

Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County

Habichat

Winter Edition 2006/2007

March/April

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Geneva House Dedication!



"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest." - Isaiah 32:17

By: Gail Burr

On January 8th, the 53 West Avenue Geneva home of Felix Vasconez and Crystal Hamacher was formally dedicated in a moving service of song, thanksgiving, and praise.

The journey that began with a turn of a shovel full of dirt on March 24th, 2006, ended with the lighting of a dedication candle symbolizing the presence of God in the newly constructed Habitat home. The build's main construction leaders, HFHOC Board Members, area clergy, Geneva dignitaries, as well as a host of friends, family and volunteers were in attendance. Cantor Richard Rosenfield of Temple Beth-El, the Habitat partner for the family, lead the blessing of the home, after which the presentation of the Bible and keys was made by the build's two chief construction leaders, Bob Virkler and Hugh Price. Area clergy participating in the service included Rev. Wade Jarrett from the First United Methodist Church, Rev. Janice Robinson from the First Baptist Church and Rev. Ellen Johnson from the Seneca Presbyterian Church. Uplifting music provided by the Men's Gospel Quartet from the Presbyterian Church of Geneva included vocalists Wendell Roelofs, John Tarr, Bob Bailey and Tom McClure.

It was truly a night of celebration and thankfulness for the cooperative goodwill, hard work and generosity of so many people that made this house a "dream come true" for Crystal and Felix and their three children.

A Dream Come True

By the New Homeowners: Crystal Hamacher and Felix Vasconez

It all began with an application and a dream. An unexpected dream that was about to come true. We didn't wish upon a star or even throw a coin into a fountain, we just waited and prayed for the most precious thing that anyone could ever have or ever want... our own home.

In the year 2005, after mailing the application and going through an interview with about 7 other families, we received that phone call saying "Crystal and Felix, your family has been chosen to receive the new Habitat home on West Avenue in Geneva." Richard Rosenfield, our now habitat partner, was the one to give us the wonderful news. We were so excited but also very nervous and a little scared. Owning your own home is a huge thing and a big step toward a better and healthier future. We couldn't wait to get things started. We were extremely tired of living at our 3 bedroom, 1/2 house. Our apartment was old and starting to become unsafe. We lived on a busy high traffic street without a closed-in yard for the kids. We were very cautious in letting the kids play outside unless we were watching them. It was time to do something about that, and we also wanted a place we would all call home.

In April 2006, building began on our new house. Volunteers from all over shared their time and their skills with us in helping to get the frame of the house up. Of course, we had to put our time into the house as well. We needed to complete 400 sweat equity hours in order to move into the house, which wasn't very easy for us to do. Throughout the months, we had run into some ruts which got a little frustrating, but with Richard's help and the help of Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County, we were able to get through those rough times. There were also some very good times during the construction of the house. I learned to face my fear with the ladders even though I am still a little shaky about them. My oldest son, Felix, would come up with us and help out as well. There was one day during the blitz week that he had come up with me and was given a job to do. His job was to go around the yard with a magnet and find all the nails he could. He had a great time doing that because he had a lot of help from Mr. Hall and the BOCES students. There was also the dedication, where tears of joy had been shed especially when we were handed the keys. It was great to see a community come together for something as wonderful as this. We are grateful to the 3 men who were able to get the house together and worked their hardest on doing that, Bob Virkler, Bill Van Dusen, and Hugh Price. We couldn't have done it without them. Our house will last 100 years if not more.

Now comes the hardest and most stressful part, moving in and being on our own. We are so used to having a landlord and giving them a call whenever something goes wrong. We can't do that now. If something breaks and needs to be fixed, it's up to us now to get it done. We depend on ourselves now. It's going to be hard but I think we will be okay. We are still so very happy to have a home to call our own.

Jim Isaac - Contractor of the Month

"When You Need Us, We'll Be There"

Isaac Heating and Air Conditioning was founded by George T. Isaac in February 1945. During the following 15 years, the huge post World War II housing boom provided George with plenty of work. Because of his diligence and attention to detail, it only took a few years for the company to earn its longstanding reputation as the industry hallmark. With eight children to feed and take care of and a growing business to run, George and Phyllis were very busy people. In 1955, George's second oldest son, Jim, joined the business as a full-time employee working in the field installing heating equipment. In 1962, George's youngest son, Bill, also joined the company as a full-time employee. Today, Jim and Bill continue to own and operate Isaac as the leading heating and air conditioning contractor in the Rochester area. In 1967, the founder of the Isaac Heating Company, George Isaac, died suddenly at age 61. Carrying on in their father's footsteps, Jim and Bill continued to grow the company. Today the company continues to honor George's mission: to provide quality, trusted installation and service to residential, commercial and industrial customers at fair prices...and to respond to questions and problems immediately. "When you need us, we'll be there" is not just a slogan, it's our way of life.

Habitat For Humanity Affiliates throughout the Rochester Area as well as many other volunteer organizations have received the gift of **Jim Isaac** as a huge resource when it comes to providing reliable heating systems to homes of families needing a hand. Jim is one of HFHOC's most faithful supporters. He (and his volunteer team) have provided the heating systems in most of our homes charging nothing for their many hours of work and providing equipment and materials at their cost. Jim is always smiling and upbeat – obviously loving what he is doing! Jim's contributions to the Greater Rochester Community are a testimony to the Isaac Slogan "When you need us, we'll be there."



HONEOYE BUILD UPDATE

2007 is already looking like a great year for the Honeoye Habitat Project. This is the year that we will build our first house in Honeoye for Gail and Sarah Howard. Blitz week has been scheduled for June 23rd – 30th. Our fund-raising efforts have generated close to \$42,000 of our \$60,000 goal.

Several months ago Bob Stowe joined the Honeoye Steering Committee and has volunteered to be the construction manager. This is a huge boost for us as Bob brings his knowledge, skills and energy to the project. He is currently working with the architect on the final drawings, which we are all excited to see.

After a few weeks off for the Holidays, we are anxious to get back to work in preparation for "The Build". At our last committee meeting, January 16, topics of discussion were final fundraising efforts, preliminary construction concerns, volunteer coordination and hospitality coordination. Bob Stowe, Bill Van Dusen, Russ Healy and Dick Tschorke had a breakfast meeting recently to discuss initial construction details. They set June 23rd – 30th as "Blitz Week" This is a full week of long days and a massive volunteer effort when walls, roof, electrical and plumbing take shape. This is the week we imagined three years ago when this project was born. You'll hear lots more from us in the months ahead but keep a couple of days free that week to be a part of the fun. Following Blitz Week the project scales back a little as we are best able to put crews together. Anyone retired?

In preparation for construction, here's what you need to do. Log onto the Habitat For Humanity Ontario County web-site www.HFHOC.org and fill out the Volunteer Interest Form. Ontario County Habitat For Humanity has a great database to help us organize crews quickly and efficiently. Essentially, these lists will give us a "call list" and will match skills and interests to construction needs.

Money.....always seems to be a part of these updates but we really are doing well. Hopefully soon the "money" thing can go away and we'll report that the \$60,000 goal has been reached. It is always difficult to report accurately because, thankfully, this changes every day. Right now we're at \$42,000. Additionally there is \$3,400 of UCC matching funds yet to be paid and some additional checks received by Habitat but not yet fully processed. This calculates to a remaining balance of about \$14,000 to be raised. The Honeoye Central Schools, Middle School and High Schools Student Council, just announced a Bird Seed Sale to begin soon with the proceeds to benefit Habitat. Please help support these kids if you are able. Remember this past fall when the Elementary Students raised over \$4,600 for the project. We continue to sell the "Square Foot" gift cards if you would like to make a donation in someone's name, simply contact anyone on the committee.

Once again we want to thank everyone for your patience and support of this build. It has been a long time in the works and the fun is really just beginning.

Honeoye Steering Committee

Meet Our New Family Partners

By: Gail Burr

Habitat for Humanity aims to create healthy, interdependent relationships between the newly selected families and the affiliate. An attitude of helping rather than enabling underlies this partnership. The person instrumental in assisting a family in becoming a successful homeowner is that family's "partner" the affiliate pairs them up with. Two new people have recently committed to become the partner for a new Habitat family. Michelle Scialdone will be partnering with Gail Howard and her daughter, Sarah, in Honeoye, and Mary Lou Havens will be the partner for Christina Ketchum as she prepares to move into the newly refurbished house on Phoenix Street in Canandaigua. These persons, working under the umbrella of the Family Partnership and Support Committee, help make the entire homeownership process (sweat equity, construction, closing and assumption of responsibilities) an experience that builds the confidence and fosters the success of the family.

Michelle Scialdone currently resides in Farmington with her husband, John, and two children, Courtney, age 13 and Joseph, age 9. She graduated from LeMoyne College with a BA in History and Education and attended graduate school at Brockport, majoring in School Counseling. She was employed for two years as the Museum Educator at the Seneca Falls Historical Society Museum, organizing educational programs for the schools and the community. She also taught Middle School Social Studies in the Diocese of Rochester Catholic School System for 8 years. Presently Michelle is enjoying being a full time mom, busily keeping up with her children's activities and volunteering at St. Mary's School in Canandaigua. Along with interests in genealogy, digital photography, scrap booking and reading, Michelle aspires to return to graduate school to obtain a Master's Degree in Library Science.

Mary Lou Havens is a Canandaigua native who attended Buffalo State University. She is a very active member of the United Church in Canandaigua and is currently preparing for a mission trip to Mexico this month with members of her church. She is also an active member of the Family Selection Committee for HFHOC and is excited about working closely with Christina Ketchum as she prepares to move into the Phoenix Street house. A fire which destroyed the home she shared with her 6 children in 1973, and the ensuing love and support she received from her church family, friends and the community afterwards, was a transforming personal event which has impacted Mary Lou's life today. She feels very blessed and would like to see others helped with their housing needs through the support of Habitat for Humanity.

HFHOC welcomes both Michelle and Mary Lou and is grateful for the commitment they have shown in their new capacity as a partner to a Habitat family.





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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF
ONTARIO COUNTY
PO BOX 778
VICTOR, NY 14564

PHONE: 585-425-8960
FAX: 585-425-4603
EMAIL: INFO@HFHOC.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.HFHOC.ORG

**Our United Way number is:
2424 Habitat For Humanity of Ontario County**

Donate Through United Way!

Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County would like to announce that we will now be able to receive designations through United Way's annual campaign. The campaign runs from April 1st through May 15th. Please consider donating to United Way and also consider designating part of your donation to 2424 Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County. If you would like to learn more about United Way you may visit www.uwrochester.org.