

Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity Newsletter

Winter, 2002

Serving Albion, Belgrade, Benton, China, Clinton, Fairfield, Oakland, Rome, Smithfield, Unity, Vassalboro, Waterville, and Winslow.

Habitat – a step up, not a hand out.

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Vice President:
Scott Guay

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Humanity
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Committee Volunteers Attend Training (by Scott Guay)

A Habitat affiliate is a complex and multi-faceted organization that depends on dedicated volunteers not only for building houses, but also for managing the many tasks that occur "behind the scenes". In addition to the Board of Directors, several WAHFH committees have been formed to oversee such areas as family selection and support, fundraising and community relations, site evaluation, and volunteer coordination.

On January 12, 2002 chairpersons and members of several WAHFH committees met at the Alford Youth Center for a discussion with Art Wilt, a training manager with Habitat for Humanity International. This informal session provided volunteers the opportunity to discuss issues specific to our local affiliate.

Much of the day's conversation focused on cultivating and maintaining volunteer interest during times when there are no construction projects underway. Although the building of a house is an exciting event in which many people want to participate, reaching that goal requires many months of committee work to insure that an appropriate partner family is chosen, a workable construction plan is in place, and the funds are in hand to see the project to completion.

Mr. Wilt offered several suggestions for recruiting and retaining committee members, as well as for developing management strategies to help individual committees accomplish their goals in an efficient, effective manner. He stressed that people volunteer for many reasons, and that finding the right job for each individual was paramount to maintaining their interest. He also discussed the importance of holding committee members accountable, emphasizing that responsibility to an organization

*Come one, come all, to the
Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity
Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 5, 2 pm
Business Meeting with the election of new
Board members.
Homemade deserts will be served.
Pleasant Street United Methodist Church*

is the same whether one is collecting a paycheck or not.

If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, chances are WAHFH can find just the right fit for your particular talents. Please contact us for more information by email or phone, as listed in the left margin..

Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Trip ()

Over the past few years Colby College students have given their time and energy to help build houses with the Southern Kennebec County Habitat for Humanity and a HFHI affiliate in South Carolina. The Colby community's support for Habitat has been immeasurable especially considering the eagerness of Colby College students to commit their spring breaks to volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. Interest in Collegiate Habitat for Humanity spring break trips has been so popular in recent years that limitations were set on the number of people who could participate in the trip. Each year about one dozen students, led by Colby alumnus Colin Widener '01, dedicated their time to help construct a house near Widener's hometown in South Carolina. With Widener's graduation, the new leaders of Colby's Habitat for Humanity Club are currently in the process of making new arrangements for a collegiate chapter trip this coming March. Students are communicating with Lisa Marie Nickerson, Habitat for Humanity's Campus Chapters and Youth Programs Manager, to determine where our services are needed the most. Colby's Habitat Club plans to use the funds allocated by the Student Government Association to pay for any expenses. We are looking forward to working hard and helping to provide others with decent, affordable housing. In the meantime, Colby students are also dedicating their time to help establish the Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity Chapter as well as our own official campus chapter.

**Looking for a little action?
Want to put a little spice in your life?
Want to live on the edge, just for once?**

Why not join the Development Committee? We're a group of 4 (yes, just 4) committed volunteers seeking like-minded volunteers to raise money for WAH4H's first house. Won't you support WAH4H by giving your time, your talents and your energy? You can learn more about this exciting opportunity by calling Alison Webb at 872-7905.

**Just remember: It takes a Development
Committee to Raise Money!**

The Church and Habitat for Humanity (excerpts from HFHI)

Habitat for Humanity is known as a volunteer organization, and churches have brought many people to the work of Habitat. Some groups send three or four volunteers to one or more projects. Other churches sponsor an entire house and provide all the labor needed to build the house. Habitat projects need skilled and unskilled volunteers.

Not everyone can climb on a roof or hang insulation, however. Volunteers can serve in many other ways—as organizers, photographers, publicists, child care helpers, cooks and snack

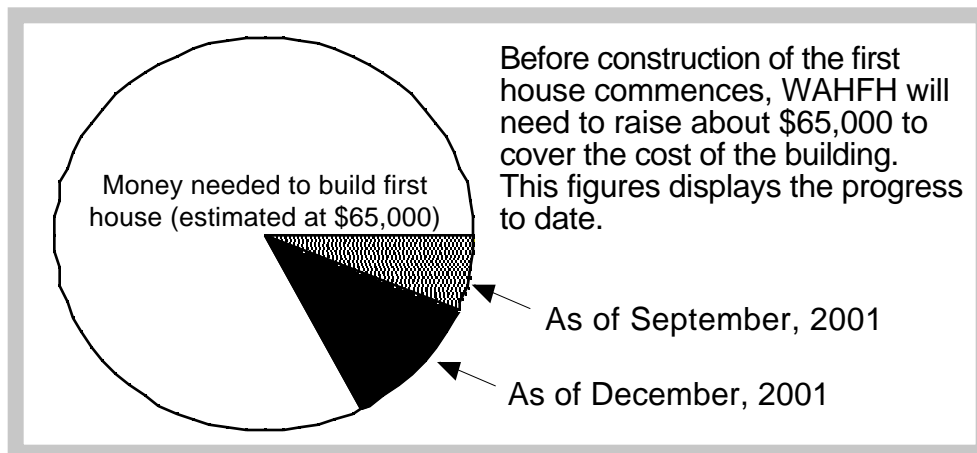
providers, errand runners, family supporters, and the like. Even children can decorate nail aprons and help in various ways.

Many people are attracted to Habitat for Humanity because they want to build. The reality, however, is that it takes money to buy the boards and nails and siding and roofing to build a house. Churches have been a tremendous source of financial support for Habitat projects. Some people give occasional or regular donations. Some faith organizations include Habitat in their budget. Other groups commit to raising all or part of the cost of a house. Some build one or more houses every year. Many groups have found that their people are so excited about building a house that raising the money was the easiest part.

Faith groups are filled with people who have all kinds of knowledge and abilities. One person may offer help in identifying and selecting property. Another person might offer plumbing services, and another might be able to arrange incredible media coverage. People who become passionate about an opportunity to live out their faith offer many gifts to a Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

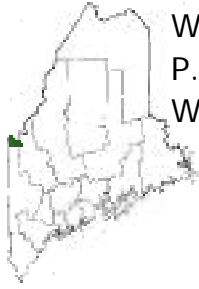
Habitat for Humanity offers many opportunities for building houses in other countries. Many churches organize short-term mission teams to build during Holy Week or at other times of the year. Churches can be matched with a location where they already have mission ties if they wish.

Becoming a Habitat for Humanity partner is a win-win situation for everyone. Habitat offers a unique opportunity for people in the pew to experience their faith in new and exciting ways. Faith organizations can see their group come alive when they reach out into the community. Over and over groups report that attendance and giving increases and that commitment to other ministries of the congregation grows because people get excited about their faith by working on a Habitat house.

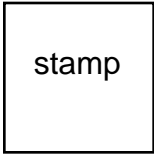


Status of Application for Affiliation

As of this newsletter, the application for affiliation has been completed and submitted for initial review by Laura MacNeil, Regional Affiliate Director. The final changes to the application should be completed soon.



Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity
 P.O. Box 1972
 Waterville, Maine 04903-1972



Mailing Label

Calendar of Events

Tues., Feb. 26	WAHFH speaks to the Fairfield United Methodist Church, 6:30 pm
Wed., Feb. 27	Faith Relations Committee meeting, 10 am, Pleasant Street United Methodist Church
Tues., Mar. 5	Board meeting, 6:30 pm, Colby College, Olin 335
Tues., Mar. 12	Family Selection meeting, 7 pm
Tues., Mar. 19	Volunteer Committee meeting, 7 pm
Tues., Mar. 25	Family Selection Committee training, 6:30 pm
Tues., Apr. 2	Board meeting, 6:30 pm, Colby College, Olin 335
Sat., Apr. 6	Subregional training, Amherst, MA
Tues., Apr. 9	Family Selection meeting, 7 pm
Thurs., Apr. 11	Family Support Committee training (tentative)
Tues., Apr. 16	Volunteer Committee meeting, 7 pm
Sun., May 5	Annual WAHFH meeting with Board elections, Pleasant Street United Methodist Church, 2 pm. Business meeting and homemade deserts.
Sun., May 5	Church Brainstorming meeting immediately following Annual meeting
Tues., May 7	Board meeting, 6:30 pm, Colby College, Olin 335

If you would like to participate in any of these activities, please contact us by email or phone, as listed on the first page.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Volunteer committee – volunteers to make phone calls, volunteers for fundraising activities, volunteers to organize participation in community events, volunteers to orient new volunteers.

Fundraising committee – volunteers for fund raising, volunteers to serve on fundraising committee, volunteers to complete a fundraising calendar.