



# Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity Newsletter

Number 6

Fall, 2003

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Habitat--a hand up, not a handout

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**WAHFH volunteers and partner family members celebrate the groundbreaking of our first project on June 28, 2003.**

## **Partner Family Selected--Construction Begins!**

On Saturday, July 28th, WAHFH broke ground on its first project. The house, being built at the corner of High Street and Drummond Avenue in Waterville, will be the home of Ron and Carol Beckim and their five children.

Family Selection Chair Claudette Couture introduced the Beckims to the Board at the WAHFH annual meeting held on May 21, 2003. The family was chosen following a multi-step process in which applicants are considered based on their need, their ability to repay the no-profit, no-interest mortgage, and their willingness to partner in the construction of their new home.

The partnership requirement is not taken lightly. Selected families must complete a minimum of 450 hours of "sweat equity" prior to moving in. The Beckims have embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm--Ron and Carol are regulars on the jobsite, and kids Crystal, Kim, Aaron, and Mark have also done their fair share (new arrival Jacob is still a bit young to swing a hammer!)

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## Construction Begins... (Continued from page 1)

The Beckim's house will be a four-bedroom, 1 1/2 bath ranch with an "open-plan" kitchen/dining/living space. The foundation is a raised slab featuring in-floor radiant heat. The overall design seeks to minimize construction costs while maximizing livability and energy efficiency. Habitat houses should be affordable to maintain as well as build!



**Volunteers raise the first wall in August!**

July saw the completion of the foundation, the exterior walls were constructed in August, and the roof raised in September. Volunteers are now working diligently on installing the windows, doors, roofing, and siding. Once enclosed for the winter, work will progress on the inside of the house.

A spring, 2004 move-in is planned.

## Donations of Money, Materials, and Services Make it Happen

Habitat for Humanity keeps construction costs low by building houses with volunteer labor. The greatest expense in building a new home, however, is in purchasing materials and services (like electrical and plumbing) that require licensed professionals.

Generous cash donations from individuals, organizations, churches, and businesses have provided the financial footing for our first project, but in-kind donations of materials and volunteered professional services make up the difference. To date, generous donations from Pike Industries, Don Gurney, Dragon Concrete, Dow Building Materials, Mainely Trusses, and Hammond Lumber Company have gone into the project, while contractors Ron Rodrigue, Reliable Electric, and L.N. Violette have volunteered much-needed professional assistance.

As the house progresses, in-kind donations from Waterville Window Company, Guardian Building Products, Ware-Butler, Sherwin-Williams, Paul Gamache Plumbing and Heating, Hancock Lumber and Kennebec Building Supply are also expected, with more still in the works!

***As we embark on this exciting first project, WAHFH sincerely thanks everyone in the community whose generous contributions have brought us to this important milestone.***

## What's Next?

With house number one under way, it's not too soon to think about the future of WAHFH. Goals for the coming year include identifying a site for the next house, which we hope to begin in the Spring of 2005.

Of course, fundraising is always high on the "to-do" list. Donations are needed both to complete the High St. project and to build cash and material reserves (estimated \$60K) to fund the next house. Our second annual appeal is planned for late 2003, and we will continue to expand our multi-faceted campaign targeting individuals, businesses, faith groups, civic and philanthropic organizations.

Organizational growth will also be a focus of the next year. Maintaining momentum is critical to the success of WAHFH, and recruiting new people with fresh energy is critical to maintaining momentum. We hope the visibility of the High St. project will help raise awareness and generate enthusiasm in the community. If you would like to become more involved with WAHFH, now is the time!

## Recently elected...

(or re-elected!) to two year terms on the WAHFH Board of Directors: Alan Ashbaugh, Don Chase, Marc Chadbourne, Tim Christensen, Sharon Etscovitz, Darla Frost, Chris Huck, David Jones, Tony Marin, and Brenda Perry.

Other continuing Board members include Rachel Brodeur, Scott Guay, Gil Pelletier, Sr. Line Rioux, Ron Rodrigue, and Bart Stevens.

WAHFH thanks outgoing members Traci Speed and Jim Webb. Your dedicated efforts have been instrumental to achieving our goals for the past year!

## Want to work?

Our volunteer committee has been recruiting help based on responses to the WAHFH volunteer skills survey. If you are anxious to help out but haven't heard from us yet, don't be shy about dropping a reminder! Call Darla at Kennebec Federal Savings, 873-5151 x15, or email [habitat@watervilleareahfh.org](mailto:habitat@watervilleareahfh.org).

And remember, opportunities go beyond just construction! We need people to provide food for workdays, and to serve on the various committees that keep WAHFH running.

For more information, or to get a printable volunteer skills survey form to mail, visit [www.watervilleareahfh.org](http://www.watervilleareahfh.org).



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## Calendar of Events

First Tuesday of each month	Board meeting, 6:30 pm, Colby College, Lunder House
Second Wednesday of each month	Construction Committee meeting <i>Contact us for specific time and location</i>
Third Tuesday of each month	Volunteer Committee meeting <i>Contact us for specific time and location</i>
Every Saturday (almost)	Work on the High Street house! (See page 3 for info on signing up for a workday.)
Late November/ Early December	<b>WAHFH 2nd Annual Mail Appeal</b> <i>Thank you for supporting your local HFH affiliate</i>

For more information about any of these activities, please contact us by e-mail or phone.

***The Calendar of Events is updated frequently.  
Log on to [www.watervilleareahfh.org](http://www.watervilleareahfh.org) for the latest information.***