



## **Skagit Habitat Happenings** **December 2008 Newsletter**

### **Skagit Habitat Heroes!**



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Wayne Wegner

#### **OPERATIONS COORDINATOR**

Tabatha Evans

#### **CONSTRUCTION MANAGER**

Tom Peebles

#### **SITE SUPERVISORS**

Chuck Hoover  
Dave Howard

Long overdue is our heartfelt acknowledgement of the wonderful businesses and organizations that help keep Skagit Habitat for Humanity moving forward. My biggest fear is that I will leave someone out! Since 1994 when we first started our affiliate there have been silent heroes that have made donations of products and services, and without their generosity we probably would not exist.

It starts with our legal work to establish our affiliate, as well as the ongoing needs of purchase and sell agreements, closing documents and in general all our legal needs. **Elliott Johnson** has provided this service to Skagit Habitat since our inception.

We could not build homes without designs and architectural plans. For many years Mike Underwood, owner of **Underwood & Associates, llc** has taken on this responsibility, and has put together beautiful, safe and affordable house plans for our families, and not once has he charged us a dime.

Next is excavation of our foundation, and whenever the call was made to **Morris Nilson**, he was there with his big equipment digging our hole. Right behind him comes **Corey Williams**, owner of **CD Williams Construction**. Corey has set our foundations for a number of years now, and his work is superb. But this foundation is nothing without the rebar that is donated by **Skagit River Steel and Recycling**, and **Jim Sanders**.

Here is a donor for the ages. **Cascade Lumber, Inc.** and **Evan Holzknicht** have donated every lumber package since Skagit Habitat formed back in 1994. Folks, that is 19 homes, and all out of the goodness of his heart, and his faith in the All Mighty!

Right in line with Evan comes **Dave Berentson**, of **Berentson Plumbing**. Dave was Dave the Plumber before Joe was Joe the Plumber. Just look at his van. Dave has done all the plumbing work for all our homes, and has donated all the fixtures as well.

**Ackerman Electric Co.** and the **Electrical Union** have been consistent partners with Skagit Habitat for many years. When the electrical work is ready to take place they all swarm like bees over the home.

**Skagit Ready Mix** and **Concrete Nor'West** have been contributors to our mission through the years as well. Foundations and sidewalks have been possible by these two fine companies.

Two of our board directors, **Tom Peebles** and **Rob Shepherd**, have not only given of their time in our builds, but they have routinely donated product as well, under the name of their respective companies, **Three Rivers Construction** and **Shepherd Homes**.

Most recently we have had other companies join our program that include **Arrow Insulation** and **ABR Roofing**, both of which have been significant donors to our home just completed in Sedro-Woolley. **Attorney Hugh Lewis** is now putting together our Homeowner's Association for Habitat Village.

Our Women Build Program would still only be an idea without Sound Development Group, **Pat Severin** and **Tammy Zempel**, performing all the engineering and surveying for Habitat Village, soon to begin in Sedro-Woolley.

Thank you all for your incredible donations. Thanks to our **Core Volunteers** that continue to do great things to put all these pieces together. I would like to say that if I ever have a need for the products or services these great companies provide, let me assure you, they are who I would call!



## Wayne's World of Habitat!



# **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

It is with heavy heart that I had to say goodbye and thank you to our most tenured Core Volunteer the other day. Bill DeHon has been a key volunteer and site supervisor for Skagit Habitat for Humanity since our beginning back in 1994. Even before that Bill would make an annual jaunt to Yakima to work with the Yakima Habitat affiliate. That is 23 total Habitat years for Bill. He has Habitat blood running through his veins, and no kind of thank you would even begin to express the gratitude that all of us here feel for him. Bill found another love where he is now volunteering with the Northwest Incident Management Team as well as three other wonderful programs. We will miss him and wish him all the very best.

Well, the last newsletter we published was back in August, and much has happened since then. Let me start with another rather sad note. Four of our senior board members are completing their service and will be leaving our board as of December 31st. Tom Peebles has been our Construction Manager for the past two years as well as a board director for the past three years. Rob Shepherd has served as a board director for the past three years as well and has always stepped up to our many challenges. Alec McDougall has been our Treasurer for three years and has kept our ship sailing a straight line. Last but not least is Jim "Duff" Duffield", or current board president. Duff works tirelessly to keep us organized, on point, and productive, and as you can see from his message on the next page, much has been accomplished during his tenure. Duff has been president for the past three years, and has six total years on our board, as well as another year working on committees. All these individuals have been great people to work with, and I have enjoyed this working relationship but mostly their friendships. Thanks to each of you. ***YOU WILL BE MISSED!***

What a happy and grand time we had on November 23rd. Jose & Araceli Soto and their two wonderful children, Nancy and Noe had their new home Dedication. We had a strong crowd of supporters, including our great friends from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who funded this home. I wish I could name them all, but if I tried I would take the risk of leaving someone out. I do want to say that Al and Judy Peraino, Carol Gillespie and Anne Anderson were each key to the success of this wonderful build. I should also mention that we were able to build this home in less than nine months while working only two days per week. By the way, we made our goal of having the Soto's in for Thanksgiving. I love it when a plan comes together. Please see picture on next page.

Our Women Build organization reached their fundraising goal, and are ready to break ground at the Central United Methodist Church property, which has now been named Habitat Village where our next four homes will be built. Belen Martinez and her four children, Thalia, Mauricio, Damian and Sasha are the family that will be the recipients of this Women Build home. This home will be the first four bedroom home we have built in many years. Belen and her family have already put in over half of their 500 Sweat Equity hours, and seem thrilled with the prospect of this grand move. Please see picture on next page of this dynamic group preparing for their build.

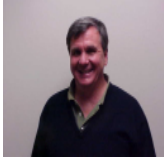
The other three homes will be started in the Spring and Summer of 2009. This will prove to be a busy and exciting time for Skagit Habitat. We have successfully gotten our land funded, and a good portion of our infrastructure build out has been funded as well. We can still use a great deal of help in donations to cover the materials we now need to build these homes. As you can see from the opening article in this newsletter, we have an incredible group of donors who have supported our projects for many years now, and we would not be where we are without their donations. Even considering all this, we still need the help of our Skagit Community in order to complete these three homes. We hope you might find it in your hearts to make a donation to help us out.

Four new families have been selected for our next homes, and they are already pitching in and building up their Sweat Equity hours. The new families are Nathan Stensby & Jasmine Fisher and family— The Avalos Family – The Gabriela Gonzalez family – and the Wendie Marden family. Welcome to our Skagit Habitat family!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please keep us in your prayers, and try to stop by our work sites and see the work we do. You can always find out what and where our builds are taking place by checking our website at [www.skagithabitat.com](http://www.skagithabitat.com).

Sincerely,

*Wayne Wegner*



### **A FINAL WORD FROM President Jim Duffield!**

This newsletter edition is a milestone for me, as it marks one of my final acts as a member of the Board of Directors.

When I began serving as a member of the Family Selection Committee seven years ago, I never realized the time would pass so quickly, and that we would grow so much. When I began, we were building about one house per year; now we are working on building three per year. We had perhaps one functioning committee; now we have at least seven, plus special event committees. We talked about doing a Women Build—quite a concept to us then—and now we have broken ground on our first house. We talked about doing a House that Faith Built, and it turned out to be our first-ever Thrivent Build house that we just dedicated. Our Board has grown to 16 directors; we have a paid Executive Director and an Operations Coordinator; and we have really expanded knowledge about SHFH in the county.

I know that SHFH will be in good hands as we move into new and exciting challenges, with perhaps the biggest one our potential to finally open a ReStore. We've done market research, found some ready donors of products, and have people asking us, "When is your ReStore going to be open?" This is exciting for our affiliate, and gives us one more way to serve the Skagit County community while opening another door for operational funding. I'm especially proud of the high-quality Board members we have recruited, and I know they will continue to do what is best for our affiliate, for our Partner Families, and for the affordable housing situation here.

I plan to stay involved in some ways with committees, and plan to even put on a tool belt and do what I can to help at the job site. We have a wonderful group of core volunteers, and it would be my privilege to spend some time working with them. I know my wife will have some "honey do's" for me now that I have some "free" time, and I owe her that for all the hours I've spent on Habitat business to date. We may finalize plans to build on property we've owned on Orcas Island for 20 years, and that will fill our time completely once we make the final decision. Finally, I am 100 % committed to do a bike ride of the state of Idaho (where I grew up) during the summer of 2009, and intend to use it to draw attention to the affiliates there, and to Habitat in general. I'll get more information out to you in the Spring, as I did in 2006 for my hike across Washington. Thanks again to all our donors, sponsors, volunteers, fellow Board members, Wayne, and Tabatha, and friends of Habitat—it has been a wonderful journey for these years.

### **Skagit Habitat for Humanity 13th Annual Benefit Concert**

## **I BELIEVE in Christmas**



*Featuring I Believe,  
Variations on Jingle Bells,  
And many other holiday favorites.*

**Sunday, December 14  
4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.  
Sacred Heart Church  
410 Douglas Street, La Conner**

*Introducing several new musicians and vocalists as we celebrate our 13th year of helping families in our community.*

Please try to attend this wonderful event and enjoy some incredible entertainment, and join Skagit Habitat for Humanity in celebrating this joyous Christmas Season.

**We hope to see you there!**



**Women Build Group**



**Soto Family Home**

*Skagit Habitat for Humanity has had a wonderful year. The Garibay and Soto families are in their new homes, and the Women Build home has broken ground on the Martinez family home. We have three additional lots we can begin building on as well. It is an exciting time for us, and we owe so much to you, our supporters and donors. Without you we would not be able to realize the success we have.*

*Thank You so much, and we do hope you have a **Merry Christmas**, and a very **Happy New Year**.*

***God Bless you all!***

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***YES, I WANT TO HELP HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN SKAGIT COUNTY!***

Donor Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my enclosed check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to further the great cause of Skagit Habitat for Humanity.

**OR**

Please charge my (Circle One) VISA or MASTERCARD in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your generous donation to

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