



Habitat Happenings

Making a Difference One Family at a Time

Blitz Build Huge Success

For the last five years, the Hot Springs Home Builders Association has partnered with us on a “Blitz Build,” constructing a Habitat home in a single day. This year’s “Blitz Build” was coordinated by Habitat board member and local construction company owner, Bob Christians.

Approximately 50 building professionals and Habitat volunteers gathered at 210 Regal Street in the Whittington Park area and had the home under roof by 3:00 pm the same afternoon. Sherry Hutson, a single mother of one son, participated in the build and is thrilled to have been selected for this special project.

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7:00am—Just a foundation and a lot of work ahead!



10:00am—Amazing progress!



11:45am—Team work!



1:30pm—Almost done!



3:00pm—Under roof in one day!

ReStore Reflections

—Larry Brogden, ReStore Manager

Welcome to your Garland County Habitat for Humanity ReStore. This being our inaugural newsletter article, we will try to bring everyone up to speed on ReStores in general, in particular our local ReStore.

The first ReStore opened in the mid 1980's in Winnipeg, Canada, followed by the first U.S. store in Austin, Texas, as a way for Habitat to raise revenue and promote its message of sustainability. The concept has grown steadily the last ten years and there are now more than 750 stores nationwide. ReStores are finding success in part because more people are doing home improvement projects themselves to save money, and partly because of a greater concern for the environment. ReStores divert thousands of tons from the waste stream every year, while donors get the benefit of a tax writeoff.

Each ReStore is operated independently, although Habitat for Humanity International is establishing a national brand for the stores with national guidelines. Most ReStores accept a range of building materials, including doors, windows, cabinets, lighting, and flooring, as well as appliances and furniture. Many items in the stores are used and cannot be used in a new Habitat home, thus the reasoning for opening ReStores to sell that product and funnel that money back into the local fundraising mission. Some items come from deconstruction programs where volunteers remove usable fixtures, appliances, or other items which can be sold and saved from demolition.

Restores provide local affiliates a steady source of income at a time when the economy may have negatively effected other types of fundraising. As for your local ReStore, much of the above has been proven over the ten year history of Garland County ReStore. In that time the Restore has funded at least sixteen houses in Garland County and diverted more than 1,300 tons from local landfills. It is a win/win situation for both Habitat and the community. We have done great things, but with your help we can do more. Whether you donate, shop, or volunteer at the ReStore, you are helping to build houses right here in Garland County.

The ReStore is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1239 Central Avenue in Hot Springs. For more information or to schedule a pick up of items call 501-321-4241. Your local ReStore stocks most anything and everything from clothes to housewares, appliances to electronics, furniture to building materials.

REUSE-RECYCLE-RESTORE

Garland County Habitat for Humanity
ReStore
1239 Central Ave
501-321-4241
hotspringsrestore@att.net



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet John Tidquist. John moved to Hot Springs Village from Minneapolis, Minnesota in August of 2003 and has been a volunteer for Habitat for over four years. John admits he does not have a building speciality and enjoys all phases of building. While he has worked on just about everything, he has also installed over 50 storm doors!



John admits that after retiring his main focus was playing golf. However, it began to feel like a job with no rewards. “I knew I needed to get involved and diversify my interests. I was

in charge of the donations from our congregation for the Habitat home that was funded by the Lutheran churches four years ago. It sparked my interest and I started

volunteering labor for Habitat for Humanity at that time.” According to John, being a part of the home dedication is the most satisfying part of his volunteer work. “It feels great to be a part of helping a very deserving family own their first home. I am proud to say that I am a part of Habitat for Humanity in Garland County. It give me a great opportunity to help people. We are very proud to have you, too, John!

Executive Director's Corner

John Goodman



Just recently I was talking to a person about Habitat for Humanity and although this person knew a bit about this ministry, he was surprised to learn that recipients of Habitat housed had to pay for them. He really thought that houses were given to poor people. So, in the event anyone who reads this article is still fuzzy on the basics of Habitat, here is a foot-stomper point:

Habitat is not a giveaway program. In addition to monthly mortgage payments for 20 years, homeowners must invest hundreds of their own labor (sweat equity) into building their houses or the houses of others. This is the truth—Habitat offers a “hands up, not a hand out.” Habitat offers homeownership opportunities to families who are unable to obtain conventional house financing. Generally, this includes those who income is 30-60% of the area’s median income.

The donation of labor by volunteers, modest house sizes and a no-profit, zero-interest loan make it affordable for low-income families to purchase Habitat houses. Then they become acquainted with new words to substitute for “my rent payment.” Their new favorite words are “my mortgage payment.” A big difference! Just ask Habitat for Humanity homeowner.

I am honored to be a part of a ministry that was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have an affordable place, a decent place to live in dignity and safety.

Walgreens Community Project



Habitat was lucky to partner with several employees from Walgreens on April 16, 2010 for a Community Service Day. The employees volunteered their Saturday morning at the Newton Street house. A special thanks goes out to these spectacular volunteers and hard workers!

**DO YOU LIKE A GOOD SNACK?
WE DO TOO!**

Habitat needs your help. If your church, civic group or friends would like to provide refreshments for the Habitat volunteers, please contact Joyce at 501-623-5600 or email at jihabitat@att.net.

DONORS

Garland County Habitat for Humanity is grateful to the following businesses and individuals who have generously donated time, property and/or materials for our work this quarter. We are where we are today because of you and our many volunteers!

Advanced Care Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Health Center (house sponsorship)

A.H.I. Stoneworks of Hot Springs (granite cabinet tops for Shaw Village homes)

B & F Engineering

Bruce McPhee, attorney (services to prepare and execute all Habitat mortgages, promissory notes and closing costs)

McCauly Services (termite treatment)

Carol Sikorski, Garland Co. Title

City of Hot Springs (waiver of permit fees)

Coco Cola (bottled water)

Duncan Messersmith & Associates (accounting services)

First State Bank (office space)

Hot Springs Home Builders Association

Hunter Douglas (mini blinds)

John Vines, attorney (legal services)

Terry Diggs, attorney (legal services)

Square D Electric (circuit breakers, et al)

St. Joseph's Mercy Center (house sponsorship)

The Blind Lady

Walmart (bottled water)

Wendy Wilson, website designer

Whirlpool Corporation

Valspar Paint

Yale Locks (locks for houses)



Welcome home, Jackie! On Saturday, July 9, Habitat welcomed Jackie Ferguson and her family to their new home on Newton Street. Be sure to check out the next Habitat Happenings for the complete dedication story! You can also view additional pictures on our website.

Join us Online!

The Garland County Habitat for Humanity now has two new ways for you to always stay in contact with us! Check out our new and improved website at www.habitatgc.org and join us on Facebook at Garland County Habitat for Humanity. You'll be able to read about current events, view pictures and stay connected!



Like us at Garland County Habitat for Humanity!

Home Safety Tips

McCrary Means, a Hot Springs Police Officer and a GCHF Board Member, offers homeowners advice on how to keep your house safe and secure. These tips are especially handy during the summer months when people are vacationing!

- ◆ Install bright lights outside, preferably motion sensing lights.
- ◆ Prune all shrubbery and trees, you don't want to make it easier for a thief to hide.
- ◆ Keep a list of your valuables like TV's, computers, jewelry etc. Make a list with descriptions and serial numbers. You can also take photo's.
- ◆ When you travel, call the Hot Springs Police department and ask that they put your home on their house watch list while you are away, this is free of charge. 321-6789.
 - ◆ Never put on Facebook that you are going on vacation or a weekend trip.
 - ◆ Install a peephole or a wide angle viewer on your front door.
- ◆ Install a home alarm system, shop around to find the best price and what is best for your needs.



COAST TO COAST WALK FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 2011 FINAL PHASE

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE FINAL PHASE of the WALK!
(Sept 23 – Nov 19, 2011)



50 MORE DAYS WALKING
\$5,000 GOAL
\$50 X 100 PEOPLE
LOOKING FOR 100 FRIENDS

WILL YOU BE ONE OF THE 100?

**EVERY PENNY OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE USED TO HELP ANOTHER
FAMILY HAVE A DECENT, AFFORDABLE HOME IN HOT SPRINGS, AR.**

Tax-deductible contributions are payable to:
Coast to Coast Walk
Habitat for Humanity
P.O. Box 171
Hot Springs, AR 71902

(Payable by Nov 19, 2011)

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

**(Each contributor for phase 4 will receive a special Habitat for Humanity gift as an
expression of our sincere appreciation.)**

What is the Coast to Coast Walk?

Dick Mattson and John Goodman began the Coast to Coast Walk for Habitat in March 2008 at the Pacific Ocean as an effort to raise awareness for the ministry of Habitat. The walk has been done in three phases, and they have now walked across CA, AZ, NM, TX, OK, AR, and half of MS. Their goal for phase 4 is to reach the Atlantic Ocean in November 2011. Although raising money was not the original goal, people and churches along the way began giving, and funds raised so far have helped pay for three Habitat houses.

Call 501-623-5600 for more info
www.habitatgc.org

Coast to Coast Walk 2011

Check out John and Dick's adventures!



John and Dick crossing the bridge in Greenville , Mississippi.



John and Dick take a moment to toast their 2000th mile!

"Walking across America as an ambassador for Habitat for Humanity is an amazing experience from several perspectives. First, the brand name and great reputation of Habitat always precedes us and opens doors for conversation. Second, walking through the small towns of America and meeting hundreds of ordinary citizens confirms for me the foundational strength of our nation. That strength is in ordinary Americans who work hard during the week, worship on Sundays, love their families everyday. Third, week after week and mile after mile, I confirm for myself that I can do achieve something extraordinary if I stick with it through good days and tough days."

—John Goodman



John and Dick make their way to the Hot Springs Municipal Airport where a reception was held in their honor on June 4th. John and Dick have currently raised over \$12K for Kateena Walker's new house.

We have walked through 6 states and half of another, we have raised money to partially build 3 Habitat houses in Hot Springs, we have spread the word about Habitat for Humanity wherever we went and we have met some very friendly, gracious and interesting people along the way. We have walked in mountains, desert, farm land and forests. We have walked in the snow and in the rain. Note: If you want an accurate weather forecast, just ask John Goodman. We have had one amazing adventure after another. Special thanks go to our wonderful support team, Carol and Ruth. In late September, we are off once again to start Phase IV, which will terminate when we dip our toes in the Atlantic Ocean. Please support our efforts by making a contribution to the Coast to Coast Walk.

—Dick Mattson

**Garland County
Habitat for Humanity**

P.O. Box 171
Hot Springs, AR 71902-0171

Phone: 501-623-5600

ReStore: 501-321-4241
www.habitatgc.org



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