



# Hammer & Nail

Fall 2004

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF ATHENS COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

## Cardboard City Raises \$ and Awareness

Participants have fun while helping eliminate poverty housing

On the third weekend of September, people from all walks of life joined Athens County Habitat for Humanity to take a stand against substandard housing. Teams braved the rising flood waters of hurricane Ivan to participate in Cardboard City by spending the night in cardboard boxes and raising awareness of the need for decent housing in Athens County.



First and second place winners of the Designers' Award, Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority (above) and Tom and Larson Lovdal (right), pose with their trophies.



Winner of the grand prize for raising the most funds, St. Paul & Christ the King Youth Group, poses with their trophy.

The event, sponsored in part by the Athens Rotaract Club, was recognized by Habitat for Humanity International as an outstanding Building on Faith Week project and was attended by Rick Beech, U.S. Director of Church Relations. ACHFH thanks everyone who made Cardboard City so memorable. We look forward to seeing you next year. Mark your calendars!

## Two New Families Selected!

Habitat on its way to build four homes in 2005

Athens County Habitat for Humanity is proud to announce the selection of two new partner families. One family of four, Jamie and Tammy Brunty and their two children, are currently living in the Guysville area. A family of three, Cheryl Champ and her two daughters, currently lives in Athens. Both families have already started earning their sweat equity hours, and are on their way to purchasing their very own Habitat homes.

Next year ACHFH will break ground on twice as many homes. **We need your help now more than ever!** To volunteer or to make a financial contribution to help Habitat meet this ambitious goal, fill out the enclosed reply envelope and return it ASAP.

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# ACHFH honors two extraordinary volunteers

## Golden Hammer Award

George Bain, Chair of the ACHFH Faith Build Coalition and member of the Board, was honored this fall with the 2004 Golden Hammer Award for outstanding volunteer service to Habitat. George has always been an innovator in the organization, creating new ways to involve churches through outreach and fundraising. He designed window decals for the affiliate and ordered new t-shirts to make Habitat more visible in the community. This year, with George's leadership, the Faith Build Coalition took a leap of faith, beginning its first ever week-long build to celebrate Building on Faith Week. We thank George for his tireless effort on behalf of our county's working poor. Congratulations, George!



From left to right: Ann Charles Watts, ACHFH executive director; George Bain, 2004 Golden Hammer recipient; and Steve Sloan ACHFH Board President

## Mullins Leadership Award



Mary Helen Graham, recipient of the 2004 Dudley H. Mullins Leadership Award

The selection of Mary Helen Graham as recipient of the 2004 Dudley H. Mullins Leadership Award was a simple one. Mary Helen, Chairperson of the Family Selection Committee and member of the ACHFH Board

of Directors, has been an agent of positive change in the organization for many years. In 2004, she has ushered in a new method of family selection and brought both her committee and the affiliate up to Habitat for Humanity International's "Best Practice" for family selection procedures. Mary Helen's committee has a reputation for objectivity and fairness that makes it one of Habitat's most efficient and effective committees. We congratulate Mary Helen Graham on her outstanding leadership! Thank you, Mary Helen.

### Hammer & Nail Staff

**Editor:** Ann Charles Watts

**Contributors:**

George Bain, Lemuel Gardner, and Steve Sloan

# O'Bleness Foundation partners with Habitat

## Mini-park constructed on the Bike Path at Habitat House

On November 14, ACHFH and the O'Bleness Foundation dedicated a mini-park at 525 West Union Street. The park, funded by a generous grant from the Foundation,



includes benches overlooking the river, a picnic table, bike racks, increased lighting, and signs alerting people on the bike path to public restrooms and a

drinking fountain located inside Habitat House. The park and public restrooms are a welcome addition to the bike path, according to frequent travelers. Our many thanks to the O'Bleness Foundation and the Habitat volunteers who made the project possible. Please stop by and admire their hard work.

# A Letter from the President

Getting more on your investment



Steven T. Sloan, President  
Athens County Habitat for Humanity

Athens County Habitat For Humanity (ACHFH), with its Coalitions and many volunteers, has built a total of 14 homes. This fall the Faith Build Coalition and the Affiliate started two new homes which we plan to have finished by Christmas. As soon as weather permits in the spring, the Women Raise the Roof Coalition and the Athens Rotary Club will start two more homes. Building four homes in less than 12 months tells us that we can accomplish our goal of building five houses in 2006.

The building of these homes does more than provide the family with a simple, safe place to live. It also allows all who are part of Athens County Habitat to help people in other countries. For every

Habitat house built in Athens County, a tithe of 10 percent of the cost of that house is donated to Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). HFHI then uses this money to build homes in other countries all over the world. Over the years, ACHFH's tithe contributions have allowed homes to be built in Central America, Paraguay, and Liberia. We already know that the Rotary house tithe will be used to help construct homes in India. Because the cost of construction in many of these countries is much less than in the United States, more homes can be built for every dollar donated. Tithes from Habitat affiliates across the country have allowed over 104,000 homes to be built in other countries.

When you donate your time, your talents, and your gifts to ACHFH, remember that the home you see built in Athens County and the new beginning which this home represents for the family who will live there is only part of the story. Somewhere else in the world, the true meaning of sharing will allow another family to also have a new beginning.

Sincerely yours,

## ATHENS COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Bain  
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**Executive Director**  
Ann Charles Watts

## An Investment in Quality Housing

Every dollar is crucial on the way to building a Habitat home. Please consider a donation to ACHFH. Your generosity makes our work possible.

Box of Nails \$10	<b>An Entire Habitat Home \$55,000</b>	Shower \$250
Cinderblocks \$15	Toilet or Interior Door \$50	Siding \$500
Ceiling Fan \$25	Window \$75	Wall Board \$1,000
Shingles \$35	Sink \$100	Flooring \$2,000
5 Gallons of Paint \$40	Front Door \$150	Roof \$5,000

# Two Homes for the Holidays

ACHFH Building Hope in Athens County one Family at a Time

Two homes, one in Coolville and one in Glouster, were begun this fall and will soon be occupied by deserving families. Although the two families receiving these homes have lived very different lives, they have more in common than the fact that they will both soon be homeowners—both are single grandmothers raising their granddaughters and both are named Nancy.

## Nancy Wilcoxon in Coolville

Nancy Wilcoxon was selected in the spring of 2004 to receive a Habitat home. She and her four-year-old granddaughter, who suffers from a developmental disability, live in a trailer that has aged beyond repair. Although Nancy has tried to winterize the home, there are soft spots in the floor and walls that make it unbearably cold in winter months. Furthermore, the electrical system in the trailer is so dangerously unreliable that Nancy and her granddaughter often must seek nighttime shelter with friends and family for their own safety.

Nancy's Habitat house is being sponsored by the Faith Build Coalition of Athens County Habitat for Humanity. The community demonstrated a true outpouring of support for Nancy, and it was believed it would be virtually impossible to find volunteers willing to work Monday through Friday, the schedule for building the house under roof before hurricane Ivan hit the area on Friday.

The Faith Build Coalition took a leap of faith when they decided to build with Nancy, and they have been working hard to complete the house by Christmas, but **they will need your help!** Nancy and her granddaughter please pray for the work of Habitat for Humanity in our community.



Nancy Wilcoxon's home in Coolville under construction

## Nancy Howe in Nelsonville

Nancy Howe and her granddaughter live in Nelsonville with their dog.



Nancy Howe's home in Glouster under construction



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manity, and it was begun in September with a week-long  
cy and the Faith Build Coalition. Although some people  
was full, and the volunteer team managed to get Nancy's

very successful. Now, they would like to dedicate Nancy's  
cy's home is under-funded. As you spend time with family and attend worship services this holiday season,  
community and consider a designated gift to the Faith Build Coalition to complete Nancy's home. You can make  
a church or in the enclosed reply envelope—just write Faith Build in the memo of your check to ACHF. Together  
holiday season the happiest ever for Nancy and her family.

## n Glouster

She was selected in the fall of 2004 to receive a Habitat Home. She and her ten-year-old granddaughter currently  
where Nancy grew up. Nancy, who suffers from a number of physical disabilities, currently lives in a house that is  
not handicap accessible. She is unable to reach her cabinets or easily wash dishes in her kitchen, and  
her granddaughter, who is bipolar and suffers from schizophrenia, cannot be properly supervised,  
because Nancy is unable to climb the stairs to the home's second story.

Preparations for Nancy's new Habitat home began in late September. Because there were no  
sponsors available for her home, Athens County Habitat for Humanity took responsibility for funding,  
coordinating volunteers, and building. Nancy, who worked for thirty years before her disability made  
that impossible, has been very involved with the construction of her home, despite her disabilities. In  
fact, the Family Selection Committee made note of the fact that Nancy is "a vigorous woman, though  
physically limited." Her spirit and work ethic have made her partnership with Habitat a great success.

Athens County Habitat for Humanity would like to dedicate Nancy's house before Christmas,  
but funds are still needed to finish the home. If you would like to help ACHF complete Nancy's home,  
simply return your contribution to Habitat in the enclosed reply envelope. Make sure to write "Nancy  
Howe" in the memo of your check to designate the funds to her home. With your help, two more  
families in our community will experience the warmth of the Holidays.

## What is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, non-profit organization whose goal is to eliminate sub-standard housing. It works in partnerships with families to build safe, decent, and affordable homes. Costs are kept low by using as much volunteer labor and donated materials as possible.

Families are chosen by the affiliate's Family Selection Committee, which reviews an applicant family's need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner. Every affiliate follows a non-discriminatory policy of family selection. Neither race nor religion is a factor in choosing the families who receive Habitat houses.

The selected families are required to put 250 hours of "sweat equity" into their homes, by working side by side with Habitat volunteers during construction. Each Habitat for Humanity home is sold to a family in need at no profit and no interest. The cost of the home is then repaid by a no-interest mortgage over a fixed period of time. These payments are then recycled to build more houses in Athens County.

## Homeowner Workshops Begin

Athens County Habitat for Humanity has begun a new series of homeowner workshops. These trainings include homecare and repair, economic issues of owning a home, avoiding future financial sinkholes, and important locations in the home. Coordinators of the workshops are Greg Polzer and Naomi Stork with presenters April Crabtree, and Lowe's of Athens.

Three prospective homeowner families have attended the first two sessions. The final two will be completed by the middle of December. After the New Year, current Habitat homeowners will also be invited to attend the workshops.

## Faith Build Update

The Faith Build Coalition is building its third house and has also been active in fund-raising projects. The third house, for partner Nancy Wilcoxon, is near Coolville. It got under roof in mid-September as part of the rapid building effort during Building on Faith Week. The many volunteers who helped that week beat Hurricane Ivan by a day! Dry wall and other interior work is scheduled to be completed by year's end.

The FBC also raised money through a successful BBQ Bash in August. Held on the Hocking College Campus, the event featured the Hocking College Culinary Arts program. Radio station WEAK-FM provided background music and Mary Robinson generously donated a house-motif quilt for a raffle.

The FBC worked at the OU Bobcats home football games selling concessions in the stands. The OU student chapter assisted with this effort to raise money and promote Athens County Habitat for Humanity. Now, with the OU men's basketball season upon us, look for the FBC crew. We would love to sell you some goodies at the games and apply the earnings to our home building work!

## Habitat for Humanity of Ohio

Statewide Habitat will aid rural affiliates

Habitat for Humanity of Ohio has been officially recognized as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. HFHO, known in the Habitat community as a state support organization, was founded to serve Habitat's 72 affiliates statewide by seeking untapped public and private funds for house building. Already, the organization has been granted \$1,000,000 from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund to benefit both rural and urban affiliates across the state.

HFHO is also pursuing a Habitat license plate that will be available in 2006. For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Ohio and its activities, please contact HFHO Board Chair Ann Charles Watts, executive director of our own ACHFH.

# Help Wanted!

Positions available for committed volunteers

Swinging a hammer is just one way that you can help combat substandard housing in Athens County. ACHFH is always looking for committed volunteers to help out in the office, serve on a committee, or organize volunteers for the worksite. So, if construction isn't your cup of tea, or if you would like to get involved on a long-term basis, your organizational skills could be just what we need!

## How to get involved

**Serve on a Committee**-We are currently seeking individuals to serve on the Church Relations, Public Relations, and Fundraising Committees. Other committees include: Building, Family Selection, Family Partnership, Finance, Legal & Personnel, and Site Selection Committees.

**Become an Office Volunteer**-There is always something to be done around the ACHFH office at 525 West Union Street, Athens. If you enjoy working in an office environment, this may be an ideal volunteer opportunity for you.

**Consider ACHFH in Wills, Stock, Gift Annuities, & Family Trusts**-Continue to build homes in Athens County for years to come by remembering ACHFH in a will or family trust.

**Contribute Land**-Do you have land to donate or know of someone who may be interested in donating land? ACHFH is always looking for appropriate building sites for its next homes.

*If you are interested in becoming more involved in Athens County Habitat for Humanity, please contact Ann Charles Watts, executive director, at (740) 592-0032.*

## Are you tired of shopping for the perfect gift? Give a Gift from the Heart that changes lives

ACHFH makes gift-giving easy! When you give a Gift from the Heart, your loved one will receive a personalized gift card announcing that a contribution has been made in his or her name to Athens County Habitat for Humanity, and you will be mailed a receipt documenting your tax-deductible contribution. Please complete the form below and place it with your payment in the return enveloped provided.

Please send a *Gift from the Heart* in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

For (please choose one):

To (recipient): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birthday  | <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas | <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hanukkah  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holidays  |                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kwanzaa   |                                       |

From (your name): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form in the enclosed envelope with your check or credit card information. You will receive a receipt for your tax-deductible gift. **If you would like to send more Gifts from the Heart, simply copy this form or the information therein and mail it with your payment in the enclosed envelope to ACHFH.**

# The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Happy Holidays! As we begin this season of great times, good food, and celebration, there are too many families in Athens County who have a cold, sparse Christmas ahead of them. By supporting ACHFH, you will help us provide warm homes for deserving families in our community.

Athens County Habitat for Humanity has built an astonishing 14 homes in our community. Although we are proud of this achievement, there are still a tremendous number of homes to build and families to help. Your gift can make it happen!

Every time I see a Habitat house go up, tears fall from my eyes because I know someone else's dream is coming true.

SHIRLICE, HABITAT HOMEOWNER

When you support ACHFH, you help build homes in Athens County and around the world. For every donation we receive, 10% is directed to over-seas building projects and 100% of those funds are used for house building.

Bring hope to families in need and qualify for a **2004 tax deduction** by mailing your check by December 31, 2004!

— A return envelope has been enclosed for your convenience. —



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