



Habitat for Humanity of Merced County NEWSLETTER

Issue 38

February 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT



By Lyle Alien

The status of Project #11: Some wonderful things have been happening! Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the Mennonite men who framed the Upsonas' home in one day! This group of Christian men is a wonderful example of how people can help deserving families to have their own home! We are currently working on applying the siding, running electrical wiring, and placing the venting that goes thru the roof from the waste lines. If you have the opportunity, come by the site to view the progress. Work crews are active on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and for a longer shift on Saturdays. The address is 421 W 6th Street in Merced.

My tenure as president is about to end. We are hoping to have the new president on board in February. It has been one of my most rewarding life experiences in terms of my personal spiritual growth. Very few people have a job where virtually everyone wants you to succeed and many people give of themselves, to help in this mission of building homes in partnership with deserving families. There are many organizations doing good work in every community, but Habitat's work has to be among the most rewarding in terms of building good citizens and better communities. Everyone who supports Habitat with funds or volunteer labor should know that we are all growing along with our partner families. I am deeply grateful that I have had this time to bring my spirit closer to what, I believe, God intends for each of us. This ecumenical organization welcomes all who want to help, and I feel that this helps all of us to grow spiritually.

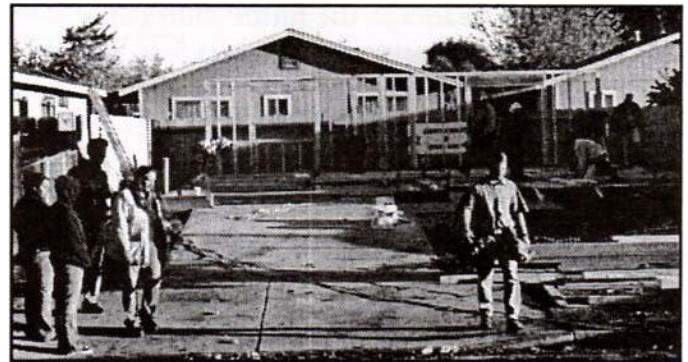
I will continue to be active as the Supervisor of Construction, and in this capacity my challenge will be to surrender at the appropriate time to those who are more skilled at the various phases of construction. We will work diligently to complete this home as partners with Cathy and her family.

Habitat needs: We are like any small business and can use the skills that are needed in addition to actual construction help. If you can help, call or email: Lyle Alien, phone 723-2671, e-mail lallen3903@aol.com.

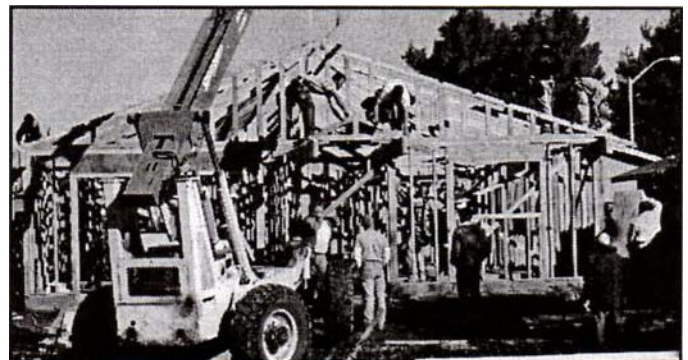
I want to thank you for your support and prayers for our ministry. Please know that we accomplish this work because of your help. May God bless and keep us together in these efforts. -Lyle

Winton's workers of wonders with wood wow us again

We refer, of course, to the Mennonite men who have helped us so significantly in the past. They came out 28 strong on Saturday, December 3rd, and between 7:00 and 2:00 framed the home for Kathy Upson and her children Jennifer, Rochelle and Gory. You are encouraged to see the continuing progress at 421 W. Sixth St, Merced. We hope to announce the date of the home dedication program in our next issue. In the photos below you can note the progress made **between an 8:00 o'clock shot and an 11:00 o'clock shot.** Those men were movin'. Here are their names which we publish with great gratitude: Daniel and Mitch **Boehs**, Kevin, Jalin and Morgan **Bronson**, Stanton **Friesen**, Shawn **Giesbrecht**, Fred, Eric, Jerry, Terry and Marty **High tower**, Lonnie **Koehn**, Gary, Mark, John, Leonard and Waylon **Jantz**, Dean, Richard and Sidney **Loewen**, Justin **Ludwig**, Sid **Nightengale**, Alex and Russell **Spence**, David **Steiner**, Evan **Unruh**, and Phillip **Warkentin**.



What a difference three hours can make - if you have people who know what to do and are willing to do it!



Founding board member dies

Carolynn Zumwalt Pitman, 77, died at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto on January 2nd. Her death was attributed to multiple myeloma which she fought courageously much of last year. In life she was a valued member not only of our Habitat board (12 years as chair of volunteers), but also the Hospice of Merced board and the United Methodist Church of Merced. Special interests included theater, travel, genealogy and reading. She is survived by her husband Marsh, son Dr. Paul M. Pitman III of Canyon, daughter Myra Ratzesberger of Goleta, sister Barbara Grant of Sonora, and three grandchildren. Remembrances may be made to Habitat for Humanity of Merced County, P O Box 423, Atwater, CA 95301, or to a favorite charity. A memorial service will be held at the UMC of Merced on April 8th, at 11:00 a.m. You are invited to attend. Marsh may be addressed at 2832 E. Arden Ln., Merced, CA 95340.

New board members

2 + 2 or maybe more. Two new board members were elected at the January meeting: Iris Jackson, who served on the board several years ago, and Pat Shay, a retired educator and un-retired realtor. There's an expectation that several more board members will be elected when the Board convenes next on February 14th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Merced. Our cause will be strengthened by the participation of these fine new leaders,

Other Board notes

Melinda Cornwell has been having a long and vexing ordeal following cataract surgery back on October 31, 2005. Some follow-up surgery will have to be performed sometime this spring.

Fred Pillsbury had an enjoyable Christmas holiday with relatives in Arkansas.

Bill Sanford, with his wife Jeanne, journeyed -roundtrip - to Paradise January 7-8 to attend the 50th anniversary of the chartering of the Paradise United Methodist Church. Bill was "the first U.M. minister ever appointed to Paradise."

Project 5 revisited - Home of the Bravos

Just over 4-1/2 years ago the future didn't appear very bright for this Habitat partner family. Then they were selected to be our partners on Project 5 at 1604 McSwain Rd. (Hwy. 140 W at W St.) which was dedicated on July 15, 2001. The father, Antonio, Sr., says the house has been a great blessing, especially as a good, secure base for the growing boys of which they have three.

Asked for an update on January 15th, the five-some offered this report: Antonio continues on the sales staff of Beltran Brothers Auto Outlet on V St. Angelica is poised to open a new business at 525 W. Main St. The shop, named D'mar, will sell candy and gifts. All family members are giving strong support and concrete help. Friends of Habitat are encouraged to go in and say 'hello.' A purchase would be welcome, too. Moving right along: Antonio, Jr. is taking some classes at Merced College while tending to a part-time lawn and yard care business with a brother. Fernando, besides assisting his brother, is working on a master's degree in Public Administration at CSUStanislaus. And Luis is on course to receive an AA degree from Merced College this June. He is currently applying to several four-year colleges intent on furthering his education.

Those who worked on the house are gratified that the family is taking such good care of both the house and yard. Yea, Bravos!



Pictured at our Annual Meeting in November: The Antonio Bravo family four-fifths strong. Dad was not able to attend, but you see above Angelica and the three sons.

Thanks To Our Contributors

The following have sent contributions to our affiliate since September 20, 2005. Cut-off date for this listing: received by January 20, 2006. If there are any errors or omissions, please call Bill Sanford at 357-0701.

Individuals/ Families:

Dora R. Aja

Lee & Ann Andersen

Sophia Andow

Aunita Armstrong

Lois M Bigelow

Jackie Blevins

Julie Brannan

Jerry & Barbara Cameron

Albert & Katherine Cesario

Bert & Nancy Crane

Ron & Mary Denault

Gary & Connie Derr

Donald & Sherry Ellis

Urla Garland

Max & Sarah Greene

Allan & Cydne Grimsby

Lily Hamaguchi

George & Gina Henri

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Evelyn Keller James & Frances

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& Dana Moroni Lynn

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Shirley & Robert Olson Mary

Otway Gordon & Lou Phillips

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Marsh & Carolynn Pitman

Fred & Beverly Rush

Kathy Soto

Mary W. Spaulding

Terry Tatum

Orrie L. Taylor

Virginia Taylor

June Toler (estate)

Pat & Anita Trieweiler

Marguerite Whitney

Kenneth & Margaret Wilce

In honor of. . .

*Perry Harris Given by Janet
Harding*

*Jeanne & Bill Sanford
Given by Pat & Bill Spicer*

In memory of...

*Howard Arnold Given by
Wilma Arnold*

*Millie & David Blazina and Louis
P. Gonella Given by Dr. Lawrence
Blazina and Doris M. Gonella*

*John Caligiuri
Given by Frances A. Arduengo
Given by Kathleen M. Caligiuri
Given by Club 13 of Hibbing, MN*

*Harry Darlington Given by Ruth
S. Darlington*

*Bill Horn Given by Nettie M.
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*Dan Kelsay Given by Florabelle
Lathrop*

*Larry Nelson Given by Jan &
Larry Sorge*

*Carolynn Pitman Given by
Barbara & Fred
Lindenberg Given
by Charley & Sally
Magneson
Given by Roland & Laretta Orth
Given by Fred T. Pillsbury Given
by Bill & Jeanne Sanford Given
by Bill & Myra Stockard*

*Robert W. Venable Given by
Caroline Venable*

Businesses:

Albertsons

Highland Partners Group, Inc.

Churches:

New Life Community Church

Organizations:

Beta Sigma Phi

Hattie Givens Testamentary Trust

*A thought: write a check now,
read your name here next issue*

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County Newsletter
is published 3 – 4 times a year.

Editor: Bill Sanford 357-0701

Our Affiliate's phone number: 209/358-7280

Our meeting schedule:

Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

*Meeting place: Changes twice a year. Thank you to St. Patrick's Catholic Church,
Merced, our host from January to June 2006.*

The largest gift ever... so far

June S. Toler, a retired Atwater school teacher, active member of the Atwater United Methodist Church and good friend of Habitat, died December 11, 2004. From her estate has come, at her express request, a gift to Habitat in the amount of \$19,500. June's children, Patricia A. Leonard of Merced, Bryan Toler of Bend, Oregon, and Bruce Toler of Oroville, honored their mother's request. We thank all of them most heartily. Such a great help and what a fine example!

Our affiliate board is working on a plan to appropriately recognize this gift. Under current consideration is the possibility of naming one or more rooms in Project 11 in memory of June. A decision will probably be made at either the February or March board meeting.

About the form enclosed: The death of Carol Pitman, our devoted Volunteers Committee Chair, presents us with a good time to update our records. We encourage your prompt response/reply. Thank you.

MISSION STATEMENT

Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with God's people in need, by building and renovating houses, so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which God's people can live and grow into all that God intended.

Tithe report

Bonnie Watson, Affiliate Tithe Manager, writes from HFH headquarters in Americus, Georgia: "The average cost of a Habitat house outside the United States is \$4,200. Tithe funds have built more than 45,000 houses over the life of the program and roughly 2,500 houses in 2004." Our affiliate's 2005 tithe - for work in Mexico - amounted to \$4,119.15. Isn't it great? We make a difference in two places at once!

Local Habitat phone needs relocation

For a number of years Barbara Lindenberg has 'sheltered' (housed) our affiliate's official telephone of 358-7280. She has rendered an important and selfless service, and we thank her for 'personing' this vital communication tool. New circumstances require that she "pass the baton" to another. We're mixing metaphors here, but we need someone to "step up to the plate" soon. If you might be willing to take up the task, please call Barbara at the number above to find out exactly what the demands of the office would be.

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