



February 2008

The News

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter of the Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Our desire is to inform, inspire and encourage by our Christian service to others.



Wagner Home Dedicated October 21, 2007

Wagner Home Dedication

Habitat is about celebration. We celebrate a human need and thankfulness in the act of community spirit and giving. This was evident on October 21, 2007. BBVHFH's third home was dedicated. Upwards of one hundred people from all areas of the community were present to celebrate and affirm. Pastors Don Strongman from the Presbyterian Church of Big Bear and Tim Edmonson from the Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church participated in the ceremony lending God's blessing to this great endeavor. Pictures of the celebration can be accessed at http://picasaweb.google.com/BBVHFH/Wagner_Dedication_102107

With the Wagner home finished in June 2007 the family moved in immediately. The dedication of the home was held in October, having been postponed during the Butler II fire. Those present at the dedication were able to tour the house and see what a warm and friendly home the Wagners have established. Throughout the process the Wagners have repeatedly expressed their appreciation for this opportunity to help build and buy their own home.



The Wagner Family

Introducing the Wagners—Our Newest Homeowners!

Habitat for Humanity is proud to present our newest partner family, the Wagners. Dave and Serina are the parents of Isaiah, age 7, and Isabell, 16 months. In addition, Serina's niece Elicia, age 11, and nephew Anthony, age 9, are often with the family, having lost their father a few years ago.

Dave is employed by the Public Works Department for the City of Big Bear Lake and has been busy driving a snow plow during winter storms. When Serina is not busy with the children, she works as a housekeeper for a few families and sells Mary Kay products. Both are active in their church. Dave is a 28 year resident of Big Bear, and Serina has lived here almost 19 years.

The Wagners were chosen from a field of many applicants to partner with the Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate in the spring of 2006. Each family is required to contribute at least 500 hours of "sweat equity" in the building of their home. Dave and Serina far surpassed that requirement with over 890 hours contributed, which included help from friends and relatives. Isaiah contributed by drawing many pictures for Habitat volunteers to thank them. We wish the Wagner family all the best in the future

Home Construction

2007 was a great year for the construction team. Under the leadership of Ken Anderson, Sam Viglione and his crew of volunteers were always pushing for more things to do, which helped keep the Wagner home on track. With the support of the Big Bear Contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers and the public, the home was completed in less than 10 months. The permit was pulled on August 21, 2006; final inspection was June 14, 2007.

BBVHFH is blessed by the generosity of our community. A phone call for help on a phase of the project and it was almost always "Yes, when do you need me and my crew?" or "What can I donate?" BBVHFH can't thank everyone enough for the help. It made our efforts so much easier and timelier.

Now as we start 2008, it should be another exciting year. With a lot in escrow our team is gearing up for another build. Grab your hammers and sharpen your pencil because you might be our next phone call!!

President's Thoughts

A belated Happy New Year to each of you from the Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Our hope is that 2008 will be filled with blessings and prosperity for you and yours.

BBVHFH celebrated another major milestone in 2007 with the completion and dedication of our 3rd home. The Wagner family typifies the people Habitat is attempting to serve. The combined efforts of everyone who contributed resulted in the construction of a high quality home.

This New Year is starting off on a very positive note. We are close to acquiring property to start another home. Located down the street from the Wagners, we plan to begin construction as soon as the weather permits.

Collectively the Board of Directors of BBVHFH is making plans to expand and improve our affiliate. To do this we desire to involve new members who have a willingness to serve the community. We are guided by the Christian teaching: "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." There is much to do to continue our mission in providing decent, affordable housing in the Big Bear Valley for those in need.

One of our goals this year is to enhance the visibility of BBVHFH by communicating our mission and methods to the community. If you are a member of an organization that would like to learn more about Habitat and our plans for the Big Bear Valley, please let me know; I would be most honored to make a personal presentation to your group.

To those of you, who have contributed so much to supporting BBVHFH, please accept our most sincere appreciation and thanks. You have helped to make a positive impact on the quality of life in the Big Bear Valley.

Rick Fromm, President
Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity

What Is Habitat for Humanity All About?

Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity is a true non-profit, faith-based organization that funnels donations of materials and monies into the building or the refurbishing of homes for our Bear Valley families. All of our members are volunteers. BBVHFH is a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) entity. Habitat has always had a policy of building with people in need regardless of race or religion, and we welcome volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds.

Habitat's ministry is based on the conviction that to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ we must reflect Christ's love in our own lives by loving and caring for one another. Our love must not be words only—it must be true love, which shows itself in action. Habitat provides an opportunity for people to put their faith and love into action, bringing diverse groups of people together to make affordable housing and better communities a reality for everyone.

Habitat is a partnership founded on common ground—bridging theological differences by putting love into action. Everyone can use the hammer as an instrument to manifest God's love. Habitat founder Millard Fuller called this concept "the theology of the hammer," explaining, "We may disagree on all sorts of other things ... but we can agree on the idea of building homes with God's people in need, and in doing so using biblical economics: no profit and no interest."

Habitat is not a giveaway program. The family that is chosen to partner with us must meet many guidelines, e.g., residency in the Big Bear Valley for at least two years, demonstration of the fiscal ability to meet a no interest mortgage payment and other home ownership expenses . The family must be willing to contribute a minimum of 500 hours "sweat equity" to help Habitat build their home.

The beauty of Habitat is that the time, labor and materials that are donated to each home significantly reduce the mortgage amount...making homeownership a reality for many deserving, hardworking families who could not otherwise qualify. Although there are required closing costs and a down payment with each Habitat home, the cost is substantially less than that of a mainstream home.

Helping Hands

When and where we can, we strive to assist others....

Habitat's Painting of the Presbyterian Church

In recognition and gratitude of the Presbyterian Church of Big Bear's many years of sponsorship, BBVHFH volunteers organized to paint the outside of the church building. Assisted by some congregation members, the building was cleaned, prepared and painted in a week. We were honored to be able to serve this church community.

Bowl-a-thon

Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity joined the rest of the community in a Bowl-A-thon on December 2, 2007. It was a joint effort among many in the Big Bear Valley to raise money for those who suffered in the devastating California wildfires. Habitat consistently benefits from the great efforts and donations from the Big Bear Valley, and this was a great opportunity for BBVHFH to return some of that generosity. Team Habitat raised over \$700 for the cause and had a great time. Caring about our community is what Habitat is all about. We were proud to be a part of this event.

Support Efforts

The generosity of many is a true blessing. Here's some recent examples.....

Golf Tournament 2007

Realty Executives, Big Bear, sponsored and organized the third annual Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament. The tournament was held at Big Bear Mountain Golf Course. The tournament was a great success. It raised a total of \$7000.00 and was fun for all. All money raised was donated to Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity for their continuing efforts to construct decent affordable housing to qualified applicants. Realty Executive, Big Bear will continue to hold an annual golf tournament to support Habitat's local efforts.

For information on to how to participate or contribute in the tournament for 2008, call Annette Contreras at Realty Executives 909-584-2202.

Antique Roadshow

The Big Bear Valley rendition of the "Antique Roadshow" took place at the Presbyterian Church of Big Bear. A great community-wide fundraiser, \$1200.00 was raised for Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Six appraisers gave their time in evaluating and researching items. In addition a silent auction provided enticing items for purchase. A new feature this year was "A Walk Down Memory Lane" where people brought their favorite memorabilia for display, adding great interest to the gathering.

Habitat and the whole community benefited from this fun and informative day.

Assistance Always Welcomed!

BBVHFH could use your help! Although improving the financial base is always a priority, BBVHFH's greatest need is to involve more individuals who are willing to dedicate some of their time, talents and efforts. Within each affiliate there are several groups focused on specific missions:

Business Operations
Construction

Church Relations
Family Relations

Community Relations
Special Projects

Each of these has opportunities for people to help.

If you have the time, we're sure that there are rewarding tasks for anyone who desires to help. Please contact us at:

E-Mail: bbvhfh@gmail.com

Phone: **909-547-3671**

Mail: **P.O. Box 3353, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-3353**

Additionally we meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Presbyterian Church, 579 Knickerbocker Road, BBL, at 5:15 P.M. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

Note: If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving a copy of this quarterly newsletter or if you prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, give us a call or send an e-mail with the name and address or stating your preference. If you do not want to receive this publication, a call or e-mail indicating such would be appreciated.

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