



Lake Agassiz
Habitat
for Humanity®

PO BOX 1022
Moorhead, MN 56561

Summer 2008

SERVING CASS AND CLAY COUNTIES

Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Wraps Up First Home for 2008!

It is hard to believe that we are only into the first part of July and Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity is close to completing its first of 6 homes to be built in 2008. This six-bedroom, 3 bathroom home is the largest home the affiliate has built since their inception in 1991.

The 10-person family purchasing this home consists of 2 parents and 8 children who are currently living in a three bedroom apartment. "They are the model 'Habitat Partner Family,' says Program Coordinator Andrea Stordahl. "They are extremely dedicated to making a secure



The 1st of 6 Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Homes to be built in 2008.

home for their family and are willing to do whatever it takes to make this house their home." Although both parents have full-time jobs, they are always the first people to show up to the build site and work beside the hundreds of volunteers that are making this family's dream a reality.

This Habitat Home is being built in partnership with Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity as well as many area

congregations, organizations, businesses and individuals. The public is invited to visit the site of the first 2008 Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Home located at: 3500 10th Ave. S. Moorhead, MN.

Thank you for helping Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity continue its mission of building simple, decent, affordable housing for people in need in Cass and Clay counties. ■

For more information on how you can be involved in this or other Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity builds, please contact the Habitat office at: (218) 284.5253 Ext.2 or by email Habitat@lakeagassizhabitat.org or visit the Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity website: www.lakeagassizhabitat.org.

Building Homes Building Hope

Current Build Sites

Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity is having a very busy 2008 build season. Two homes are well under way and we have yet to break ground on 4 more homes before fall. We invite you to visit an active build site at any one of our builds as the summer progresses.

**Home #1: 3500 10th Ave. S.
Moorhead, MN**

*This 6 bedroom, 3 bathroom home for a family of 10, began in May and will be completed in July. Built in partnership with Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity and multiple congregations and individuals.

**Home #2: 1619 2nd Ave. S.
Fargo, ND**

*This 3-bedroom, 1-bathroom home for a family of 5, began in June and will be completed in July. Built in partnership with NDSU architect students and multiple congregations and individuals.



Local NDSU architectural students work on the roof of our 2nd Habitat build of the year.

**Home #3: 543 North Martin's Ave.
Casselton, ND**

*This is our first Habitat Home in Casselton and will include 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms and will be the home for a family of 5. Construction on this home will begin in July and end in August. Built in partnership with Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity and Casselton area congregations.

**Home #4: 1212 Goldenwood Dr.
West Fargo, ND**

*This 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom home will break ground in August and be completed in September. Built in partnership with Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity and Hope Lutheran Church.

**Home #5: 1520 8th Ave. N.
Moorhead, MN**

*This 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom home will begin construction in September and be completed in October. Built in partnership with the Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Women Build Committee.

**Home #6: 802 15th St. N.
Moorhead, MN**

*This 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom home will begin construction in September and be completed in October. Built in partnership with Fargo-Moorhead Realtors.

If you are interested in volunteering on any of these homes, please visit our website: www.lakeagassizhabitat.org and click on the VolunteerUp! icon. Each volunteer day will be listed and include the task for the day (i.e. painting, shingling, etc.).

We look forward to seeing you at one of these build sites! If you do not have internet capabilities,

please call the Habitat office at: (218) 284.5253 Ext. 2 and ask for Jackie. ■



The VolunteerUp icon is located mid-way down on the left-hand side of Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity website homepage: www.lakeagassizhabitat.org

Handy Sightings

Handy the Habitat Bear has been spotted roaming around the Fargo-Moorhead area. In April, Handy migrated to the Red River Valley Zoo for the Party for the Planet where he visited his friend, the Red Panda. Handy also trekked to the Habitat ReStore for the Earth Week Celebration where he encouraged customers to "Learn Green and Live Green." Handy the Habitat Bear has been hibernating the past few days, but expect to see him soon! Handy will be making an appearance at the first Wings for Habitat event on Thursday, July 31st at the Moorhead Center Mall in Moorhead. Wings for Habitat will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and will feature food, music, and fun! You can also spot Handy at Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity's Home Safety and Safe Kids Fair that will be held at the Habitat ReStore. A little RedHawk told me that Handy might even be taking in a ballgame sometime soon. Visit our events calendar at www.lakeagassizhabitat.org for more



information on where you can spot Handy next! ■

Handy the Habitat Bear visits with friends at the Red River Valley Zoo

2009 Family Selection Underway

As the 2008 build season begins, Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity is starting our search for 2009 Partner Family applicants.

Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity has gone through many changes in the past 3 years. The affiliate went from receiving 10 applications in 2005 to over 40 applications in 2007.

To apply for a Lake Agassiz Habitat Home, applicants must have lived in Cass or Clay counties for more than 1 year and meet 3 criteria: Need, Ability to Pay and Willingness to Partner. Although this may sound simple, it's not. As a rapidly expanding affiliate, with a growing pool of applicants, the family selection committee found it necessary to develop a selection process that was more personal, more objective and more in tune with Habitat's mission of building simple, decent, affordable homes for people in need.

Becoming a Partner Family with Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity is a serious commitment. When we decide to partner with a family, we dedicate ourselves to assuring their success as a homeowner, a good neighbor and self-sustaining individuals. ■

How does Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity select Habitat Families?

There are many steps that a family must go through in order to be considered for a Habitat Home.

2009 Family Selection Process:

As the number of our applicants increases, our selection process must evolve. In order to do this, the Family Selection Committee and Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity staff have worked together to develop a highly efficient process for selecting Habitat Partner Families.

Applying for a Habitat Home:

- Families are required to attend a mandatory orientation session to learn more about the Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity homeownership process and receive an application.

Initial Application Review:

- The Family Selection committee reviews qualified applications and selects a number of applicants to be personally interviewed by a panel of Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity representatives.

Credit Check/Criminal Background Check:

- Applicants must pass a credit and criminal background check in order to qualify for a Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Home.

Home Visits:

- Two Family Selection Committee representatives visit each succeeding applicant's current home and objectively score the applicant's current "need" for housing by looking for mold, mildew, exposed wires, etc..

Family Selection Recommendations:

- The Family Selection Committee takes all of the information they have compiled on each applicant and make Partner Family recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Partner Family Final Selections:

- The Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors approves Partner Family recommendations and notifies families.

For more information on becoming a Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Homeowner, please contact Andrea Stordahl at (218) 284.5253 or Andrea@lakeagassizhabitat.org.



A 2007 Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Home located in North Moorhead.

Habitat Welcomes New Construction Intern!

Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity would like to welcome the newest member of its staff, Rob Rich. In the few months Rob has been working as the Construction Intern, he has become a great asset to our affiliate. Rob is a senior at NDSU majoring in Construction Management. He says he is excited to work with an organization like Habitat for Humanity and is looking forward to this unique job experience. This summer, Rob will be on the job sites coordinating the build activities. Welcome to the Habitat Family Rob! ■

**Help.
Donate.**



If you are interested in donating to Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity, please send your donation to:

*Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity
PO BOX 1022
Moorhead, MN 56561*

Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Says Goodbye



Jane Knealing and Katie Tucholke work together to develop an effective volunteer system.

Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity is sad to say goodbye to two VISTAs: Katie Tucholke, who has been working with the affiliate, and Jane Knealing, who has been working with the Habitat ReStore. Katie and Jane have been working with Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity since last August, and their one year term will be ending this summer.

During her time with our affiliate, Katie's work plan was focused on church relations and volunteers. Katie is most proud of her work coordinating the first Notes for Habitat, a musical variety show featuring acts from local churches. Katie said, "I have felt very welcome at LAHFH and I will truly miss working with all of the remarkable people who volunteer their time and talents towards the building of simple, decent, affordable homes." Katie is planning on remaining in the Fargo-Moorhead area, and hopes to continue her involvement with Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity by serving on a committee.

When asked about her role at the Habitat ReStore, Jane said, "After my work with Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity ReStore the one thing that I am going to miss most is all the amazing, hard-working volunteers. It has been a blessing to work

alongside such wonderful, caring people. I really enjoyed my time at the Habitat ReStore and especially loved meeting all the families who have partnered with Habitat for Humanity to make the dream of owning a home come true." Jane is most proud of her work coordinating the Habitat ReStore's move to a larger facility. She greatly enjoyed being part of the excitement and growth during this time. After her VISTA year is over, Jane will move to Minneapolis where she will continue her work with Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota.

Thank you, Katie and Jane, for your contributions to Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity. Good luck in your future endeavors! ■