

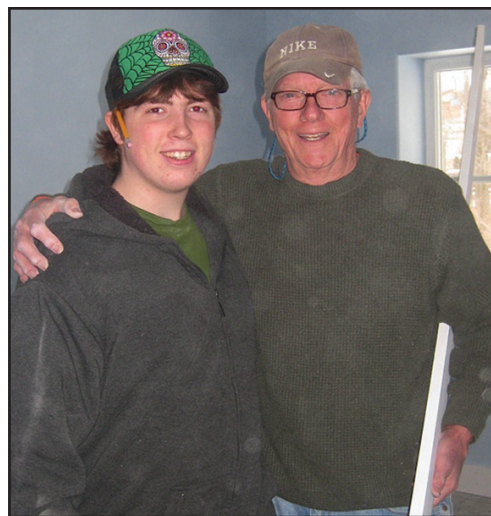


Habitat for Humanity of Addison County  
Post Office Box 1217  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

## Cornwall Project Continues To Proceed Well



We celebrated the sale of house number one to Angela, Caitlain and Jonathan McClusky with a dedication on May 18, 2013. Angela says that “we are happy to be the owners of the first house in the Cornwall project. It’s a very nice feeling that my kids and I are living in a house that we helped build”. House number two is well underway with the framing nearly finished.



Thanks in great measure to contributions of over \$200,000 from our Capital Campaign donors, over \$100,000 in grants from the Town of Cornwall, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and People’s United Bank and the efforts of over 150 volunteers, suppliers and tradesmen, our four-house Cornwall project is well underway!



We expect house number two to be completed by next spring and to immediately thereafter commence construction on house number three. All four houses in this project are or will use one half of the energy limits of the Vermont building code and we estimate that the utility costs for each house will be range from a low of \$250 and a maximum of \$500 per year!

Thanks again to all that have contributed to this extraordinary effort!



*Building decent, safe and affordable places to live.*

## News From The Crews

Fall 2013



*Mickey Heineken learns about windows as Nikko looks on with interest*

## A Visit with the Wednesday Crew

Pulling up to the building in progress at the site of Habitat’s second Cornwall, Vermont home on a clear October Wednesday morning, one senses that serious business is happening. Cars and pick-up trucks are lined up in an orderly row along the dirt road leading up to the site and there is a great deal of movement and sound coming from various locations at the site. A large Kubelco backhoe levels the ground behind the home, a worker cuts lumber at a table saw set up on a level mound of dirt in front of a gangplank leading up to what will be the home’s front door, and a group of men and women are deep in discussions about the proper installation (which will take place in the next 3 minutes) of a super energy efficient window, just arrived from Germany. Luckily, after the window is installed, it is time for the morning coffee break, which gives a few of

the many volunteers who make up the Wednesday crew a chance to talk about their volunteer work with Habitat.

**Rob Liotard**, originally from Long Valley, New Jersey, now residing in Starksboro, Vermont, is a retired Prudential account executive. This is the fourth Habitat house he has worked on and now he is a member of the Board as well. All his life, Rob had been considered “handy” but realized he had never really constructed anything. His work with Habitat has, therefore, been doubly rewarding, allowing him to contribute to the community while gaining valuable skills. “I’ve gotten the opportunity to do things I never would have been able to do. The things we get to do here, being part of the never-ending quest to build a better, tighter, house, are amazing.

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## A Brush With Kindness Project

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County is happy to announce that we have now begun our first “A Brush With Kindness” (ABWK) project for homeowners in Lincoln, Vermont. ABWK allows an affiliate like us to help the community on a smaller scale, as well as with large homebuilding projects. Under this program we make small, but necessary, house repairs for low-income homeowners. Our Lincoln project has included the replacement of damaged wood siding, doing exterior painting and installing of a new roof. The Lincoln community has given us great support by providing monetary contributions as well as voluntary labor.

We hope our Lincoln project will be but the first of many ABWK projects throughout Addison County. Projects we will undertake include such work as exterior painting, siding, window and door repair or replacement, installation of ramps, roof repairs, and the like. If you know of low-income homeowners who could use our assistance, we would love to hear from you.





Our First Family, 11 Years On

By Lonnie Fisher



Ross and Heather Gorton moved into the first house December 2001 with 5 children ages 9 and younger. One more child would arrive a little over a year later. Today a visit at the house reveals the results of 11 years of enterprising effort. The Gortons have used their property tax refunds to upgrade, maintain and improve their home. They are using their lot for a vegetable garden, berry patches, fruit trees, pigs, a turkey, chickens and

rabbits – all being raised to feed the family. They have been doing this for several years. Oh, and did I mention the sugar bush? They are making maple syrup too.

When Jared, the eldest, was about to enter High school, Heather began to home school her children. (When I was leaving today, the kids were inviting me to stay longer to delay onset of class time, nothing new there). Her efforts, which have involved finding the

right match of programs for each child has been successful. The three oldest are employed.

Jared, works for Feed Commodities and lives with and cares for his grandmother. Matthew 21, is in the Air Force in New Jersey, Emily 18 works at Eastview and is studying to be a physical therapist. Hannah 13, Samuel 15, and Grace 10, are still home schooling.

Heather sends update letters to Habitat every month with her check. She emphasized that she has a budget to which they adhere, placing house payments at the top of the list.



A Visit with the Wednesday Crew

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And, it’s important for people to understand that you don’t have to be highly skilled to join in. You may get your comfort level stretched a little, but you will come away still having had a great experience.”

**Al Stiles**, from New Haven, Connecticut, has lived in Vermont for the past 35 years. At age 84, he is the oldest member of the Wednesday crew and has worked on many houses for Habitat. Al says he “loves to do things for other people.” He encourages all newcomers saying, “You can’t be wrong. We do lots of wrong things and then we go back and fix them. We have lots of people who have never used a hammer and they want to be able to use one. We have teams consisting of one experienced guy and one not so experienced guy. Harold (Strassner),



Al Stiles and Mary Lou Webster

the supervisor says to you, ‘Here’s what I want you to do.’ He’ll give you a very quick summary. Even if you say to him you don’t know how to do it... you learn fast.”

**Mary Lou Webster**, born and raised in eastern Michigan, now living in Brandon, started on the Wednesday crew in August 2009 with the Weybridge house. She had some basic skills, self-taught, as a result of re-habbing her house in Brandon with her husband. She has learned a lot working with Habitat. “Now I can read blueprints!” Mary Lou is just one of



Rob Liotard enjoying a coffee break.

the guys on the crew, although “they kind of make sure I don’t crawl up on the roof or do anything too heavy, because there are plenty of other things to do.” Reflecting on why she keeps coming back to Habitat and the Wednesday crew, she says, “I just feel compelled to do this type of work. I’ve had a good life, it’s time to give back.” And she advises other women to join. “Don’t be afraid to come ask and help. If you’ve never picked up a hammer, there’s usually something you can do. Working with these guys is darn fun!”

**Mickey Heinecken**, from Cornwall, is a retired Middlebury College football coach. He has always enjoyed building and fixing things. His volunteer work with Habitat has brought him full circle from when he apprenticed on a building crew in his 20’s. After he retired, Mickey was “looking to make sure that he was using his time productively. I’ve learned a lot doing houses from start to finish under the tutelage of Harold, who really knows what he’s doing. Working for Habitat is a good cause and we’ve got a good group of people. We have a few retired Middlebury College staff and faculty who are starting to join the crew, and

of course we have lots of college kids who come out. I had a lot of fun last year because there was a period of weekends when some football kids came to work. The most enjoyable thing is that this was a piece of dirt when we started, and at a certain point it’s going to be finished and you can look at it and take a little pride in seeing something go from nothing to a finished house.”

Middlebury College Chapter - Celebrating 14 Years of Service

The Middlebury College Chapter is celebrating its 14th anniversary this year. In fact, the College Chapter was the inspiration for the creation of our Addison County affiliate. Since its founding, the College Chapter has participated in over ten builds throughout the East, and has held dozens of fundraisers.

The over 100 students of the Middlebury College Chapter do not cease their good works after graduation. For example, Mia Benjamin, a Chapter President who graduated with a BA in International Studies in May, 2013, is currently in Amman, Jordan on a Fulbright Scholarship where she will study the intersection of Islamic and Jordanian Civil Laws.

Our affiliate designated our 2013 tithe to Habitat International to be used to help build houses in Jordan in appreciation for Mia’s efforts. Mia and all of the other College Chapter students and alumni continue to be an inspiration to us all!



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