

Last home for 2009 dedicated in December

The snow filled streets and yard didn't dampen the joy at the December 12th dedication at 203 East 13th for **Aurora Ramirez Maska** and her children: **Paola Rodrigues Ramirez, Juan Sebastian Leon Ramirez, Johanna Michael Maska** and **Jay Mathew Maska**.

The evening began with a welcome from *KAHFH president*, Ryan Ideus, followed by Invocation/Blessing by Sister Isabel from *Mt. Carmel*, done both in Spanish and English.

Musical entertainment was provided by the *First Four Quartet*. Ryan made the presentation of bedding from *Bruce Furniture* and Merv Schliefert presented the traditional Photo Album chronicling the home from the digging of the footings through the Home Dedication ceremony. Elaine Batenhorst presented the Basket of Books from the *Literacy Council*. The Bible and Cross were presented by Ken Mumm, work partner and the Fudge Box was given by Roger Hoffman, Building Committee Member. He got it right this time and didn't bring "fudge".

Milt Kotrc, Building Committee Member had the honor of bestowing the long awaited house keys followed by a very joyful/tearful response from Paola.

The families first Christmas tree from an anonymous donor was decorated with ornaments brought by the Habitat board and other committee members. The dedication was followed by refreshments. Cake provided by Nurture Partner, Marijean Methe with punch and coffee from the Hospitality Committee and other goodies from friends were enjoyed by a packed house. Guests were then invited to tour the home.

Aurora & Paola



House Blessing by Sister Isabel as Aurora looks on with JOY

Habitat Appreciation Dinner and Annual Meeting

February 9, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.

Prince of Peace Catholic Hall

11th Street and Ave M

Kearney, NE

The KAHFH Board and committees furnish the potluck meal in honor of the volunteers who provide their time, talents and monetary gifts. The Annual Meeting and committee reports will follow the meal.

Some of the Viet Nam work group will give their presentation during the evening. It is truly memorable.

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From Behind the Gavel

Homes Built in Viet Nam by Kearney Volunteers

Twelve capable volunteers from Kearney participated in the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in the Mekong Delta, specifically, Vietnam from November 16 – November 20.

Volunteers were Judy Drown, Alice Heckman, Randall Heckman, Roger Hoffman, Jerry Marlatt, Ken Mumm, Jan Paxson, Tom Paxson, Kay Payne, Rodger Payne, Michael Smith, and Rita Wright.



The volunteers built two houses in the “neighborhood” of Dong Xa, in the fishing village of Ke Sat. These houses were part of a thirty-two house build. The houses were constructed with “cement” blocks which had been made by hand by the homeowners before we arrived.



Prior to living in their new homes, the homeowners lived on fishing boats, approximately 15 feet long with NO fresh water. If they don't have money to buy bottled water, they HAD to drink water from the polluted river on which they lived. The water causes many health problems for them. Their new homes all have a shallow well and a bathroom with sewer access and a “shower head.”

It was a very worthwhile experience. One all volunteers would hope to replicate some day and one they hope others will participate in as well.

If anyone would like to have the volunteers make a presentation to a group to which they belong, please contact Ken Mumm, 234-3101 or mumme44@gmail.com.

What a wonderful year!! 2009 is in the books. Everyone who has contributed to the success of KAHFH can take a moment to say a prayer of thanks for the wonderful blessings we've seen over the years as we have completed 55 homes. One point, not to be taken lightly, is remembering the impact it has had on the lives of our partner families.

In addition to completing four additional houses in 2009 we had many more accomplishments many of which were based on past partnerships as well as some new found partnerships. Our partnership with Wells Fargo continued to be very fruitful. Seven out of the last eight years Wells Fargo has been a consistent large donor. By donating \$185,000 over the last eight years, this relationship has truly been a blessing.

Two new partnerships that we have developed this year involve physical items that the homeowners' receive as their homes are dedicated. The first, which we started on the second home of the build season, is a donation of books from the Kearney Literacy Council. The thought behind this donation is that a family that takes time to read together and discuss what they read creates an environment that is very open for conversation. The second partnership which began on the final house dedication of the year is one with Bruce Furniture. Michael Bruce and Bruce Furniture have committed to donating either one queen size or two twin size mattress/box spring sets to each new home owner. The folks at Bruce Furniture believe that a good night's sleep is essential to get through the busy days that we all seem to have.

These donations, in addition to those from the always faithful Carpenter Club members, local area churches and others made 2009's contributions memorable, once again making us very thankful to live in such a generous, giving community.

One of our more recognized accomplishments this year was the fact that we were able to send a large group of volunteers to Vietnam to help with the Jimmy Carter Work Project titled “Global Village”.

As we look to the coming year, our needs have not changed much. We are still in great need of qualified homeowners. Currently we only have two approved for 2010 with one accumulating hours. AND, we are always also in need of good building locations. If you know of one please leave a message at the warehouse and we will research it further.

Thanks for all that you do for Kearney Area Habitat. There are countless numbers of folks who support these efforts with their time, talent and treasures. It's such a blessing to all who are touched by this, both the givers and those who receive. May God continue to bless us and all who make what we do possible for people in need. —Ryan Ideus, President



From Behind the Hammer

Another successful Habitat year is now behind us. Four homes were completed in 2009. On July 7th we held a dedication for Tina Hunter and her son Bradley in a home started in 2008. Then Abbie Jones and son Kyren became homeowners on September 24th. On October 15th, the home next door was dedicated for Tina Sheets and daughter Holly. The fourth home was dedicated on December 11th for Aurora Maska and her children.

Kearney Area HFH is now classified as an Energy Star Home Builder. We are proud to be able to make our houses even more affordable for our homeowners through this program. Three of our houses this year were three bedroom with the last one having four.

Next year we plan to build three homes since there wasn't time to get a home framed in before the early winter arrived. The first homeowners will be George and Fidelia Martines and their five children. Bobbie Carson and her family will receive the second home. We have a third prospective homeowner accumulating hours.

We want to thank all of you who worked on building homes in 2009 and look forward to seeing you in 2010 when the building season starts on March 27th, weather permitting. As you know, it takes all of us working together to be successful.

Special thanks goes to the Building Committee, the tireless workers who are always there and who make sure that materials and supplies are on hand for the Tuesday and Thursday and Saturday work crews. That committee, chaired by Jerry Marlatt, for 2010 includes Gary Arentsen, Randall Heckman, Roger Hoffman, Milt Kotrc, Ken Mumm, Kay Payne, Bob Peterson, Jim Swanson, Gordon Sukstorf and Rita Wright

—Jerry Marlatt, Building Superintendent

One of Habitat's own continues volunteer work in Haiti

Roger Hoffman, a member of the building committee told us of an earthquake that had occurred in Haiti just before the last board meeting on

January 12th. Roger has been making regular mission trips to Haiti for several years as a part of *Water 4 Haiti*. He told us that this group had plans for another trip in two weeks. Here is an article from the Kearney Hub about that trip.

KEARNEY — A group of six people left Kearney for Haiti Wednesday (January 20) hoping to offer aid to the earthquake-ravaged nation.

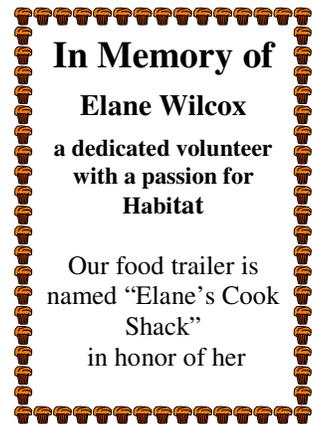
Chuck Larsen, Roger Hoffman, Bob and Marie Easton and Emmanuel Marceus, all of Kearney, and Joe Miller of Lexington are flying to the Dominican Republic where they plan to meet a Haitian contact who will drive them to Cape Haitian, north of Port-au-Prince, Hoffman's wife, Sharon, said.

Larsen, Hoffman and Bob Easton are all members of *Water 4 Haiti*, a group that works to bring clean water to Haiti by drilling wells.

The group took 420 pounds of medical supplies with them. They do not know if they will be repairing and drilling wells or if the situation in Haiti will mean they'll be doing other kinds of assistance.

Sharon Hoffman said she is not overly concerned for her husband's safety. "Chuck and Bob have been going there for more than 25 years. They have lots of contacts. They know the area. They know what they can and can't do. I don't really have a real concern for his safety, but it's still unstable."

The *Water 4 Haiti* fund at the Kearney Area Community Foundation will accept donations for earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. Any donations to that fund will be funneled to organizations spearheading efforts in Haiti. *Faith United Methodist Church* is collecting Health Kits for relief efforts. See the Hub for needed items.



In Memory of

Elane Wilcox

a dedicated volunteer
with a passion for
Habitat

Our food trailer is
named "Elane's Cook
Shack"
in honor of her

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 your changes via email.

2009 Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity

Ryan Ideus President
VACANT Vice-President
Kay Payne Treasurer
Bonnie Mumm Secretary

Committee Chairpersons

Brandon Benitz Church
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Marijean Methe & Peg Baer . .
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Fred Kempf . . Family Selection
VACANT Fund Raising
Bonnie Mumm Hospitality
Ryan Krantz . . Public Relations
& Volunteer Coordinator
Laura Love Site Selection
Cindy Barney Finance
Jerry Marlatt Building

Other Members

Joe Methe, Barbara Clark, Suzanne
Maughan, Bob Hobbs, Roy Muesch,
Cory Christians, Sandy Cook-Fong,
Roger Hoffman

See the website for the new
2010 members

Winter—2010

Kearney Area

Habitat for Humanity

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LOOK on the other side to find out about the Habitat Appreciation Dinner and Annual Meeting

Habitat needs qualified prospective homeowners.

Habitat needs LOTS & and/or LAND to develop. Please contact the KAHFH office with your ideas.

Building Schedule will resume on March 27th
"Subject to Weather Conditions"

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Thanks for donating in 2009

Habitat wishes to thank everyone who donated anything and everything, including (most of all) your valuable time.

A "Thank You" page ran in the Kearney Hub on Feb 4th acknowledging all who have served KAHFH during the past year. Please accept our apologies if your name (or company name) is not on the list.



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Habitat International Web Site www.habitat.org

KAHFH Web Site www.habitat.kearney.net

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