed Gayville Ramp

Pictures to the Right:

Bike and Build - 417 Green Street

Board of Directors - 1805 John Street



Habitat 500 Bike Team- RECORD BREAKING YEAR!!



Congratulations and **A BIG THANKS** to the 2015 Habitat 500 Bike Team for their commitment and dedication to the Yankton County affiliate. This incredible team consisting of **Glen and Barb Mechtenberg, Guy and Liza Larson, Tom and Jane Gilmore**, and several behind the scenes team players raised a total of **\$30,000** to support our Christian Housing Ministry! Habitat also offers an extended thank you to all the generous contributors to make this possible!

Jersey's provided by Mead Lumber and EASW, photography courtesy of Nancy Hall

****Mark your calendars the rummage sale dates are April 1 and April 2, 2016**



Best Wishes Chris Frick!



It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Chris Frick, Construction Supervisor made the decision to pursue his dream and dedicate more time to his business, Frick Construction. Chris has been a valuable asset to our affiliate throughout the past 5 years of service and he will definitely be missed. He supervised our volunteers as they helped to build 10 new homes, recycled 3 homes to sell to Habitat families, rehabbed 2 homes that were sold, and repaired 5 homes. One homeowner stated, "Chris thank you for all your hard work, leadership, advice, direction and for making the work fun. You're the all-around handyman!"

Thank you Chris for 5 years of service and dedication to Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County!!

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Construction Crew Leader Opening

---The need is great ...WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR TEAM!!

Are you a team player with construction experience or do you know someone who is? Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County (HFHYC), dba Habitat for Humanity of Clay and Yankton Counties, a growing affiliate, has a Construction Crew Leader position available. We are looking for persons with construction experience who thrive in a team environment and seek a challenging, rewarding career helping low-income families improve their current living conditions through a "hands-up" approach.

HFHYC offers training opportunities, competitive wage starting at \$15+ per hour based upon experience, flexible scheduling to include some nights and weekends, and a comprehensive paid time off and sick leave policy.

HFHYC will accept resumes in person and electronically through October 16, 2015. For a complete job description, go to our website: www.habitatyanktoncounty.org. Resumes should be sent to HFHYC at habitatyank@iw.net or mailed to 610 W. 23rd Street Ste. 11, Yankton SD 57078. Drug and background screenings will be required for all qualified applicants. EOE



First United Methodist Church has graciously hosted the Providence to Seattle Bike and Build cyclists for the past 11 years. This group of young adults travels across the United States to spread the word about the affordable housing crisis in America. Bike & Build unlocks the potential of young adults to do incredible things. The participants are the face of the organization, and the driving force behind

all that their organization strives to accomplish. Through engaging young adults as active agents and ambassadors for affordable housing efforts, Bike & Build enables them to test their limits, become engaged and active citizens, and impact the housing landscape. This amazing group of cyclists spent time working on 417 Green Street painting and also with the Olson's painting their soon to be recycled home located at 1209 Whiting Street.



B & B fun at Lewis and Clark Lake
Courtesy of Jim and Marilyn Lofflin



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A Brush with Kindness – Restoring a sense of PRIDE in homeownership!
Do you own and occupy your home?
Is your home located on land owned by you?
Does your home need painting?
Are you living on a limited income, or unable to work on your home due to age, disability, or circumstance? Habitat can help through our home repair program.
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT QUALIFY? PLEASE REFER FOR HELP!!

About Habitat’s Christian Housing Ministry

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Like Habitat on Facebook!

Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County seeks to put God’s love into action by addressing urgent housing needs in our communities, nation and world.
Our mission: Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.
Our Vision: Increase community awareness and support to ensure adequate housing and neighborhood revitalization for the residents of Yankton County.
Since our beginning in 1996, the Yankton County affiliate has built and sold affordable homes to 37 families, recycled 3 homes and completed 4 home repair projects in partnership with our partner families, volunteers and our community. Habitat for Humanity of Yankton County has served **45 families in need of a “hand up”** so that they have the opportunity to live in a safe affordable place to call “home.”