



**BEAR VALLEY
HABITAT
FOR
HUMANITY**

May 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.



This Lot Will Become.....Home #4

Home #4

"We've only just begun..." as the old Carpenters' song noted. Home #4 will be built on a lot just down the street from the Wagners', Home #3, in Baldwin Lake on 5th Street. The floor plan will be identical to the previous 3 BBVHFH homes. Included in our purchase price were the water tanks with requisite plumbing to the street and the inclusion of some previously paid fees to San Bernardino County and the Bear Valley Unified School District. Our goal is to complete Home #4 by the spring of 2009.

As is the custom and tradition of Habitat for Humanity, there will be an onsite Lot Dedication Ceremony on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome!!

Help Us Build

This is a volunteer-oriented building program. We can use all the help we can get. Any and all, 18 or older, are welcome to participate. Wielding a hammer or a paint brush is the name of the game. Come join us. **Contact Sam Viglione @ 909-866-0924.**

Donations of building materials are a tremendous cost-savings for us keeping the overall price of the home quite affordable. If you have materials to give to this cause, **contact Ken Anderson @ 909-866-2965.**

If anyone is aware of donation programs offered by corporations or other businesses, please let us know. We would be most pleased to follow-up to gain additional support. **You can contact us at our general telephone number, 909-547-3671.**

Family Selection News

On April 20 prospective families attended a meeting at the Presbyterian Church of Big Bear to learn of the application process to become a partner family with our affiliate. Interested families were first asked to fill out a one page pre-application enabling the Family Selection Committee to determine whether they met the basic qualifications.

Habitat is looking for lower income families who are unable to afford a conventional mortgage, who currently reside in inadequate housing and who are willing to partner with Habitat to build a home.

In addition, families must have lived in the Big Bear Valley for at least a year and plan to stay. They must be legal residents although citizenship is not required. While there are upper income limits, the family must also be able to afford an interest-free mortgage payment and the other costs associated with home ownership such as a minimal down payment, closing costs, property taxes, insurance, utility bills and repairs. A reasonable credit history is required.

The families who meet the basic criteria are then asked to fill out a full application and provide supporting documentation such as financial, employment, residence, and current expense records. Home visits will be made to evaluate current housing and the family's willingness to partner with the group in building their home. The process takes time, as the family selection committee works to select the best family to become a new homeowner.

President's Thoughts

Every member of the Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate is thrilled about building the new home. With the plans awaiting approval by the San Bernardino County Building and Safety organization, efforts are progressing to hold the Lot Dedication Ceremony and clear the land to begin construction. For an affiliate of our relatively small size these are quite exciting times!

As you can see from some of the other articles in this newsletter, we've been active in other pursuits as well. Our desire to be part of the community in general has kept us active and involved in the culture of charity that is so prevalent in the Big Bear Valley.

Candidly, we had a major, unscheduled event descend upon us in the 1st quarter of 2008. Habitat for Humanity International, our corporate entity, required that we participate in a self-audit of our local policies and procedures to insure that BBVHFH was in step with HFHI's guidance and direction. To the surprise of no one, we uncovered some areas that will require revisions and upgrades necessitating some follow-up efforts. Presumably BBVHFH will be a stronger and more focused affiliate once these tasks are completed.

With the current economic adversity that many of us are now facing on an ongoing basis BBVHFH greatly appreciates all who have extended themselves to contribute to our success. The donations of time, material and financial support are an encouragement to continue our mission to provide quality, affordable housing for qualified, deserving families. Each of your gifts is a true blessing. Thank you so much!!

Rick Fromm, President
Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity

BBVHFH on the Web

Big Bear Habitat for Humanity has found its way to the web! Phase I is under way and will be completed this month. This exciting site will be available to the public at that time. The site includes information on the latest News & Needs, Volunteering, plus offers a Calendar and information on our Partners, Press Coverage, Photo Gallery and lots more! **As of June 1, 2008, check it out @ www.bbvfh.org**

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.

Helping Hands

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

MS Walk



Team Habitat

On April 19, 2008, Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity joined many in the community on the Big Bear Valley MS Walk to raise funds to help find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis. Once again BBVHFH had the opportunity to give back to our community. Team Habitat raised nearly \$1,000.00 for this cause. It was a beautiful sunny day, we had great fun and it filled our hearts with joy to be involved. We are already making plans to walk next year.

Going Green....if only a little bit

As the world goes "GREEN," so does Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity. Plastic shopping bags are a huge source of trash. Additionally, these plastic bags account for much of the trash removed from our lake. Our Fawnskin neighbors of the North Shore Improvement Association organized ten sponsors enabling them to purchase reusable shopping bags with a map of Big Bear Lake on one side & the list of sponsors on the other side. The BBVHFH board voted to join the list of sponsors for this worthy cause & good advertising. For our sponsorship we will receive 150 bags to distribute. We are proud to be supporting the effort to improve our local environment.

Support Efforts

The generosity of many is a true blessing. Here's an upcoming event.....

THIRD ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF.... Sunday, May 18th, 11 a.m.

SPIRIT OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
349 E. North Shore Drive [The 7th Day Adventist Church building]
Big Bear City

The Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church will once again be helping us by having a CHILI COOK-OFF fundraiser where all monies received will be donated towards building our 4th Big Bear Valley home. Crockpots, kettles, hot and spicy or mild, and vegetarian or white chili will be made by the Spirit of Peace membership. Any and all chili contributions from our guests will be appreciated. Come and enjoy the fellowship of tasting and judging the many kinds of chili, but most of all appreciate the spirit of giving for the benefit of the Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate. There also will be a short presentation on the building of Home #4.

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	Church Relations	Community Relations
Construction	Family 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 do not wish to receive this publication, a call or e-mail indicating such would be appreciated.