

Habitat House Breaks Ground...



The dream of a Habitat for Humanity home, built by Lutherans and others in Custer County this summer, is becoming a reality. The story began over two years ago when Jeff Rohr and Gary Chappell visited the Exec. Director of Black Hills Habitat for Humanity in Rapid City with a modest proposal. They had both been involved with Habitat before moving to Custer, had heard that once upon time a Habitat house had been built here, and wanted to build another one. They took a big step toward realizing their dream this past fall when the Custer County Branch of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans received a "Thrivent Build" grant that would pay for 65% of the cost. Folks in Custer would only need to raise \$10,000, with the Habitat affiliate in Rapid City chipping in \$25,000. That seemed doable and the rest is history.

In January a meeting was held at Outlaw Ranch for interested people. Scott Engmann, the new Exec. Director of Habitat, came down from Rapid with a few others to tell us what we needed to do to get the project going. Committees were formed. Arlene VanKley agreed to chair a Family Selection and Support Committee. Les McClanahan agreed to coordinate the many volunteers who would sign up. Mark Thompson and Jim Grimes agreed to be co-Construction Supervisors. Gary began to find "congregational champions" – representatives in all the area churches. And Jeff became the so-called "Thrivent Builds Chapter Specialist" – the guy who collected the money and gifts-in-kind, and gave monthly progress reports to Thrivent. We were off and running.

In January we thought we had a lot, then lost it. In February we found another one, a beautiful wooded one in the Homestead subdivision, which the seller agreed to let us have at a discount. In March we cut down 25-30 large trees to create a building site. Lowell Swedlund and his crew did all the work, including hauling all the slash away, as a gift to the project. On May 18th ground was broken when Matt Hespen and machine created a beautiful building site on what was a rocky hillside. On May 23rd crews from Jenniges Masonry poured the footings. Later that week the crawlspace foundation was poured. By mid-June we will start the really fun part – pounding nails to build the floor system. A wall-raising ceremony is tentatively set for Saturday, June 30th.

Meanwhile, the Family Selection Committee was busy. They received applications from families who were interested, passed these names on to the affiliate in Rapid to see if they qualified, and finally interviewed all the finalists. They made house visits to observe the current living conditions, and finally made a recommendation to "award" the Habitat house to the Tim Frybarger family. Tim is a single parent with two teenage sons. He has a full-time job at Star Academy. To be eligible to receive a no-interest, 30 year mortgage when the house is complete, he will need to put in 200 hours of "sweat equity" on this project. Tim is extremely grateful and has already started putting in his hours.

Throughout the summer, Tim will be working on the house alongside crews of volunteers from the community and beyond. Fridays and Saturdays will be prime time for Custer folks to get involved. But unlike many Habitat projects, we hope to work on the house 5-6 days a week. On Monday-Thursday, family campers from Outlaw Ranch and Servant Campers from Atlantic Mountain Ranch, will make up the crews who do the work. If you want to get involved please contact Volunteer Coordinator Les McClanahan at 673-3163. You can also sign up as a volunteer online at www.blackhillshabitat.org. Click on "Volunteer" and fill out the online form, which will be e-mailed directly to Les to add to his database. Make sure and indicate you want to be part of the Custer County Build.

Of course, raising money is part of any Habitat project. We need to not only raise the \$10,000 required by Custer County churches and individuals, but also help our local Black Hills Habitat affiliate raise its \$25,000 share. Jon Dahlstrom and Allen Canete have helped by soliciting contributions from the Custer business community. Custer Lutheran Fellowship and its members have already contributed over \$6,000 to the project, with more pledged. The City of Custer has donated \$1,000, and through Crazy Horse another gift of \$1,000 has been donated to our house by Case Construction Equipment. Several other churches in the county have indicated they will be making a donation as well.

If you want to join in this community-wide project and make a financial contribution please send checks, made out to "Custer County Thrivent Build", to 241 No. 3rd Street, Custer, SD 57730. Your donations are tax deductible. Or, if you prefer, you can make the checks out directly to church and indicate in the memo line that your gift is for the Habitat house.

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Habitat Continued....

Finally, we have also received offers of a number of gifts-in-kind. In addition to the logging work done by Lowell Swedlund, all the electrical work will be donated by Jess Studt and Heath Reindl. Some of the electrical components are being donated and Jess will sell us the rest at his cost. The Mayer brothers have said they'll do the plumbing. Do It Best Hardware and Lumber have given us a very discounted price for all the building material. And Custer True Value will donate all the paint. If you have a service or item you would like to donate please let us know.

Questions? Call Jeff Rohr (605-673-6596, rohr@gwtc.net) or Gary Chappell (673-4292).

*This day we begin
the adventure of a lifetime...*

Please join us as we

Joni Larson

and

Steve Hill

are united in marriage

at an outdoor ceremony

on June 9th, 2007

6 PM

245 Dakota Street

Hot Springs, South Dakota

Reception immediately following

RSVP: 605-745-5267 or jo_lar@hotmail.com

(The honor of your presence is gift enough)



Alyson Pond

I was born on March 10, 1992. My Mom and Dan had me baptized on April 14, 1992, by Pastor Chuck on Palm Sunday. My family has been very supportive of my dreams and me. I'm glad I go to this church because everyone is nice to one another.

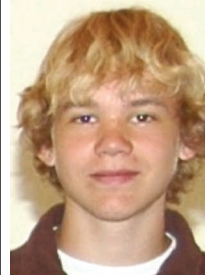
I have learned more about the commandments and that they are broken in many ways everyday. Most commandments are broken because some people don't know all the commandments because of many different reasons.

My mom, sister, grandma and great-grandmother who was a member of another church in Custer inspired me to get into church. My sister talked me into doing confirmation and I'm glad she did because I learned more about some of the kids in my confirmation class then before. My grandma Pat was there for me at church. When I was younger my grandma always had some type of candy with her so I would have to stay by them. When I got older my brother and I would go outside and shoot hoops. My great-grandma was there for us kids when we got sick and she would pick us up from school and my great-grandpa Hugh would come sometimes too. She died when I was in first grade; I started to sit in church and I listen, but sometimes I would still go out and shoot hoops.

Confirmation means to me that I have become closer to Jesus. It also means that I have no reason not to come to church and be bored any more. I know that confirmation has really made an impact in my life. I think that confirmation has got me more into church then I was before confirmation came into my life.

I think that church will be more in my life then it is now because I understand more about what it means. Because I'll be wiser and understand the sermons more then I do now.

My belief in Jesus is the same; he is the only Son of our Father. He is always beside you no matter what you do. Jesus will forgive anyone even if they do something wrong. Jesus will come back someday and he is in everyone.



Alex Kopp

When I first started going to church, I had no idea why we were there. I had heard of God, but didn't understand who or what he was. So back then I thought it was pointless to waste an hour and a half from Sunday. Then I started going to Sunday school and learned about God.

Before I knew it I was in 8th grade confirmation rapping the books of the New Testament and watching Steve eat flies.

To me, Baptism means being accepted into God's family, and Confirmation means becoming a teacher and role model in His family. I believe that Jesus is real and really did die for our sins to be forgiven. I can be skeptical sometimes, but I have to learn to believe without seeing. Once I am confirmed I will strive to be a strong Lutheran. I'm going to be in Rap Group, become a mentor at the Youth House, and just help out with volunteer activities.

Some influences throughout my life and confirmation have been: Pastor Dave, Mr. Black, my parents, Grandparents, Pastor Kent, Ed Starr, and last but not least, Steve Esser. So far I have really enjoyed being a Lutheran at CLF, and am looking forward to being confirmed to become a teacher, role model, and just an active member in God's family