



Rapidan Habitat for Humanity



Locust Grove, VA

Est. 1992

December 2004

Rapidan Habitat Offers Thanks and Encourages More Kindness

2004 has been a banner year for Rapidan Habitat for Humanity. The group oversaw the building of four complete homes for four recipient families. They held a successful fundraising golf tournament that helped to build their coffers in preparation for more good works. And, most recently, we have purchased additional parcels of land so that Habitat can help more families achieve their dreams of home ownership.

Now that 2004 is drawing to a close, the Board of Directors for Rapidan Habitat wants to broadcast their appreciation to the entire community of Orange County. Without the selfless, incredibly generous support of multiple Orange County businesses, as well as the support of countless Orange County-based individuals, these homes would never have gotten off the ground, much less have seen their way through to completion.

Don Hughes, owner of the Orange Paint Center and a member of Rapidan Habitat's board, puts it this way. "The number of businesses around here who have given so generously, well, it's hard to even keep count of them. Orange County is lucky to have so many generous businesses and individuals...Habitat couldn't begin to do half of what we accomplish without the support of this great community."

So what kind of people get involved with helping Habitat, the non-profit that works to provide families, who might otherwise be living in squalor, with clean, affordable and decent housing? It runs the gamut, from hardware store owners who donate hammers, to contractors who donate the work of their crews, to garden clubs who enlist their members in designing and planting the landscaping around newly built homes.

John Henry, president of Rapidan Habitat, is enthusiastic in his gratitude towards the residents of Orange County. "We couldn't exist without all of these kind supporters. People give of themselves so selflessly; it's really inspiring to see. I wish all the supporters could see, on a daily basis, the effect that their efforts have on the lives of these families. It's the difference between living in a run-down, dilapidated trailer versus living in an honest-to-goodness home. When our families receive their Habitat houses, they frequently describe the experience as being one of the top

highlights of their lives. It's not just that they are moving their families into good, solidly built homes, it's also that they feel the support, caring, and compassion of the community around them. It's hard to put into words how this affects each and every member of a Habitat family, it's hard to put into words how affecting it is to those of us who dedicate ourselves to this cause. All I can say is that the people of Orange County should feel proud that they are so able to respond to need, and that they are so generous in their responses."

What, then, is the outlook for the coming year? Henry says that he hopes to build four houses in the space of the next twelve months and would especially like to duplicate the success of last summer's "blitz build", an event that saw the building of the four houses at Tatum Villa in an incredibly speedy time frame.

"Look at the eighteen homes we've done so far," says Henry. "And there are still plenty more people of Orange County who could get involved...if we up the involvement of the community to an even greater degree, there's no telling how much we can accomplish."

What can an individual do in order to assist in this noble cause? You can call any member of the Habitat board to volunteer your time. If you own a business that produces products related to construction, you can donate extra materials you may have left over from work orders. You can get your church group or other community-oriented group to pitch in and take charge of a large portion of a build-project. You can recruit more helpers to come and lend a hand during the actual building.

One of the best things about Habitat is that there are so many ways to be involved. For instance, a church can "adopt" a house by furnishing volunteers to build the house. Every moment you can spare, every dime you can contribute, every stick of wood you can offer up...know that each and every contribution you make will be making an enormous difference in the lives of an Orange County family. Your contribution counts here, in an entirely immediate way. There are many charities you can give to where your funds will be dropped into a general pool.

When you give to Rapidan Habitat, you can rest assured that your contribution will make an immediate, noticeable difference. This Christmas, you can pick up a hammer, you can lend a hand, and, by doing so, you can put new pride in the hearts of honest, upstanding families.



The Presidents

Corner:
by **John Henry**

Greetings:

HABITAT NEEDS HELP!

The Tatum Villa project is winding down to a close. Habitat is now moving into our future, acquiring seven new building sites in the Rhoadesville and Locust Grove areas.

These sites will see Habitat's building program for the next two years. We have another eight acre tract promised at a price Habitat can just afford. All of this takes a lot of workers and money. Your contributions may be sent to Habitat, P. O. Box 545, Locust Grove, VA 22508.

VOLUNTEERS

As we move out of Winter and into Spring, we will need helpers with construction work experience. We plan to build four homes in 2005. Help is needed now with fund raising and several committees.

BUILDING COSTS

In addition to the cost of lots it is costing Habitat about \$40,000 to build a three BR house. This includes all building materials and services that are donated.

Habitat does get some breaks on building materials and services. We still have to provide some \$30-\$35,000 for services and materials. Organizations and churches can hold special events and projects to benefit Habitat. Individuals and organizations donations are always welcome.

End-of-year donations are welcome and Habitat is a good charity.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD!

We welcome three new members to Habitat's Board. Welcome to:

Lori Barden, Branch Manager for Second Bank at Locust Grove. Lori brings Financial and Managerial Experience to the Board.

Wade Ferguson. Wade works for Lowes in Culpeper and adds managerial skills to the Board. Wade is a new Habitat homeowner in Tatum Villa.

Melissa Murphy. Melissa is an Educator and a Freelance Writer. She and her new husband, Peter, live in Orange. Melissa has already taken on two major writing assignments for Habitat.

HABITAT PARTNERS

PATCH HOLES

It's not a whole house if it has extra holes in it. Filling holes in the houses is a continuing job for Habitat affiliates. Filling holes to make a whole house works like this:

HOLE-IN-THE-WALL!

Habitat needed eighty five sheets of drywall per house to hold the insulation in place and separate the rooms. The four houses at Tatum Villa required three hundred and forty sheets of drywall. *84 Lumber Foundation* donated \$4,363 for the drywall. *84 Lumber* in Culpeper delivered the material in good condition.

HOLE-IN-THE-KITCHEN!

The kitchen was nice but bare! Habitat needed cabinets to make the kitchen whole. *American Woodmark Foundation* came to the rescue. The Foundation donated \$4,800 for the cabinets in the kitchen and bath. The four kitchens and baths were made whole.

HOLE-IN-THE-DOORS!

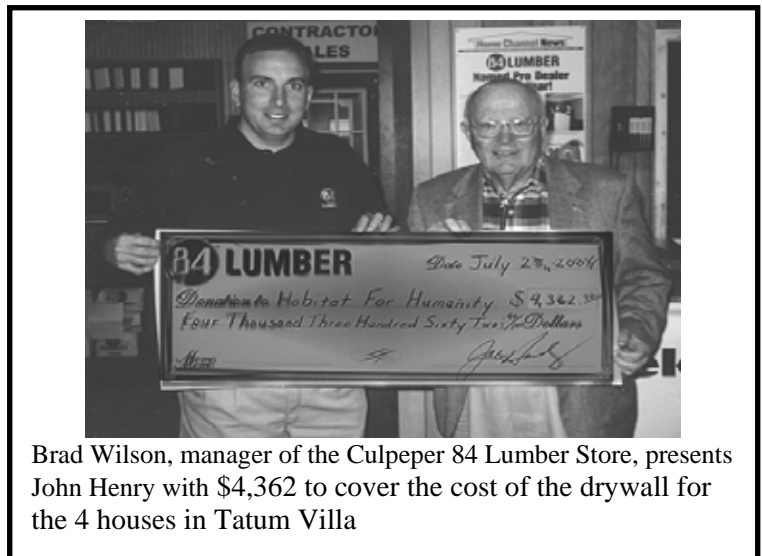
The outside doors had two holes in each and the inside doors each had one hole. Rappahanock Locksmith, "*Door Decorators*" donated the dead bolts and door latches and installed them in all four houses.

HOLE-IN-THE-BATH!

There were two holes in each bathroom. One hole over the wash basin and one in the floor. A \$150 donation put a commode in the floor hole. A \$50 donation put the mirror and medicine cabinet into the hole above the wash basin.

Windows, window shades, floor coverings and many other items, (i.e.), Paint, nails, door stops are provided with donations of \$5, \$10, \$25 and \$100. Every donation is a helping hand.

Our thanks to all of Habitat's "Patching Partners."



Brad Wilson, manager of the Culpeper 84 Lumber Store, presents John Henry with \$4,362 to cover the cost of the drywall for the 4 houses in Tatum Villa

LANDSCAPING TATUM VILLA

Thanks to the Garden Clubs in Orange County for their work in landscaping the four homes in Tatum Villa.

This work has been delayed by rain, rain, rain! The seeding of the bare land is the last step before a final inspection of the homes can be made. Some of this landscaping will now have to wait until Spring. The LOW Garden Club has completed landscaping the Coppage house.

The Orange Garden Club, Dolly Madison Garden Club and the Rapid Ann Garden Clubs have some of the shrubs and flowers planted. They are caught in a holding pattern because of the plentiful rains. The Coppage yard, landscaped by Rick Brown of the LOW Garden Club, has been completed and converted into a park-like setting. The new grass is growing and is as



green as a Spring meadow.

The side yard is dotted with flower beds featuring a variety of Spring and Summer bulbs ranging from crocuses, narcissi to hyacinths. Shrubs include three Japanese Snow Balls in the side yard. The visitor is greeted by a Nellie Stevens Holly at the right front, a string of Butter Fly bushes and tall Feather Reed Grass clumps along the driveway. The front and side beds are abloom with Fall Pansies fronting a year-long flowering collection of dwarf Nandina and Blue Star Juniper and back-dropped with Red Holly.

The collection and arrangement of plants provide flowers and color from early Spring to late Fall. A great job! *Thanks Rick.*



\$100 prize. The team shot a score of 60. Second place went to the team of (left to right) Sparkey Watson, Marvin Snoddy, Bob Halstead and Ray Godfrey who received the \$80 prize. Two teams were tied at 65 and the score card "Play off" determined the winner. The score for second and third places was 65.



Third place, \$60 prize, went to the team of Steve Clark, Kevin McCormick Rob Fultiner, (Who also, won the raffle for the set of Ping clubs.), and Bob Ordnung.

Fourth place, \$40 prize, went to the team of David Patten, Greg Ward, Pete Bagel and Irvin Childress with a score of 66.

The players and Sponsors really make the tournament. The Sponsors insure the financial success of the tournament.

Sponsors included: The *Central Virginia Weekly*, (Orange Review and the *Culpeper News*), *Herndon Chevrolet of Orange*, and the *Knights of Pythius of Fredericksburg*.

Other Sponsors included: *Orange Paint Center, Doral Hupp and Sons, Marvin Snoddy, Purvis Ford of Fredericksburg, Hugh Teller of Locust Grove, Alice and John Henry, Mason's Insurance of Orange, VA, Senator Ed Houck, Delegate Ed Scott, Jim and Janet Bloom, Second Bank and Trust of Locust Grove, Dominion Auto of Locust Grove, Sedwick Building Supply of Orange, Johnson's Funeral Home of Locust Grove and Roger Jerrell Construction.*

The tournament cleared about \$3,300. The profits will go towards building a septic field or water well for a habitat family.

Farewell, Farewell, Marlene.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a dear friend and devoted Habitat supporter, Marlene Dominick. John Henry offers the following reminiscence in honor of Marlene.

The year was 1992. Rapidan Habitat received its charter in August. Marlene approached me in a store and asked, "John, aren't you with Habitat." "Yes," I said, not knowing what was coming next. It was a real surprise! She asked, "Can't you find something for my husband to do? He sits in front of that danged TV all day long and just stares at that tube." "I'll see if I can find some work for him," I promised.

Marlene and Bud went to work on Habitat's first house. Marlene worked at lunches, Family Selection and Support, newsletters, fund raising, clean-up detail around the building site and later took an active role with the Women Build group. Marlene and Bud have worked on every house Rapidan Habitat has built--that is eighteen homes now! Marlene arranged to get Habitat families together to put in sweat equity hours and work on newsletters. They would gather around her dining table and fold, stick together and put address labels on them, then sort them by zip code. It was always a party with Marlene in charge. Marlene's latest major effort for Habitat was with the Woman Built group. Marlene loved the program to have "the ladies build a house."

Marlene, we will miss you! We miss your cheerful personality, as well as the goofy things you did and said just to get a laugh. Most of all we will miss you, your enthusiastic attitude and hard work.



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P.O. Box 545
Locust Grove, VA 22508

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Enjoy beautiful harp music? - CD's are now available, thanks to Virginia Bethune of Harrisonburg, mother of Anna Collins of Orange. Virginia records these harp CD's and all the money raised goes to benefit Habitat for Humanity. CD's available are Healing Harp Melodies I; Christmas Fantasia with harp/flute/dulcimer, and Healing Harp Melodies II. Cost is \$15 each, or 2 for \$25; special bargain: 3 or more for \$12 each.

All CD's sold in Orange will benefit Rapidan Habitat for Humanity. CD's will be at the Orange Presbyterian Church, or contact Anna Collins at 661-3562 (anbecollins@hotmail.com).

Still Time to Take Advantage of Virginia's Tax Credit

The Virginia Neighborhood Assistance Program has allocated a \$10,000 tax credit to Rapidan Habitat to help you better help Rapidan Habitat.

"The tax credit, available until July 2005, is a credit toward tax owed to Virginia. It is not a tax deduction. The tax credit is equal to 45% of the gift. Although you can carry the credit over for several years, you can not claim the donation as a deduction on your federal or state return.

Parties interested in a more information can contact Cindy Reid at 540-672-3461, cindy_reid@woodberry.org, or John Henry at 540-972-2706.

THANK-YOU LOW CHURCH

They came in groups and singles! They had that "I'm not quiet sure of this," look on their faces.

None of these Habitat Families would have enjoyed the traditional Thanksgiving Turkey without the "Lake of the Woods, (LOW) Church Basket." The turkey, vegetables, stuffing, bread and pumpkin pies were all included in the baskets. All nineteen families came or sent a representative. Their thanks and appreciations flowed generously, like warm gravy over mashed potatoes. Thank you, LOW Church, for caring about us.



Register NOW! Shop and Share is an easy way to help Rapidan Habitat for humanity raise funds if you shop at Food Lion and use their MVP Card. Go to www.foodlion.com and click on the *Lion Shop And Share* link on the left. Designate **Rapidan Habitat (in Locust Grove, VA, as your non-profit. Each time you shop a portion will be donated to Rapidan Habitat. Thanks to those the chose us last year.**

You must Re-link your card every year in the fall. Please do it now.

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