

A monthly newsletter for Habitat staff, volunteers and community supporters.
Greg Woith, editor.

Habitat Happenings

January 2011



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Dick Wiley

Q. When did you first begin volunteering for Habitat?



A. I first volunteered in 2002 on Genell Ashby's house on Madison. Our church was sponsoring the house and Wendell Cox who was the site coordinator for FUMC asked me to join them with the build.

Q. What do you do as a volunteer?

A. As a volunteer I have served as the site coordinator for the FUMC sponsored builds since 2003 (6 houses). Actually, Wendell Cox and I have shared this responsibility. In addition, I have worked on most of the other Habitat builds in the Peoria area. Most of my working activity involves painting, rough carpentry and dry walling.

Q. How did you first get involved with Habitat?

A. See first answer. After the first build I was hooked!

Q. What is your most rewarding moment as a volunteer?

A. The most rewarding moment is when the new homeowner receives the keys to their new home. Equally rewarding is all of the awesome people you meet and interact with.

Q. Tell us a little about your family and hobbies:

A. My wife and I have two sons—one is married and has provided us with five beautiful grandchildren—the other is a bachelor. We are truly blessed. My hobbies include model railroading, kayaking and being a grandpa.

Q. Overall, how would you describe your Habitat volunteer experience.

A. Overall experience with Habitat—**OUTSTANDING!!**



Girl Scout Troop 4388 from Holy Family School in Peoria (above) visited Habitat's ReStore Jan. 5. The group toured the store and then got creative with 2x4s. Below, Romi Gardner, right, and Grace Campbell work on their creation which they titled "A Little Sprinkle of Joy." Romi is the daughter of Hedy Gardner, long-time member of the Family Selection Committee. The group created four painted 2x4s that will be included in the **2x4s & More Art Auction** Feb. 4.



NEWSLETTER INDEX

Volunteer Profile	Page 1
Staff Profile	Page 1
FUMC Feature	Page 2
2x4s & More	Page 2
Annual Meeting	Page 2

February Feature: Advocates for Access
Upcoming Event:

Feb 4: **2x4s & More Art Auction**

Tickets are \$24.24 and are available online at habitatpeoria.org

STAFF PROFILE

Terry Cunefare

Q. How long have you been employed with Habitat?



A. Since 1999.

Q. Describe your position?

A. Construction coordinator. I am involved with almost everything that is involved with building the houses, lots, building permits, subcontractors, partner families, and as Mike

Trent would say, anything that he doesn't want to do.

Q. What did you do prior to joining the Habitat team?

A. Retired assistant fire chief city of East Peoria.

Q. What is your favorite memory or story with Habitat?

A. I really enjoy all of the friendships created with the volunteers, partner families, staff and all the people I get to work with on the Habitat houses. I can think of a number of favorite memories but this newsletter isn't long enough to list them. The houseblessings are very special, seeing how excited the partner families are when they receive the keys to their new house. I wish I could bottle those feelings and hand them out to those who couldn't attend the special event.

Q. Tell us a little about your family and hobbies.

A. I have been married to my wonderful wife Ruby for six years. We have four children, TJ, Nancy, Paul and Matt in our combined families. We also have seven beautiful grandchildren, Kalee, McKenzie, Jake, Kamie, Jorie, Jack and Lucy. What a wonderful life we have. I met Ruby through Kiwanis seven years ago and we are still very active in the East Peoria, Pekin, and Downtown Peoria "Early Birds" Kiwanis clubs. My oldest granddaughter, Kalee, is a member of the East Peoria Community High School
(continued on page 2)

FUMC Leads The Way With 12 Habitat Builds

When it comes to support for the Habitat program in the community, First United Methodist Church leads the way with sponsorship of 12 completed houses and hopes to sponsor a 13th build in 2011.



FUMC's first build was in 1997 at 607 Vine in Peoria.

Wendell Cox said the church's mission is building up Christ in the heart of the city. That led to a relationship with Irving School and a realization that there was a need for affordable hous-

ing on the north side of Peoria.

"We have 10 different community ministries," Wendell said of the church, which has 1,700 members. "One of them is housing. We meet six or seven times a year and then go from there."

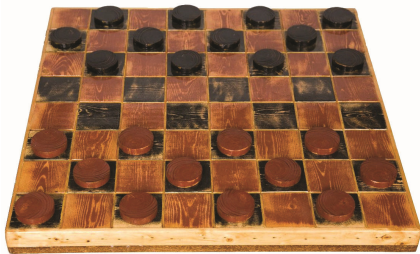
Dick Wiley heads up organizing the workforce from the congregation. "We have a core group of workers," Dick said. "We send out an email and advise people of the needs for the week. And we have great turnout."

Dick laughed and said, "We went from doing the roofs to staying off of them."

On a serious note, Dick is proud of the fact that his group has had no serious injuries during the construction of the 12 houses.

Dick said, "Our group has also helped out on 10 houses not sponsored by FUMC. We believe in giving back to the community as much as possible."

According to Wendell and Dick the Habitat program has created many friendships that didn't previously exist, brought people together for a common cause, and long-term relationships have been built.



Two of the "Final Six" award winners for the *2x4s & More Art Auction* are "Texas Checkers" by David Holt, Jr. of Edwards and "Raising the Bar" by Erich Keil, a professor in Theater Arts at Bradley. Both pieces will be auctioned live on Feb. 4 to raise funds for Habitat to purchase 2x4s and other materials for five houses to be built in 2011.



Andrea Patterson-Bell shares her experience as a Partner Family during the Habitat annual meeting Jan. 20 while Kent Kowalske looks on.



Kim Schilling prepares one of her weekly Saturday meals for volunteers and workers at ReStore. Thanks Kim!

Judges Select The "Final Six"

A panel of seven judges met at the Habitat offices Jan. 15 and selected the "Final Six" award winners from 66 works of art donated for the *2x4s & More Art Auction* to be held Feb. 4 at the Waterhouse in Peoria. The "Final Six" works of art will be featured in the live auction portion of the event while the other donated art will be featured either in the \$24.24 donation or the silent auction portions.

Grabbing the top two spots in the "Final Six" was David Holt, Jr. of Edwards, IL. His creation titled "Texas Checkers" received 104 points and his entry titled "Circa II x IV" received 103 points. David utilized reclaimed 2x4s to create substantial sculpture-style works of art.

Erich Keil, a professor in Theater Arts at Bradley University, finished third with 95.5 points for "Raising the Bar", a sculpture depicting a framed wall being raised. Eric Cooney of Pekin was fourth at 95 points with "Crossing", a photo of a railroad trestle crossing applied to three pieces of 2x4 and attached by a chain.

Fifth with 86 points was Emily Lohman, a Pekin High School student whose entry titled "Simplicity" used a 2x4 frame, a painting and wire sculptures. Rounding out the "Final Six" is "Possible Impossibilities" by Mark Lowman, also a professor in Theater Arts at BU. His creation of intertwined 2x4 triangles received 84 points.



804 W. Main In Peoria

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ReStore Hours

Mon-Fri: 8 am-5 pm

Sat: 9 am-1 pm

Staff Profile

(Continued from Page 1)

Key Club which is sponsored by the East Peoria Kiwanis Club. My hobbies include Kiwanis, Habitat, playing billiards, building anything and spending time with my family.

Q. Overall how would you describe your Habitat work experience?

A. Habitat is like a family. I look forward to coming to work everyday, doing something I love, with all the great people who give of their time, talents, and money to make a house a home for our partner families.