

Pickens Habitat Happenings

P.O Box 1072

135 Cares Drive

Jasper, GA 30143

706.253.2393

Volume 3

November, 2009

Glad Tidings of the Season...And a Plea for Your Continued Support

Yep, "it's that time of year". Only this year it is not quite as rosy as it has been in some years, but at Pickens Habitat we're excited as we prepare to kick off our 11th house, to be followed shortly by the 12th. The needs that our partner families face have not sagged with the downturn in the economy, and neither have our spirits as we work to continue to provide them with affordable housing.

We wish for you and yours a very merry Christmas, and pray that the joy and hope that is implicit in the birth of the Christ Child is poured out on you abundantly. Habitat certainly believes and practices a theology of sufficiency; i.e., that there are enough resources in our local area to provide safe, decent and affordable housing for God's people in need.

We are going to have a foundation, lumber for framing, and shingles for rooming, sheetrock for walls, and all the other "stuff that dreams are made of". Best of all, our dedicated and selfless volunteers are going to show up in numbers to make it happen one more time, and then one more time after that. So as soon as you hear our message that we are in business once again, please come on out.

And, no matter where in the spectrum you fall, we need your financial support. As my Cajun relatives say, "them 2 x 4's and dat paint, dey cost money" and we rely on you to supply the dollars that are needed to make it all come to pass. So, "when you make your list and check it twice", please include Habitat for Humanity in your giving.

Thank You! Finally, thank you for your wonderful support this year and in years past. Your prayers, labor, money, and cheers have made it possible for ten families (that's more than 40 people!) to be living in safe, decent and affordable housing this Christmas season.

We extend our wishes to you all for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Joyous Christmas, and a wonderful 2010.



Habitat Families Receive Computers

On October 20, Habitat for Humanity presented two computers to Habitat homeowners, the Powell family and the Bailey family. These were surplus computers

that Pickens County was ready to scrap, but Commissioner Robert Jones intervened and extended an offer to Habitat, asking if they could be refurbished and given to partner families. Fortunately, Habitat was able to get the computers up and running with Internet capability and a basic operating system. These are good starter computers for children to use to learn and experiment.



Marie Powell flanked by her three children, along with Commissioner Robert Jones and Habitat volunteers, Juanita Vaughn and Patricia Macari.

Hopefully, additional computers will be made available to other Habitat families thanks to this joint effort between the County and Habitat volunteers. If you have a working computer that you wish to donate, please contact us at 706.253.2393, or via e-mail at pchfh@etcmail.com.

PCHFH Construction Committee Analyzes Building Costs

During the past several months, the PCHFH Construction Committee has been engaged in a comprehensive review of home building costs. The analysis concentrated on the top ten expenditures involved in completion of a family home.

The review was spearheaded by Bob Burton and Keith Scott. Chairpersons Dee Greenwell and Sue Hopper were delighted with the diligence and proficiency applied to the process. Team leaders were asked to review the costs associated with specific aspects of each of the essential steps required in a home building. Team leaders' assessments included suppliers, techniques, and materials within the local and outlying area.

Some of the steps receiving particular scrutiny were excavation, grading, foundation, framing, siding, plumbing, HVAC, trusses, drywall, flooring, and roofing. Each team leader was asked to review current costs, suppliers, and tradesmen for effectiveness, value, and services being provided. While the process will



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continue, the investigation to date has revealed certain areas that could produce efficiencies and cost savings, all the while producing a safe and affordable home for partner families.

The committee discovered that in some cases, we were being provided with the best products at the best price and with great service, but we also concluded that there remain additional opportunities to do better as far as price and materials are concerned. For example, it was determined that concrete could be obtained at a lower per-yard price; that better lumber may be available at a more competitive price; that once an initial outlay for some equipment was made, hanging the siding ourselves would be a money saver; and that using a variety of flooring materials -- some provided as a Gift-in-Kind -- would be a money saver. Additionally, exploration continues regarding excavation, plumbing, HVAC and the use of wooden I-Beams as opposed to floor trusses.

All in all, the committee agreed that the exercise was very enlightening and extremely educational, and will serve our Chapter very well today and in the future as we seek to make the best use of our precious resources.

Habitat for Humanity Dedicates 10th Home

On August 23, Pickens County Habitat for Humanity dedicated its 10th home. The Bailey family (Donna and her children Kayla and Dylan) is the proud owner of this new home located on Lilly Circle in Jasper.



Pickens Habitat President Al Rothe, Jr. introduces the Bailey family -- Donna and her children Kayla and Dylan -- at the dedication of their new home.

A crowd of about 60 well-wishers (volunteers, donors, friends and family) were on hand to participate in this event and to wish the Baileys luck and happiness in their new abode. Al Rothe, Jr., President of this Habitat affiliate presided over the ceremony and noted that Habitat homes are built by volunteers and depend on donations from its many supporters, both local and

national. As with every partner home, Donna Bailey had to contribute 200 hours of Habitat "sweat equity" in order to qualify for this home.

E-Mail Saves PCHFH Paper and Postage

If you haven't done so already, please consider signing up to receive future Pickens County Habitat for Humanity notices and newsletters **electronically**. Doing so will help us to reduce postage and paper, and thus increase the resources that we have available for our primary mission of building homes. Go to www.pickenshfh.org, click on "E-mail Subscription / Volunteer Preferences" on the menu on the left side of the page, and fill in your contact information.

Want To Volunteer?

Learn about volunteer opportunities and sign up on the PCHFH Website,

www.pickenshfh.org. Call or e-mail if you have any questions. You can reach the Habitat office at 706.253.2393, or via e-mail at pchfh@etcmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

There are Many Ways to Donate to PCHFH

All Pickens County Habitat for Humanity donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law and will be acknowledged with a letter that you may use for those purposes. Gifts made on-line are completely safe, thanks to our secure-server capability.



If you prefer to donate by mail, please send your check to:

Habitat for Humanity - Pickens County
PO Box 1072
Jasper, GA 30143

We have many needs, and you can find details about the many opportunities to give at the 'Donate' link on our website www.pickenshfh.org. We take seriously our responsibility to contributors, to those counting on our help to be wise stewards of funds entrusted to us.

Please Give Us Your Feedback and Ideas

We welcome your feedback, thoughts, ideas, and suggestions about how to improve this newsletter. Just call the Habitat office at 706.253.2393 or send an e-mail to newsletter@pickenshfh.org

