

**WEST VOLUSIA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**  
P.O. BOX 3173  
DELAND, FL 32721

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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## **THERE ARE MANY WAYS CHURCH MEMBERS CAN HELP HABITAT**

Building simple, decent houses is what Habitat is all about. How can church members not be involved? This year we are building more houses than in any other single year of our existence here in West Volusia. That's great. But the need is great as well. Poverty housing is still around us. We still need more church members to help build houses and to support our ministry in other ways.

We will build another "Building on Faith" house in the fall of 2005. We know a few churches already are planning to be involved. But we continue to build houses now and need help. Perhaps of chief importance, we need land on which to build. We welcome donations of land. We are prepared to buy land if it is not expensive and in an area in which we want to build. Speak to Peter deVos with any ideas about land.

As we have said earlier, we need electricians, plumbers, finish carpenters, and people to lay tile. New volunteers can work with experienced Habitat workers in these areas. Individuals can help by joining others. We also have a particular need for supervisors for

roofing work. We can usually generate numbers of people to help with roofing from Stetson or other organizations, but we need experienced roofers. Please think about this and come forward if you can help.

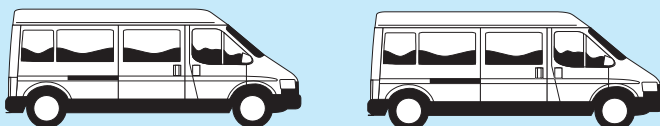
A few churches take responsibility for certain parts of a build, such as framing, trusses, siding, painting, or installation of doors and baseboard. These churches welcome help, even from two or three people from another church. Other parts of the build are not spoken for.

Much Habitat work is done by committees – land acquisition, selection of families to be Habitat partners, counseling of families, and oversight of finances and the Bargain Barn. We could use volunteers for office work and working in the Bargain Barn.

There is much to be done. Think and pray about how you might serve and give Peter deVos a call at 734-7268. You will be making a difference.

*-- Lou Brakeman, church relations committee chair and painter*

## **TURN YOUR VEHICLE INTO HELP FOR OTHERS**



West Volusia Habitat for Humanity can use donations of drivable used cars, trucks, vans, recreational vehicles, boats or trailers to sell at the Bargain Barn. They must be in good condition for immediate resale.

All proceeds will go to build Habitat homes and your donation will be tax deductible to the full extent the law allows. To learn how you can help in this way, or for more information, contact Peter deVos, executive director, at 734-7268.



WEST VOLUSIA  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

# Happenings

Vol. 17, No. 2

A NEWSLETTER OF WEST VOLUSIA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, INC

Winter 2004

## FLORIDA HOSPITAL, DELAND MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION TEAM UP TO BUILD HOUSE 54 FOR RODRIGUEZ FAMILY

On Saturday, Nov. 6, House 54 at 1130 E. Voorhis Ave. was dedicated and turned over to Emiliano and Leticia Rodriguez and their three children. The house was built in partnership with Florida Hospital West Volusia Division and the Deland Ministerial Association, both of which provided workers and funding to make this dream a reality for the Rodriguez family. The Rodriguez' were very eager to get into their new house, after waiting longer than usual due to summer downtime and the unwelcome visits of three hurricanes this fall.

The building of this house exemplifies the basic tenets of the mission of Habitat for Humanity in partnering with community, churches, homeowners and volunteers to build simple, decent and affordable housing for families in need. The WVHfH board feels fortunate to have such caring partners as Florida Hospital and the DMA helping to make a very real difference in the lives of West Volusia families.

Keeping up the good work, the affiliate is just about ready to dedicate Houses 55 and 56 to the Small and Bueno families, respectively.



*Joe Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Florida Hospital West Volusia Division, speaks during the dedication of House 54 to the Rodriguez family on Nov. 6.*

## HABITAT CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT RECORD PACE

As the final weeks of 2004 approach, West Volusia Habitat for Humanity continues to build new houses for low-income families at a record pace. House 54 at 1130 Voorhis Avenue has just been completed and Houses 55 and 56 on Chandler Avenue aren't far behind, and will be completed before the end of the year. The partner house the affiliate is building with the Citizens Advisory Group/Volusia County on South Stone Street is also well under way.

As of November, WVHfH has a record eight houses in progress at the same time, including the four new slabs that should be completed by December.

In March of 2005, the affiliate will again host a group of approximately 30 college students on Spring Break from Alfred University in Alfred, N.Y. They will work with our regular crew and special Collegiate Challenge volunteers on building two houses on Dexter Avenue.

The WVHfH board is grateful to the construction volunteers, partner groups and supporters who have made these building efforts possible. To continue to meet the need for more simple, decent and affordable houses in West Volusia, additional volunteers will be needed for construction, the Bargain Barn and committees, along with more income and parcels of buildable land on which to put the houses.

To learn how to help, or for more information, contact Peter deVos, executive director, at 734-7268.

### ? Did you know ?

*During the week of Oct. 24-29, 4,000 volunteers joined the Jimmy Carter Work Project and built houses for 150 families in Mexico.*

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*After serving as both president and chief executive officer of Habitat for Humanity International since its founding in 1976, Millard Fuller has stepped down as CEO, but will remain active in his role as president and as a spokesperson and strategist for Habitat for Humanity International. A committee to find a new CEO is meeting this fall.*

???

*More than 175,000 Habitat for Humanity houses have been built in 100 countries.*

**Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year**

**From your friends at  
WEST VOLUSIA HABITAT  
FOR HUMANITY**

# BILL HERLEHY: *We Do It Because We Love It*

"They call me 'Army Bill,'" said Bill Herlehy, early one morning as he worked alone finishing the trim on the West Volusia Habitat for Humanity office remodeling job, which he has overseen.

He did spend nearly 28 years in the military, flying helicopters and working in logistics and aircraft maintenance. But after retiring, he taught at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for about 18 years, ran the department of distance learning and eventually served as dean of curriculum.

About 15 years ago a colleague at the university talked with him about Habitat and it struck him as an ideal way to volunteer. Early in his military career, Herlehy had worked as a combat engineer. "I love to do construction – to work with my hands," he said.

Now semi-retired, for the past year he has spent three mornings a week volunteering at West Volusia Habitat and three days a week at Embry-Riddle, where he teaches marketing and labor relations.

The New Smyrna Beach resident drives to DeLand to volunteer because the West Volusia affiliate is building more houses than the affiliate in his area. Working with Habitat helps keep him fit, he says, and he wants to stay busy. In fact, both he and his wife Mary – also retired from the military – work in Habitat construction.



**Bill Herlehy pauses during work on the Habitat office**

"Everett Worley, who has worked on every West Volusia Habitat house, took me under his wing when I started," he said. "I asked him to teach me everything he knows.

Now he's a friend; he taught me well. In March we were building two houses with the Alfred University students, and he said he'd do the south house if I'd do the north house. It was sink or swim."

Herlehy does a little of everything, but specializes in framing – putting up the first walls on the slabs. He confesses that he doesn't like to paint, but will do it if there's no one else to do it. He was part of a crew of five who continued working all summer this year to help finish the houses that are being dedicated this fall.

"The common denominator among the guys I work with is that we love it; you have to. You get filthy dirty and hot – what's kept me here is that the people love it; we do it for the love of what we're doing."

And when he goes home? Well, he's building a wall to turn a screen room into a Florida room with windows and air conditioning. He and his wife are doing that project together – although not necessarily at the same time. "She does the trim work, the painting," he said, "and it's helpful if I'm out of the way, over here working."

-- Betty Brady

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OFFICE RECEIVES FACELIFT**

As many of our veteran volunteers are aware, the Habitat office received an interior renovation in 1997 with funds donated by the Farris Foundation. At that time plans were made to also renovate badly deteriorated portions of the exterior of the building, including gaping holes around the front door and rotting wood siding on the front of the building.

Other priorities took precedence, however, and the renovations have been over 7 years in the making. Over the years the situation became worse and the building began to resemble the type of structure Habitat is trying to eliminate.

This summer, thanks to some dedicated volunteers, the long overdue exterior renovations got started. Using almost entirely donated or left-over materials, the effort was headed up and seen through to completion by construction volunteer Bill Herlehy, who was ably assisted by several other crew members, as well as several groups of enthusiastic and hard-working painters from Stetson University. The entire exterior now has a new look.

"If you haven't been by the office in a while, stop and take a look the next time you are on Spring Garden Avenue," said Peter deVos, executive director. "I think you'll be pleased to see we now also have a simple, decent and affordable Habitat office. We thank everyone who made this possible."



## **OFFICE, BARN SHARE PHONE: 'PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE ...'**

The Habitat for Humanity Office voice mail system is handled through BellSouth – not a machine at the office – and the office and the Bargain Barn share one main telephone line (734-7268) for all incoming and outgoing calls. That line is often busy, and when it is in use callers are automatically transferred to voice mail. Receiving voice mail during normal business hours doesn't mean the staff is not there, but only that the line is in use.

Staff members ask that you leave a voice mail message when you call the office or the Barn and don't get through; they want to hear from you and promise that they will respond to messages as soon as they can.



## President's Word

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DRIVEN BY VOLUNTEERS

As the holidays approach, many of us think about renewing commitments and making resolutions. Won't you consider increasing your involvement in Habitat for Humanity? Millard Fuller states that "Our goal in Habitat for Humanity is to completely eliminate poverty housing and homelessness. We will accomplish that lofty goal by making shelter a matter of conscience. Our intention is to make substandard housing and homelessness socially, politically, morally and religiously unacceptable."

Our local affiliate has always been volunteer-driven. Yes, we have important paid employees who keep the organization moving in the right direction, but without dedicated board members, committee members and other volunteers we cannot accomplish our part of Millard Fuller's vision. The paid staff cannot and should not do it all for us. We need the talents and enthusiasm that a broad community base of volunteers brings to the organization. We need your contacts in local churches, social groups and other non-profit organizations to raise awareness of Habitat in our community and locate new volunteers to get involved in our work. We have a special need for volunteers who would be active on our construction committee. If you know of someone, please contact me.

I really appreciate all of the dedicated volunteers we have on the job sites, in the Barn and office and on our board and committees. Please keep Habitat in your hearts and minds as you go through the day. Keep our need for land in mind. Keep our need for volunteers in mind. Please renew your enthusiasm and commitment to Habitat for the new year. We need you!

-- Ann J. Rigsby, president

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*...without  
dedicated  
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and other  
volunteers  
we cannot  
accomplish  
our part of  
Millard  
Fuller's  
vision.*

## CREDITS

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## 2004 RECORD YEAR FOR HABITAT HOUSES, PARTNERSHIPS

As 2004 comes to a close, we can be proud of what West Volusia Habitat for Humanity has accomplished this year by building a record number of houses – seven – and having an additional seven houses either in progress or ready to start. It has also been a record year for partnerships, with five of the completed houses being built in cooperation with housing partners.

Looking to 2005 and beyond, it won't be easy to keep up this pace – it will definitely present a challenge to all of our resources to continue our growth, but we can, and I believe will, find a way to do it. It is important for each of us to remind ourselves that each new house we are able to build represents a family given the opportunity to start a new life. We also need to be aware that the problem of undesirable housing is increasing and the 56 houses we have completed are just a start on our mission to insure that all families have an opportunity to live in a simple, decent and affordable house.

At this holiday season I am sharing a poem written by a Habitat homeowner in hopes that it will both brighten your spirits and provide an opportunity to reflect on just what a special blessing a house can be to a family in need.

'Tis the month before Christmas  
And marvel I do  
That we have our house now,  
This dream has come true.  
We've lived crowded in one room,  
Rented trailers that leak.  
Thinking we have this home now,  
Oh, I hardly can speak.  
We all have our own beds,  
The rooms each have doors,  
A bright shiny kitchen,  
And new tile floors!  
Here it's safe for our children  
To go out and play.  
And we don't have to move now,  
We're home, here to stay.  
We're free, we're alive with  
This brand new house key.  
And tomorrow? We're buying  
Our first Christmas tree!



With God's blessing and the continued support of our dedicated supporters, volunteers and housing partners, we can insure that many, many more Habitat homeowners will experience their first Christmas in their own new house.

Wishing each of you all the blessings of Christmas and a wonderful 2005....

-- Peter L. deVos, executive director

## MAKING A WILL? REMEMBER HABITAT

As you update your will or make one for the first time, consider a bequest to West Volusia Habitat for Humanity. You can reduce your estate taxes and support Habitat's effort to eliminate substandard housing through a gift to the affiliate. Your generosity can help build dreams as well as homes.

For information about including West Volusia Habitat in your will or about establishing a charitable trust, which allows you to realize tax savings and additional income, contact Peter deVos, executive director, by phone at (386) 734-7268, or check the West Volusia Habitat for Humanity web page at [www.wvhfh.org](http://www.wvhfh.org).