



From Behind the Hammer

— Jerry Marlatt, Building Superintendent



Our 2016 building season came to a close on Dec 20th and all three families were able to be in their new homes by Christmas

Our Saturday work force was pretty good this year. The Tuesday and Thursday morning crews have been well attended. We are very thankful for all the good volunteer help and hope to see even more new faces next year. If you need information on either of these work times, let us know.

We started using a new siding product called "smart side" which goes on a little easier and we think is a little bit better. We also moved the safe room from the utility room to a walk-in closet which made installing it a lot easier. The safe room is a tornado shelter room designed after a model developed in Moore, OK. It was designed to withstand a rather strong storm and gives the family some protection. We hope we never find out how well it works. We try to keep improving the Habitat houses with the latest building technology

Our three houses for 2017 will be built just east of the existing houses on 17th Street on the south side. It is nice to have these lots together so we do not have to keep moving equipment and we can keep our workers all in one area.

Kearney Area Habitat is an organization to be proud of. We invite you to come and join in the fun and help us build with and for God's people in need.



2016 has been a very good year for KAHFH



From Behind the Gavel

— Ken Mumm, President

As Jim McKenzie noted in his "Kearney View" in November, the Kearney Community has risen above and beyond expectations for some 25 years. Since Jim, very adequately, highlighted the contributions made over the years, 200+ homes worldwide, I want to break down the contribution that we witnessed in 2016. On Saturdays, we hosted 607 different volunteers. Many of those volunteers repeated. So, that resulted in 892 volunteers to be exact! Then, as most of you know, a group, working on Tuesdays and Thursdays, logged another 760 times.

KAHFH also hosted Care-A-Vanners. This is a grand group of volunteers who travel the country in their RV's, stopping at Habitat Affiliates to help build. Their contribution added another 48 sign-ins. So, the grand total of volunteers for 2016 was 1,700! WOW! Thank You. As a result of all of this volunteer help, three families were in their homes for Christmas! What a Blessing! By the way, all of this volunteerism resulted in 7,740 hours!

Besides all of the building volunteers, I estimate that "behind the scenes" volunteers logged approximately 1982 hours. Habitat for Humanity is definitely a Christian outreach to God's people in need. We embrace that belief and look forward to even more volunteers meeting God's challenge in 2017. Thanks to all of you!

Memories



Brandie Nelson was the first homeowner of the 2016 build season. Her new house was full at the dedication because it marked the 200th home that the Kearney Area Habitat has helped build locally and internationally! Brandi and her 3 children, Austin, Taylor, and Owen, all are enjoying their new home now the crowds have left. When not working or decorating their new home, Brandie enjoys spending time at K-Town Shakedown, riding her bike, or spending time with her family.



Brandie Nelson
Owen—Taylor—Austin



1203 East 17th

Angel and Lucia Organista were the second homeowners in 2016. They moved into their new home on a very chilly weekend! Both of the Organistas spent many hours selecting fixtures for their new home and did a wonderful job using these details around the house to help make it beautiful. Lucia and her family also spent a lot of time making delicious tamales and a traditional punch which they served at the dedication to show their appreciation for all of the hard work the volunteers put into their new home.



1615 Avenue M



Angel & Lucia Organista
Bitia & Miguel

The third homeowner for 2016 was **Melissa Ott Steinmark**. Melissa spent many hours at the warehouse painting her trim and doors white. She let her inner designer show as she decorated her home in browns and burgundy with white trim and accents. Her two daughters, Kinlei and Amarie, will hopefully love their new backyard because the family enjoys spending time together outdoors.



1207 East 17th



Melissa Ott Steinmark
Kinlei and Amarie

This column originally appeared in the Monday, Nov. 21, 2016, issue of the Kearney Hub.

By Jim McKenzie
Kearney View

There will be a remarkable event taking place this month (December) in Kearney. The Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity volunteers will be completing their 74th home. It's the 200th home that has been funded by you, the Kearney area citizens, churches, foundations and businesses. Yes, all 200 homes have been funded by you!

It all began in January 1992 when a group of volunteers came together to address the need for affordable housing in our community. They planned to build simple, decent, affordable homes for and with God's people in need. It would take hundreds of volunteers, hundreds of donors and interest-free home mortgages to make this possible.

Now, fast forward 24 years to November 2016. Kearney Habitat volunteers will complete the 74th home (75 and 76 were dedicated later) for and with wonderful partner families here in Kearney. But that is only part of the story.

Over these many years, KAHfH has been giving 10 percent of the money donated, a tithe, to Habitat for Humanity International to build homes with God's people in need in third world countries. Simple, decent homes built according to local standards in those impoverished areas have cost \$2,000 to \$4,500 each. HFHI reports that the Kearney tithe has paid for 126 homes! The math is simple — 126 homes there, plus 74 homes here, totals 200 homes.

To fully appreciate this amazing 200-home accomplishment, let me share a few numbers. The 74 homeowners worked at least the required 250 hours on their home construction, and they recruited family and friends to work an additional 150 hours. That combined 400 hours per home, times the 74 homes, equals 29,600 or more hours that they worked to help build these homes.

When a family purchases their home, they commit to interest-free monthly mortgage payments to reimburse KAHfH for the cost incurred in building that home. Those payments are used to purchase materials for future homes. The Habitat homeowners who still have mortgages are making principal payments that cover about half of the \$186,000 budget for the three homes being built this year. The other half is coming from individuals, churches, foundations and businesses who appreciate the mission of this nondenominational Christian housing ministry and understand the need for affordable housing.

We also know that more than 2,000 volunteers have signed in at the work sites over these 24 years. The conservative calculation of their donated time is greater than 250,000 hours. On Saturdays, more than 20,000 lunches have been donated and served to those volunteers by churches and service organizations. In addition, local volunteers have traveled to 12 states and seven foreign countries to build homes. Further, there have been countless hours of work accomplished by board members and committee members. These are all priceless gifts greater than words can describe.

Certainly the individuals, churches, foundations and businesses that have so generously donated money must feel a genuine joy for what they have helped accomplish. All of this incredible giving has provided a vital basic need for hundreds of families.

Jim McKenzie, a member of the Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, is one of the four founders of KAHfH and served as the first board president.

Cans for Habitat

You can put them (secured in bags please) in the cage box on the north side of the Habitat building at 1815 1st Avenue.

You can take them and other aluminum items to Anderson Wrecking on Avenue M and ask them to put your donation on the KAHfH account.

OR, if you have a place with a lot of cans, our "can man" Charlie will come and pick them up. Just call 234-6030 and leave a message for him

Many cans or just a few . . . every little bit helps the "can" cause.



Lets see if we CAN do what GI Habitat does....build a CAN house.

Sorry Charlie, we want to keep you busy.

2016 Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity

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We need YOU . . . Vice President
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John Zulkoski . . . Site Selection
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Other Board Members

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Marshall Everitt, Judy Fisher,
Paul Jackson, Hugo Longoria,
Jim McKenzie, Fr. Christopher
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Winter 2016-17

Kearney Area

Habitat for Humanity

1815 First Avenue

Kearney, NE 68847

Check the website and Facebook and
Twitter for current information

habitat.kearney.net



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KAHfH Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Supper



February 21, 2017 6:30 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church



4511 6th Ave Kearney, NE



KAHfH Board provides the main dish and side dishes but you can contribute if you wish.



Address changes & Other Business

Call 234-6030 (office)

kahfh@yahoo.com

USPS permit rules require that our mailing list be current OR we pay for returns. Requests for changes can be left on the answering machine. Leave a clear, concise message so that Julie can get back to you ASAP. **Or send via email BEST WAY** You can also request an email copy of the newsletter

Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity † 1815 First Avenue, Kearney, NE 68847 † 308-234-6030 (office)