



Welcome to *Happenings!*

Welcome!

You now have in your hands the re-invented Medina County Habitat for Humanity newsletter, *Habitat Happenings*. In addition to re-inventing the print version of this newsletter, we have also launched a digital, email version of this newsletter. If you use email we encourage you to visit the Medina County HfH website (medinahabitat.org) to subscribe to this digital version, as it saves postage, paper and maybe just as importantly, allows you to receive breaking news and updates easily and seamlessly via your email account – there will also be email-only ReStore discounts and more!

However, if you prefer to continue receiving the print version, you don't have to do anything; we'll keep it coming to you.

Thanks for reading, and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Home in Medina Completed

Winter build a solid success for Medina HfH

Summer is in full swing now, but looking back on constructing our last house during the winter doesn't conjure balmy thoughts. Despite the cold, mud, snow and ice, our volunteers knew it was all worthwhile when there was a deserving family waiting to call the house a home. Kelly Rogers received the keys to her house on January 31 amid relatives, friends and congratulations from Habitat volunteers. **(Continued on page 2)**



Kelly Rogers and daughters.

St. Ambrose Eighth Graders Can Help!



The St. Ambrose 8th grade class, led by Lori Hamzik and Kelly Taylor, made a difference toward helping Medina County HfH, build a house for a low-income family in need. The class identified a new way to help others and spent about nine months collecting empty aluminum cans.

They ended up collecting over 4,300 cans for a total of 125 pounds, which translated into \$54 at a local scrap yard. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, the class is already making plans to take even bigger steps next year.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that helps low income families purchase homes at cost. You too can help by recommending partner families who live in Medina County, donate scrap metal or appliances, volunteer time, or donate and shop for building materials at the Medina County HfH Restore located at 4930 Chippewa Rd, Medina. For more information contact Norm Glance at 330-225-6927.

Home in Medina Completed (Continued from page 1)

Last year, Medina County HfH challenged our volunteers to work through the winter. Proof of their commitment to meet the challenge is the dedication of Kelly's home. Volunteers consistently showed up on special workdays during the week and on the regular Saturday in sufficient numbers to allow completion of the house on schedule. Not to be left out, local businesses volunteered their craftsmen and in some cases materials which helped build the house to a high standard. Kelly was there almost every Saturday

keeping spirits high and making the experience feel like we were part of her family.

Last year, almost by divine providence, building lots became available and business at the HfH Restore increased at the same time. The added funds allowed the purchase of the lot at 327 E. Friendship St. in Medina. The site is close to schools and stores, and receives city services making it a great location to raise a family.



After prayers, songs and blessing, everyone at the dedication wished Kelly and her family good luck in her new home.

Getting Out What You Put In

New build recipient eternally grateful for the HfH experience

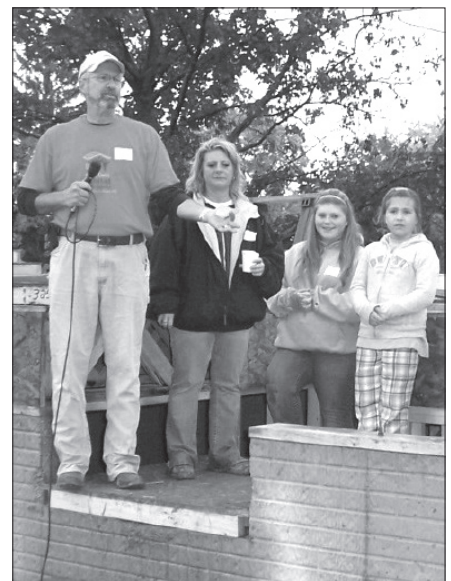
Last August Kelly Rogers was like many other people in the sense that she didn't realize she could qualify for home ownership via Habitat For Humanity. And prior to her involvement in the program she – like many others not familiar with HfH – didn't realize that acquiring a home via HfH involves a lot more than being handed the keys to a home.

Rogers was introduced to Habitat For Humanity by Stacey McLaughlin, who has been integral to Medina HfH, in August 2009. While she knew getting an HfH home would involve a lot of work, she didn't realize it would consume

so much of her time away from home, her two girls, and personal life.

"The biggest thing that people who are thinking of getting involved with the program typically don't realize is that getting a home is a huge amount of work," she says. After her HfH application was accepted she started working at the Medina County ReStore every Saturday.

While rising at 6 a.m. each Saturday and missing time with her daughters, Halie, (15 years old) and Tori (10 years old) initially seemed a bit rough, by the end of her first day at the ReStore, Rogers says she was made to feel like part of the group. "Right from the beginning, the people were great. I met some



wonderful people, and the workers made me feel very welcome, like I'd been there as long as they have." From August to October Rogers worked at the ReStore helping to organize the back room, clean and unload trucks and other tasks. Once the new building began she started working every Saturday, and many weeks she also put in another full work day or more at the house through the week.

When she was entrusted with bringing the donuts and coffee to the New Build and started tackling chores like painting, carrying lumber, using a circular saw (including measuring and cutting

Picking up the Blitz – Mark your calendar!

Medina HfH's next Blitz Day is Saturday, July 10, 2010. The Blitz Build will begin at 8:15 a.m. in Medina, on Huntington St. across from Hawkin's Supermarket.

Please plan on pitching in to pick up the Blitz – we need volunteers. But here are the qualifying statements:

- Please wear shoes suited for a worksite – no open toed shoes
- No one under age of 16

We'll provide food and drink – we just need you to provide your time, skills and energy!

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The Importance of Local Churches

Even though Habitat for Humanity is a Christian-based organization, we don't often publicize exactly how we interact with local churches. Unbeknownst to many, Medina Habitat for Humanity has an ongoing relationship with many of the churches in our community. Our Church Relations Committee contacts local churches at least once a year and actively works to collaborate with their boards or outreach committees. We also exhibit at church sponsored events or Mission Sundays in an effort to enhance our connection with local church goers and increase volunteerism.

A Substantial Impact

We are extremely grateful for the assistance that we receive from our local church community. Over the years we have had many churches make a substantial impact – too many to list or mention in a short article. But here are a few recent examples:

A standard new home build generally takes between 4 1/2 to 6 months. With the help of the St. Ambrose parish in Brunswick, we were able to reduce the build time on our Brunswick build to 75 days. HfH worked with St. Ambrose's Peace and Justice Committee to connect with willing volunteers within the church. The committee did a wonderful job of aligning parishioners with the kind of work they preferred doing. On framing day, all of the framing

folks were alerted to come to the build. The same happened for drywall, finishing, and painting. With this type of coordination and skill set alignment the build was one of the fastest ever in Medina.

In another instance the parishioners at First Christian all banded together to tackle a single large project – the lawn at our Brunswick build. The folks all worked to level, seed, straw, and clean up the lawn for dedication. They made a huge impact by all working together on a single aspect of the build.

Of course, volunteers don't have to build or put in a lawn to help the HfH mission. Plenty of churches come up with other creative ways of making a meaningful donation. Oftentimes we give churches a wish list of needed tools and supplies and their members fill the lists for us with things like caulk, hammers, and paint brushes.

Churches will also hold bake sales or dinners and donate the proceeds to HfH. On the more inventive side, the Chatham Church Vacation Bible School children made wooden carpenter's boxes that were then filled with basic tools and given

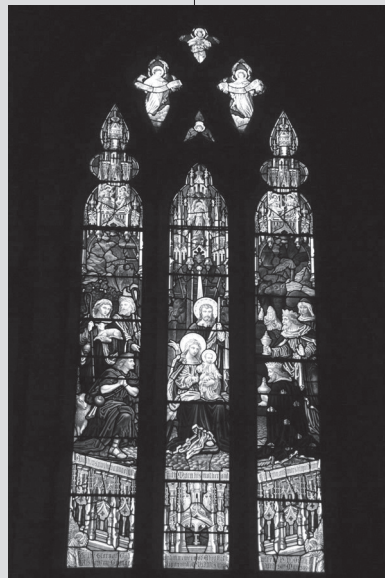
to the new family so that they had tools to take care of their new home. Older children have participated when their youth

groups help clean the ReStore or staff it for a Saturday. We have also had groups help us park cars at the fair, which can be quite profitable.

In addition to providing volunteers, we are always looking for churches to join our Circle of 12 Program. The

Program consists of a rolling group of 12 churches. In order to join the Circle, a church must commit to donating \$1,000/year for 3 years. We ask that this donation not come out of church operating funds but from either a special donation or a fundraising dinner. One church has had wonderful success with their Chicken Paprikash dinner each spring.

With individuals having less time and money to donate, the contributions of our local churches is making all of the difference. If your church is looking to get involved and would be interested in discussing working with HfH, please contact Norm Glance at 330-225-6927 or normglance@gmail.com.



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www.medinahabitat.org



Thanks for the Support from the following Business Partners and Volunteers:

- Discover Christian Church, Dublin, OH
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- City of Medina
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- Benson Drywall
- Mike Ciphers and Susan North
- Scott Bowler
- Terry, Amy and Sara from Norm Stanak Inc.
- Casual Comfort Insulation
- Many local churches which provided volunteers and lunches

Getting Out What You Put In

(Continued from page 2)

soffits) and even shingling her own roof (with the help of her brother Scott) things really started to fall into place for her.

“I hadn’t done some of that stuff before, and I learned that there’s a lot more involved in owning a home than I had thought. But now I’m not afraid to tackle something with some help,” she says.

On Blitz Day, in addition to her brother, her father and many friends participated and she was amazed that so much was accomplished in one day by a group of volunteers who had never worked together before.

Asked about the best aspect of her involvement with HfH, she doesn’t hesitate: “The People. Their willingness to donate their Saturdays amazes me. There has been a group [of volunteers] that has been there every Saturday ever since the beginning...How do you thank somebody enough for that?”

She explains that what has kept her going and motivated throughout has been the dedication and commitment of those people who have been there every Saturday giving their time. And in turn, she believes that the volunteers have gone all out for her since she has been so committed.

“I’m not going to let them down. I look at it like how can I do that when they’re here giving up their family and personal time for me. Through this you really don’t have a life, but the reward at the end is priceless.”