



From Behind the Gavel

— Ken Mumm, President

This has been a very successful year, AGAIN! By the time you read this, KAHfH will have built and dedicated 70 houses for and with God's people in need. It's kind of difficult for me to get my head around all of the figures involved in this ministry.

Seventy houses converted into 70 homes for families who needed a hand up; 236 different volunteers on the build site in 2014 providing over 3300 hours of service; thousands of dollars donated; millions of dollars of property value added to the tax base of Kearney; families given a hand in their post secondary education; neighborhoods improved; and new land purchased for future families all because of your support since 1992. WOW! Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Kearney Habitat has those committed citizens!

What a wonderful sight it is on Saturday mornings to see cars lining the streets, people in all kinds of dress, young and old alike lining up at the sign in to begin another day of volunteering. And, we can always use more.

As 2015 is upon us, let me be the first to ask for your time, your donations, and your prayers as we embark on our 23rd year of building homes for and with God's people in need.

Let me also invite you to our Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Supper on February 17th at 6 pm (see Back page)



From Behind the Hammer

— Jerry Marlatt, Building Superintendent

On March 28, 2015 the Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity house building season 'for and with God's people in need' will start for the new year. We will be building on the new land that was purchased last year. If you drive south on the Avenue M overpass you will see the sewer and water mains being put in as I write this. This is very exciting and shows progress even in winter.

We need to keep inviting new people to volunteer and remind our past volunteers to remember to join us at the work site. Maybe you can help line up your friends and groups you belong to join you at the build site. They will be glad you gave them this opportunity.

This year we have been a little short of help on several Saturdays. There have also been several unexpected weather delays. In 2014 we have added a safe-room (storm shelter) in our houses. This is something we have been considering for a number of years. It has added to our workload but we believe this is a great improvement.

We have completed 70 homes in Kearney that have been added to the tax base and have helped 70 families build a home of their own. We look forward to working with you in the next building season.

We send a big **Thank You** to our faithful volunteers and to the businesses that donate to this home building cause.

We firmly believe KAHH is one of the most satisfying "Hands-On" volunteer projects you can be involved in.

May God Bless You and Kearney Habitat

- * The 2015 Build Season will begin on Saturday, March 28, 2015 (rain or shine). We have a wonderful warehouse in case of inclement weather. Saturday building begins at 8 a.m. No experience necessary.
- * Lunch, snacks, soft drinks and coffee are provided at no charge.
- * Work site information is on InfoLine 234-4636 selection 4310 and KGFW during the 7 a.m. news on Saturday, on our website at habitat.kearney.net and on our Facebook page.

Another Successful Year !

We have enjoyed another year of generous support for this Christian housing ministry. The donations by members of The Carpenter's Club increased in 2014 as did the number of active donors. The response to our letter inviting folks to remember KAHfH during the "Give Where You Live" one day drive was wonderful!

With homeowner monthly house payments plus lump sum donations by businesses and foundations plus gifting from so many individuals, you have funded the construction of three more homes! That makes the total now...70.

The need remains to continue building simple, decent, affordable homes for and WITH God's people in need. The cost of materials and the lots to build on continue to rise. God bless all our donor friends who have made and will continue to make this possible!

Jim McKenzie and Mel Wiens, Fund Raising

Hospitality at its best

We had a great year with lots of help from some dedicated ladies. I would like to thank the following for being there on Saturdays, even when it is 95 degrees, and preparing the site so that our volunteers can have a friendly face to greet them, a coffee break in the morning and lunch at noon. These ladies are wonderful workers and I so appreciate all that they have done for our Kearney affiliate: *Edith Marlatt, Pat Skiles, Pam Miller, Sue Broeker, Beth Forbess, Carol Dawes, Sister Patty Rinn*

Sister Patty has a wonderful group of ladies at St. James Catholic Church that she "shares the joy" with. I am sorry that I don't have all of their names, but know that we appreciate all that you do for us.

And if you are reading this and think this might be something that you and a friend would like to do on a Saturday each month, let me know (440-1709) and we will find a spot for you during the 2015 build season.

—*Bonnie Mumm, Hospitality Chair*

Family Selection on track for 2015

During this past year, our committee members responded to over 60 inquiries; obtained and analyzed 21 credit reports; and processed seven complete applications. The membership of the family selection committee has remained stable over the past year and includes Hugo Longoria, Sister Patty Rinn, Lucy Witt, Cindy Barney, Stan Wilson, and Paul Bartlett. We also received a great deal of support from office assistant Julie Adams, in updating our website, processing inquiries and tracking the status of each application.

2014 was a good year in that we were able to approve three families for the 2015 build season during the summer and fall months. Families accepted to partner with us during the 2015 build season include: Alicia Uribe Garcia, Crystena Ritchie, and Trisha Anold. Any new applications being processed and considered at this time are for the 2016 build season. Our committee's accomplishments during this past year included the reviewing of our existing family selection policies and procedures to identify areas that can be improved upon. Goals for 2015 include using the Affiliates Operations Manual from the Habitat for Humanity International website to educate ourselves, develop consistent policies, and to improve our affiliate's performance in the family selection area.

The number of inquiries and applications received during this past year indicates a need for affordable housing in Kearney that goes beyond our affiliate's ability to meet. We are grateful for the support provided by volunteers, area businesses, lending institutions, churches, and individuals that have made this past year a success for our community.

Paul Bartlett, Family Selection Committee Chairman

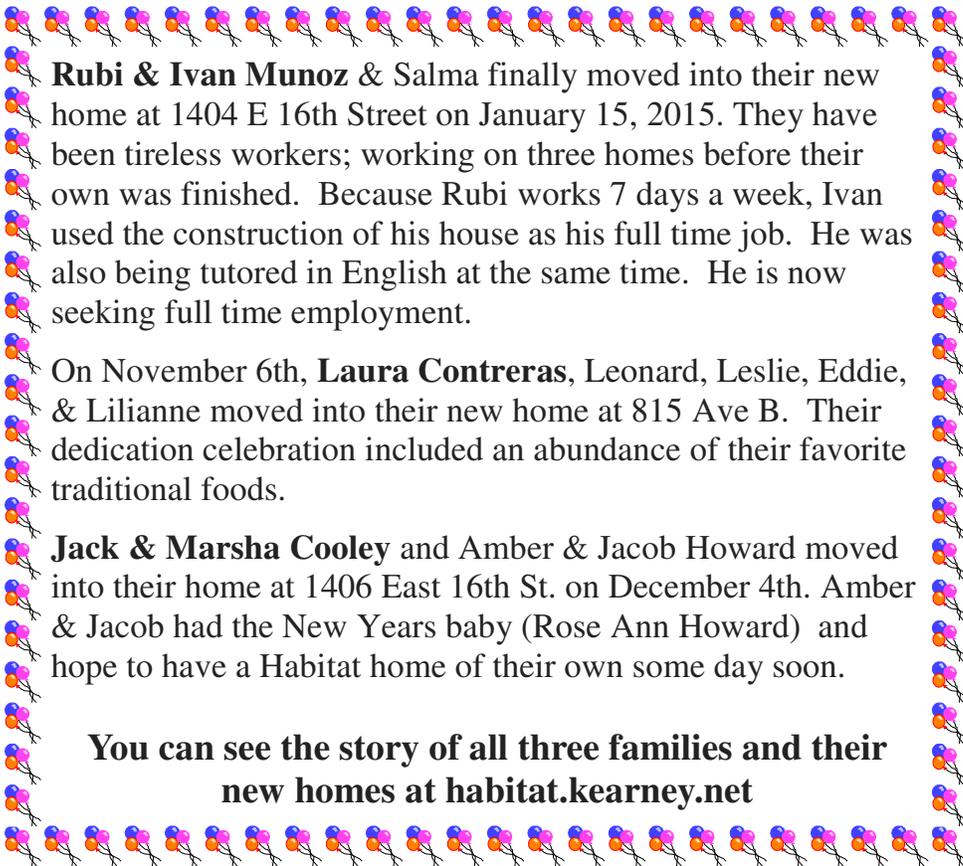


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KAHfH NEEDS

- ◆ We need **Volunteers**: Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday or all three. No experience necessary!
- ◆ We need hostesses for the Saturday build days.
- ◆ We need groups to provide lunch and devotions for Saturday build days.
- ◆ We need ideas for Fundraisers.
- ◆ We need a photographer for each Saturday. Each homeowner receives a photo book and we keep one.
- ◆ We need Nurture Partners: Someone to be there for the candidates on their journey to becoming homeowners.

Prayerfully, consider your donation of time, talent or resources. KAHfH needs YOU!



Rubi & Ivan Munoz & Salma finally moved into their new home at 1404 E 16th Street on January 15, 2015. They have been tireless workers; working on three homes before their own was finished. Because Rubi works 7 days a week, Ivan used the construction of his house as his full time job. He was also being tutored in English at the same time. He is now seeking full time employment.

On November 6th, **Laura Contreras**, Leonard, Leslie, Eddie, & Lilianne moved into their new home at 815 Ave B. Their dedication celebration included an abundance of their favorite traditional foods.

Jack & Marsha Cooley and Amber & Jacob Howard moved into their home at 1406 East 16th St. on December 4th. Amber & Jacob had the New Years baby (Rose Ann Howard) and hope to have a Habitat home of their own some day soon.

You can see the story of all three families and their new homes at habitat.kearney.net

Elane Wilcox....her legacy lives on

In 2010, Elane Wilcox, one of the founders of our Habitat Food Shack, died and left a generous donation to Kearney Habitat to be used at our discretion. Since Elane was an educator, the board decided that a good use of part of her donation would be to establish a fund to support homeowners and their children seeking higher education, whether following high school, or for continuing education to enhance career opportunities or improve understanding of the English language. Each applicant is allowed a stipend of \$500 per semester for a total of four semesters, paid to the college of their choice as long as they maintain a 2.25 grade point average.

We are proud that since 2013 eleven homeowners or their children have benefited from our scholarship. Stipends have been sent to UNK, Central Community College in Hastings and Kearney, Southeast Community College in Milford and the College of Healing Arts in Omaha. We hope Elane would have been very proud of these students who are improving their lives through education.

Our fund is not large enough to be self-sustaining, however, and will eventually run out. If, in your gifting, you would like to help with a 'hand up' to our homeowners and their children, we would encourage you to use our website to donate to Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity and specify a portion to go to the Wilcox Scholarship Fund.

—Cindy Barney, Bonnie Mumm, Ken Mumm Wilcox Scholarship Committee

Send your email address to **kahfh@yahoo.com** with the word **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line and you will receive a full color Newsletter in PDF format in your email or read the news on the website. **habitat.kearney.net**

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

2014 Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity

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Randall HeckmanChurch Relation & Volunteer Coordinator
Tina Sheets Family Nurture
Paul Bartlett Family Selection
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Josh JeldenPublic Relations
John ZulkoskiSite Selection
Cindy Barney Finance
Barbara Clark Technology

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Winter 2014-15

Kearney Area

Habitat for Humanity

1815 First Avenue

Kearney, NE 68847

Check the website and Facebook for
current information

habitat.kearney.net



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 **KAHfH Annual Meeting & *Volunteer Appreciation Supper*** 

February 17, 2015 6 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.



Habitat International Web Site www.habitat.org

KAHFH Web Site habitat.kearney.net

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