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## Mission Statement

Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with God and with the support of a caring community, works to provide decent, affordable housing for people in need.

# Habitat Happenings

*A newsletter of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fredericksburg*

Spring 2014

## Care-A-Vanners Help Raise the Roof on House #15

A prediction of six more weeks of winter didn't stop the winter Texan Care-A-Vanners from making their annual trek to Fredericksburg this February.

Not only did these industrious volunteer builders "raise the roof" on House #15, they built the floor, walls, ceilings, and installed windows and doors as well. Siding, stairs, and second story were all completed in just a few short weeks.

"I was amazed at how quickly and efficiently this crew works together," said Kelly Musselman, VP of Fbg. Habitat. "The weather was not always cooperative but they accomplished a tremendous amount of work in very little time!"

The Care-A-Vanners, headed up by group leader Dick Aide and his wife Linda of Fox Lake, Wisconsin, worked alongside local volunteers Al Bispo, Don Ingels, Don Smith,



Pete Jensen and Habitat building manager, Wayne Murphy.

The Care-A-Vanners come from all over the country, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington State, Kansas, and even Ontario, Canada.

"They think *we're* the ones with the funny accents," jokes Musselman. "They do have a great sense of humor and are like a big family, traveling and working together. I was honored to get to know these fine folks."

House #15 is located at 306 W. Park St. Habitat Homes #13

and #14 are directly across the street, making the area a true affordable housing neighborhood.

House #15 is the first two story home the organization has tackled. This is due to the narrow size of the lot, which means it must be built up, and not out. Habitat hopes to put a similar home on the adjoining property if funding can be obtained for the purchase.

Meanwhile the Care-A-Vanners plan to return to continue work on House #15 so that a new Habitat family has a place to call home.

*Habitat for Humanity would like to expand its board of directors and volunteers. If you have an interest in joining our organization, please give us a call at 990-8585. Thank you!*

Be sure to visit our website at [fbghabitat.org](http://fbghabitat.org) and "like" us at [facebook.com/FredericksburgHabitat](https://www.facebook.com/FredericksburgHabitat). Check out all our great photos on House #15!

*Habitat will receive a \$25,000 matching challenge grant from an anonymous Hill Country Foundation. Each donation given during the challenge grant period was matched dollar for dollar. Thank you to all who helped!*

## **Area churches, clubs help Habitat toward matching grant**

When it comes to helping others out, Fredericksburg is a community that can be counted on.

Habitat is extremely grateful for recent donations from area local clubs and churches. These donations have helped Habitat reach their goal toward their \$25,000 matching challenge grant.

Many thanks go out to the following donors:

*St. Barnabas Church  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Zion Lutheran Church Thrivent  
Zion Luther Church Endowment Fund  
First Baptist Church Mission Committee  
Bethany Lutheran Church Foundation  
Morning Rotary Club  
Fredericksburg United Methodist Church  
Knights of Columbus*

*Memorial Presbyterian Mission Committee*

Many local businesses and individuals also have contributed to Habitat's "Raise the Roof" Fundraiser. These will all be thanked in a future issue of *Habitat Happenings*.

If your church or service organization would like to help Habitat with a donation, let us know!

### **Thanks to the Habitat "Lunch Bunch" Volunteers!**

Building houses is hard work and can really build up an appetite! Thanks to a group of dedicated "lunch bunchers", our Habitat building crew never had to go hungry! Many thanks to the following churches and individuals who provided food and drink for our volunteers:

*First Baptist Church  
Memorial Presbyterian Church  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Bethany Lutheran Church Women  
Church of Christ Women  
United Methodist Church Sunday School Classes  
Cynthia Berkman, June Phillips, Michelle Weberpal & Judy Hoopman*



### **Habitat Has Fun After Five**

Habitat for Humanity was pleased to take part in the Chamber of Commerce Fun After Five mixer for area non-profits held at the Admiral Nimitz Museum on Feb. 27.

Habitat VP and Chamber Ambassador Kelly Musselman "womans" the table at the event that helped build awareness of the organization and their work on House #15.

## Habitat To Select New Family for House #15

Families that apply for a Habitat home know one thing- it is hand up, not a hand-out. Habitat homes are not "given" to anyone, they are paid for like any other house, through a monthly mortgage, including insurance and taxes.

Potential new home owners must meet a set of strict criteria to become eligible for a Habitat home, show that they are gainfully

employed, have a family in need, and are currently renting somewhere in Gillespie County. The must also put in 300 hours of "sweat equity"- actual labor on their new home.

Families are vetted through an interview process by the Habitat Family Selection Committee, followed by a background check and home visit. The committee then meets

with the Habitat board to make the final decision.

"We really appreciate what Habitat did for our family," says one Habitat owner. "They help people that need a better place to live."

Habitat is currently in the process of selecting a family for House #15 from several qualifying applicants.

*Habitat Family Selection Committee*

*Julie Southwick*

*Anne Finn*

*Mary Heidtke Wilson*

*Margaret Solbrig*

*Becky Walch*

*Priscilla Murphy*

*Jason Rustin*

*Martha Foster*

*Nancy White*

*June Phillips*



**A team effort for House #15- Care-A-Vanners and Fredericksburgers break ground. From left: Tommy Newman, Don Smith, Pete Jensen, Ben Vanderlugt, Betty Huygen, Linda Aide, Jeanette Vanderlugt, Marilyn Adams, John Hugen, Idamae Downs, Dwight Adams, Karen Alderden, Wayne Murphy, Craig Sundermeyer, June Phillips, Sandy Sundermyer, Russ Ritter, Shirley Harvey, Kelly Musselman, Richard Harvey, Bob Alderden, & Dick Aide. (Not pictured, but not forgotten, C.E. & Timmie Cherry, Bill Downs, Maria Ritter, Don Ingels, Russell Vowell, Tommy Hynes, & Al Bispo).**

**(Not so) Dirt Cheap**

As most anyone can tell you, it's not just the cost of the home, but the cost of the land that drives up housing prices in the Fredericksburg area.

Affordable lots are very hard to come by, which is why Habitat is always on the look out for land. Luckily House #15 had the lot donated by a generous family.

If you would like to donate property for future Habitat Homes, please contact us about this tax-deductible gift.

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### How You Can Help Us "Raise the Roof"!

The cost of a Habitat home has grown over the years, from \$25,000 for House #1 in 1995 to \$90,000 almost twenty years later for House #15. (Labor is donated).

It is only through the kindness and generosity of our local community that we are able to accomplish the building of these homes for people in need of decent, safe, affordable housing.

With the help of a recent substantial contribution from a generous donor, Habitat has met the matching amount toward our challenge grant of \$25,000, given by an anonymous Hill Country Foundation. This grant, plus the additional monies raised to date, has put Habitat at \$65,000 toward our "Raise the Roof" goal of \$90,000.

Please help us to truly "Raise the Roof" on Habitat House #15 with an added donation of your own. Contributions are tax-deductible and very much appreciated!

