

August 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.



Lot Dedication

A good crowd, kids playing and the sun shining lent itself to the lot dedication of our fourth home. Sunday afternoon, June 8th, found our local Habitat folks ready to go on Home #4.

The Rev. Diane Borcyckowski of the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment gave a timely message with a gentle reminder of what home is meant to be. Her blessing added much to the ceremony. She also presented a generous donation wishing to inaugurate a relationship between the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment and our local affiliate. The Rev. Don Strongman of the Presbyterian Church of Big Bear contributed a scripture reading and a prayer. (The flyover of planes during the prayer was not planned but was a pleasant addition!)

The turning over of a shovelful of dirt initiated the beginning of the build. Our affiliate is a blessing to all in the community. One more family will soon have a home of their own.

Keep on building!

BBVHFH Joins Cyberspace:

BBVHFH has gone global by launching our new and much-awaited website. We are proud to offer everyone a way to plug into What we are all about, What we are doing, and How you can help. Visit our site at

www.bbvfhf.org

from the comfort of your own home or office. Our site contains up to the minute info on Events, Photos, Needs, Building Updates and more. We have downloadable documents such as: Family Application for Housing, Golf Tournament Sign Up Sheet, Habitat News Letters and everything else we could get on there. Thank you to all who made this effort a reality! And we look forward to seeing you online!



**Ken Anderson (I) Receives
Award from Rick Bates**



**BBVHFH Board Members
Join in Honoring Ken**

Volunteer of the Year – 2008

Congratulations to Ken Anderson, our Executive Vice President, for being selected as the **Big Bear Valley Volunteer of the Year** for 2008. His primary responsibility was to provide general contractor expertise. Over the past 12 months Ken had made significant contributions to 3 major BBVHFH endeavors:

1. The construction of BBVHFH's Home #3 in Baldwin Lake
2. The remodeling/expansion of the DOVES safe-house (see below)
3. The general maintenance and painting of the Presbyterian Church of Big Bear

Recruiting volunteers as needed Ken's personal contributions to each project were extensive, of the highest quality possible, and perfectly exemplary of the Habitat principle of commitment to enhancing the circumstances of those in need. His positive, can-do attitude continually provides a role model and motivation for the entire organization.

Home #4 Construction:

Our fourth home in Baldwin Lake is proceeding a bit slower than had been anticipated. New seismic regulations forced yet another change in the home plans with some modification to the kitchen and family room area. The plans are being reviewed again by the County Building and Safety Dept. Procedural changes in Building and Safety have caused additional delays in plan approval. We are hoping for an early August start on the foundation. Several contractors are standing by to do the trenching and to help with the foundation walls. A storage shed is on site to allow us to bring on the supplies and tools needed. Anyone who would like to assist in building this fourth home please send a note to our E-mail address bbvhfh@gmail.com.

President's Message

Sometimes when you think that life's not fair, remember that Ken Anderson's good deeds caught up with him. There was never any question in the minds of the Habitat folks that Ken more than earned and deserved his recognition as the 2008 Volunteer of the Year for the Big Bear Valley. What a wonderful honor for such a giving guy!!

BBVHFH has had a busy, busy few months.

- The lot dedication was a real celebration focusing on what we're all about. The clarity of the Christian principle of serving those in need was totally in evidence.
- Hopefully we're done iterating with the County Building & Safety organization such that the plans for Home # 4 will be approved finally. We didn't see that one coming unfortunately.
- We're going to make another pass at identifying additional candidate families for Home #4.

- We released our new website: www.bbvfhf.org. It's very comprehensive for a one-stop visit to BBVHFH. Senior Editor Michele Holloway did a terrific job on it.
- Folks sure looked like they were having fun at the golf tournament. The giving spirit of Mark Dolan and the folks from Realty Executives is very much appreciated.
- We tasted some fine chili due to the efforts of Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church fundraiser.
- We were pleased to be able to update the Big Bear Association of Realtors and the Big Bear Rotary Club on BBVHFH's efforts.
- Ah.....the Doo Dah parade...we were proud to march under the HFH banner. The applause told us we were doing fine in the community with good name recognition...and we had fun!!

All of which adds up to ...we've been busy....and the truth of the matter is that there's more we should/would be doing if we could have a few additional folks donate a little time and energy. Please consider actively joining us.

Rick Fromm, President
Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity

Family Selection

The Family Selection Committee is continuing to seek applicants to join with the Big Bear Valley Habitat for Humanity in building our fourth home. Requirements for families include the following:

- 1) Present housing inadequate
- 2) Willing to partner with Habitat in building the home. The family will need to contribute 250 hours of work on the home per adult.
- 3) Low income. The not-to-exceed yearly income limit for a family of two is \$39,680; family of three \$44,640; a family of four, \$49,600; family of five \$53,600; for a family of six, \$57,520.

The family must have a reasonable credit history plus adequate income to cover all costs. This is not a give-away program.

The three bedroom, two bath home will be built on 5th Street in Baldwin Lake on an unpaved road. It will not be completed before mid-2009. Propane will be used for the home. It will also have holding tanks for drinking water, fire protection and sewage. These tanks will need to be refilled and/or pumped out as needed.

The partner family will become the owner of the home once all qualifications are met and the home is completed. The family will be responsible for a down payment of approximately \$500, mortgage payments, closing costs, property taxes, homeowner's insurance, utilities and repairs.

In addition, all family members must be residents of the Big Bear Valley for at least one year and provide proof of citizenship or legal residency in the United States.

Proof of automobile insurance is also required.

If you know of anyone who would be interested and qualified, please have them contact us. For more detailed information or for an application, please call BBVHFH at 909/547-3671 or download and print an application from our website, www.bbvfhf.org.

Helping Hands

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

DOVES

Domestic Violence & Education Services, DOVES, provides shelter and support locally for victims of domestic violence. There is a six-month shelter program available to assist families in dealing with the effects of living in fear and in helping them to heal and go onto a violence free life. Some of the BBVHFH Board members volunteered to assist in the refurbishment of the DOVES safe-house as a community service project.

Support Efforts

The generosity of many is a true blessing.

The Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

For BBVHFH's benefit the Spirit of Peace ELCA Church chili cook-off fundraising effort certainly was enjoyed by many. Church members and guests tasted 8 varieties of chili and participated in a free will offering. The local Thrivent Financial chapter donated a partial matching contribution and some little gifts for the winners too. Our hope is that more churches in our Valley will encourage the fellowship and opportunity to serve local efforts through this easy fundraising approach. BBVHFH is blessed by this spirit of charity and good fellowship.



The BBVHFH Golf Team: Sam, Jack, Don & Rich

Annual Golf Tournament

The annual golf tournament, sponsored by the local Realty Executives office, for the benefit of BBVHFH was a great success. Mark Dolan and his associates dedicated significant time and energies to insure that this year's tournament was the best ever. There were 12 teams entered, 33 hole sponsors, an auction and a raffle. A round of golf, a tasty lunch, and spirited companionship were enjoyed by the participants. Not only was this major fund raising event very successful, but immeasurable good will was generated for BBVHFH.

General Information Pamphlet

We now have available a general information brochure explaining our background and goals in the Big Bear Valley. If you would like copies to display or distribute to your organization, please let us know; we'll provide you with copies.

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.



BBVHFH's Stud Finders

Doo Dah Participation

Annually the Old Miners' Days festivities here in the Big Bear Valley include the Doo Dah Parade in the community of Fawnskin. Recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records as the World's Shortest Parade – all 800 feet in length – the Doo Dah affords entrants to participate in a bit of silliness, irreverence and just plain fun.

BBVHFH campaigning under the banner of “The Stud Finders” had an opportunity to have a morning of good natured camaraderie while publicizing our efforts. Sometimes you just have to have some fun....and we certainly did!!!

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

Website: www.bbvhfh.org

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.