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Spring/Summer 2015

Mount Washington Valley

Habitat
for Humanity®



A place to call home...

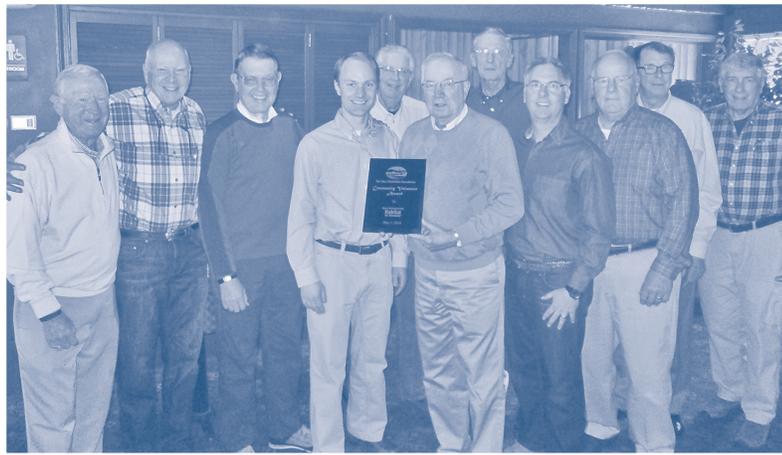
Mount Washington Valley Habitat for Humanity, through volunteerism and community involvement, builds simple, decent homes with and for our neighbors in need.

Habitat Honored by Ham Foundation

At a May 1st luncheon at Merlino's Restaurant, the Kendal C. and Anna Ham Charitable Foundation honored the MWV Habitat For Humanity Affiliate. Bob Murphy, Executive Director, along with Ham Foundation Board members, presented Habitat past president, Bill Beck with the final \$30,000 of the \$100,000 committed by the Ham Foundation to



(Above) Ham Charitable Foundation Executive Director Bob Murphy (third from right) presents a check for \$30,000 to MWV Habitat for Humanity past president Bill Beck. Also on hand (from left): Ham advisory board members Sut Marshall and Karen Milford, and Ham board members Linda Eldridge (front) and Dot Seybold and advisory board member Dennis Hiller.



(Left) Bob Murphy, executive director of the Kendal C. and Anna Ham Charitable Foundation presents the 2015 Ham Charitable Award to (from left) board members Roy Lundquist, Russ Seybold, treasurer; Sam Johnson; President Dan Osetek; past president Bob Magoun; Nels Gustafson; Anthony Ruddy; Doug Morehouse, construction site manager; past president Bill Beck; and Dick Ficke, vice president.

(TOM EASTMAN PHOTOS)

Habitat's four unit remodeling/construction project at 42 North Road in Conway.

Additionally, the Ham Foundation honored MWV Habitat by presenting the Affiliate with the 2015 Ham Foundation Charitable Award, only the third time the Foundation has presented the award. Murphy noted, "it's for groups that do good work but receive little fanfare." Previous recipients have been Starting Point in 2001 and the Gibson Center for Senior Services Meals on Wheels in 2007.

There is a long history of Foundation grant support to MWV Habitat. The local Affiliate has received nine grants from Ham totaling \$245,000,

the first for \$2,500 in 1995 for the renovation of a house in Bartlett. The most recent project to be completed is the aforementioned four unit building complex on North Road. Purchased in 2012 at a foreclosure sale for \$150,000, Habitat converted the six 2-bedroom condominium building into four 3-bedroom units. Habitat has spent over \$550,000 renovating the complex, providing affordable and decent housing for four families consisting of nine children.

Non-Profit of the Year

The MWV Chamber of Commerce honored the MWV Habitat for Humanity at the Annual Business Expo held at the Mt. Washington Hotel on June 1st. Cited as “making a major contribution to life in the Valley”, the local Habitat Affiliate received the Non-Profit of the Year award. Representing MWV Habitat were volunteers, the newest home owner and board members.

The Mount Washington Habitat for Humanity Affiliate was founded in 1994 by Al Risch, Bob Morrell and Ted Pettengill to address the chronic affordable housing shortage in the communities of northern Carroll County and portions of Oxford County in ME. To date, Affiliate volunteers have refurbished four houses; completed 11 in the Morrell Drive complex off the Kancamagus Hwy.; one in Fryeburg and four in the four unit complex on North Road in Conway. Currently, there is a house on Grison Road in Madison that is under construction. The Affiliate has invested approximately \$1.9 million in the construction of these houses (excluding



(Seated from left) Leslie Mallet, secretary; Dan Osetek, board president; Anthony Ruddy, board; (standing from left) Michelle Capozzoli, Chamber board president; Bill Beck Habitat past president; Bill Gorton, volunteer; Doug Morehouse, construction site manager; Dick Ficke, vice president; Russ Seybold, treasurer; and Sue Derouin, new home owner.

— Paula Jones photo

volunteer labor) that have a market value in excess of \$2.5 million. More important, 49 children have reaped the benefit of stable, safe and affordable living conditions.

Two More Homes Occupied on North Road

On February 7th, Nick and Stephanie Swan accepted the keys to the second unit to be completed in the 4-unit complex on 42 North Road in Conway. It was a two year venture, having submitted their application in the fall of 2013. By April they were told their application had been accepted and the process of contributing 300 sweat equity hours toward the Habitat volunteer construction of their house started. Stephanie delivered meals to the work site each Thursday while Nick did the heavy work with a jack hammer, constructed walls, ran wiring, put up wallboard until the home was completed and the two with their children accepted keys from Bob Howe, Habitat construction site supervisor.

After receiving the keys to his new home, Nick thanked everyone who had anything to do with the success of this project. He reminisced about a conversation that he had with Stephanie a couple of years ago. They were talking about their then living conditions. He told her, “I don’t know how I am going to do it, but I promise you I am



Bob Howe, Habitat Construction Supervisor, handing Unit #2 keys to Nick & Stephanie Swan

going to get you a house.” As it turned out, it was not too much later that he saw a advertisement announcing a call for applications for Habitat houses. He completed the application and although he met all the requirements of being a local resident for a year, had a housing need, was in the financial bracket and would agree to partner with Habitat in the construction of the house, there was nevertheless competition. Upon learning of his acceptance, Nick drew an analogy of his reaction to that of Tom Brady’s reaction on the sidelines when the Patriots secured the Super Bowl win in the last twenty seconds of the game.

Melanie Gove started the application approximately one year after the Swans. Melanie had been living in the Valley for 15 years, but stability in her life and that of her children has been lacking; a reason for applying to Habitat for a decent and affordable home that could provide that stability for her daughters. She had

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MWV Habitat Women Day

There were eight-year veterans, first-timers, high school and college students, mothers and daughters, and elected officials who gathered at Grison Road in Madison on Saturday, May 9th as part of the nation-wide Habitat for Humanity Women Build Week. Sponsored by Lowe's, 35 women swung hammers, drilled holes, cut lumber, carried building stock, assembled window and door headers and framed walls under the tutelage MWV Habitat volunteers.

When asked if this was the first time she had participated, Donna Veilleux of Tamworth replied, "No, I've been doing this for eight years!" "What is your motivation" she was further asked. "It's selfish" she replied with a smile, "after all, getting is in the giving!"

Julie Levine and her daughter, Dana of Glen were one of four mother-daughter teams who participated. When asked why they were here, Julie replied, "what better way is there for mother and daughter to spend Mother's Day Weekend than to help another mom less fortunate?"

Doug Magoun, MWV HfH past president and chairman of the Family Selection Committee started the day by welcoming all, briefing participants on the history of Women Build, what was going to happen throughout the day, and stressing most important that safety was first and foremost. The women were then broken into several groups; cutting studs to specific lengths, drilling wire-run holes, assembling door and window headers, and assembling framed walls. Doug Morehouse, chairman

of the MWV HfH Construction Committee along with fellow committee members Bob Howe and Anthony Ruddy oversaw the entire operation along with regular Habitat volunteers who can be seen at a Habitat worksite each week.

Leslie Mallet, HfH secretary and chairperson of the Family

Support committee organized the day, coordinating efforts with Lowes as well as with Habitat International. She noted that this was the eighth consecutive year that the MWV Affiliate has been chosen to participate in this national event, and that "our Affiliate is one of only two in the entire state to have been chosen." She was quick to praise the Habitat volunteers who worked closely with the women to ensure their efforts were productive



Another wall going up

as well as safety compliant. Because of restrictive parking conditions at the building site, Leslie coordinated with Jamie Sabino, owner of the Community Market and Deli, to use the Deli's parking lot from which to shuttle participants. She added that Jamie praised Habitat's efforts and was most willing to help however he could.

Bolstered by morning coffee and pastries as well as a substantial lunch provided by Altrusa International of Carroll County, the women had sawdust flying and hammers ringing until an entire wall was assembled and raised while two others neared completion before the day was out. Several women were heard saying that they couldn't wait to do this again next year - that it was one of the most rewarding projects in which they had ever participated.

Two More Homes... continued from page 2

previously applied to Habitat but had been turned down lacking one of the qualifications. But "giving up" is not part of her vernacular and something she constantly instills in her children. She reminds them that by working hard and "keep doing what you are doing" will pay dividends in the long run. Strongly embracing and instilling the concept of community service, Melanie and her children volunteered helping others during the Angels and Elves Christmas program. It was there that she was encouraged by Marie Lee, co-director of the Kiwanis

Christmas giving project, to reapply to Habitat. This time she was accepted.

She could be seen at the North Road construction site on Thursdays working on the very unit that would become her home; or earlier in the fall volunteering at the Habitat indoor yard sale, along with MWV Kiwanians who were volunteering "sweat equity" hours in her behalf. On May 8th, Melanie signed all the closing documents and accepted the keys to her new home.

Two New Families Selected

For John and Kelly Arruda, the pathway to a new house has been long and arduous. The application process started two years ago when a friend of the Arrudas, who was quite familiar with Habitat, told them about the application opening announcement on the MWWHFH Facebook page.

Both John and Kelly love Madison, and when Bob Magoun, Habitat Family Selection committee chairman, told them they had a choice of getting a unit on North Road in the near time frame, or could wait for a year for the house being build on Grison Rd. in Madison, the decision was easy.

However, the wait was not. A series of unfortunate incidents combined to force the Arrudas to put the application on hold. But Kelly, who originally hailed from Kansas City, Missouri remembered instability in her life as her father's job promotions caused quite a few moves around the country. That memory allowed her to keep her focus and with Bob Magoun's assistance and mentoring, she knew it was just a matter of time before they were finally approved and would sign their acceptance letter.

Kelly allowed that the wait was actually beneficial as it allowed them to reassess their goals, put stability back into their lives and get their financial house back in order.



John & Kelly Arruda signing their acceptance letter

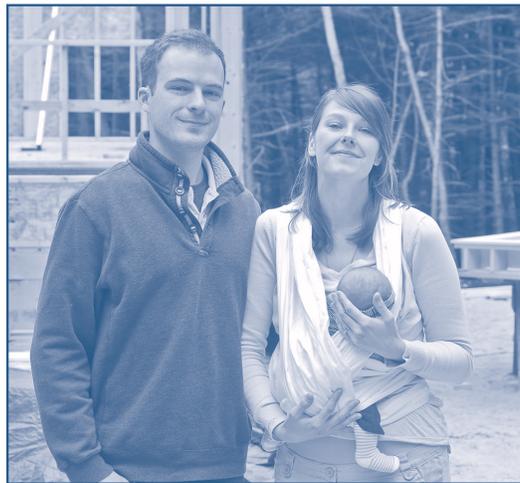
It was interesting that as Bob was helping the Arrudas during this time, John was able to help Habitat in his capacity as a department manager at Lowes. He was there to answer logistical and supply problems as well as take care of some paint coloring glitches for the units on North Road. Bob remarked later that Lowes was fortunate to have him as an employee and manager.

Both Kelly and John remarked several weeks ago that making the \$250.00 deposit and signing the acceptance letter (see photo) was a special moment, but when they can provide a permanent home for their children, Andrew and Cassidy, it will be even more special.

Meet the newest family...

Dini and Evan. In fact, meet the newest family member, Oaken Alexander, born May 16th. Long time residents of Tamworth, Deni and Evan are ecstatic that they have been chosen for one of the Habitat lots in the Sokokis Pines area of Tamworth. Evan is employed by NAPA in Ossipee and on the side does landscaping work in the summer months. Deni now dedicates her time as a homemaker and fulltime mom, but will in the future return as a ski equipment tech at the King Pine ski facility.

As a young family starting out, Deni recognized that they were going to have to have something other than a one-bedroom apartment to raise a family. She also knew the importance of establishing roots in an area they cherished and in



Evan, Deni and baby Oaken

which they worked. Not having experienced home ownership growing up as a child, Evan too recognizes its importance.

Once they made the decision to look into acquiring a Habitat house, it was Evan's boss who knows Dan Osetek, MWW Habitat Board President, who made the initial inquiry. Deni remarked how easy the application process was and how helpful Bob Magoun, chairman of the Family Selection Committee was in explaining the requirements and steps to be taken.

Already the two are earning their required sweat equity hours as Deni most recently volunteered time at the recent Habitat

indoor yard sale and Evan has been involved with the construction on Grison Road. Both are excited at the opportunity to eventually be working on their own house in Tamworth.

Check our website www.mwv-habitat.org
for late-breaking news, current events, and ways you can volunteer!



The Last Occupancy at 42 North Road

The fourth and final unit in the North Road, Conway condominium was dedicated Saturday, Jun 27th when Sue Derouin and her daughter Alexa accepted the keys to their new home. It is obvious that Sue is well liked and respected judging from the number of friends who attended her Open House and Dedication Ceremony.

A little about Sue. She is a life-long resident of Mt. Washington Valley except for the four years she attended Harding University in Arkansas where she earned a bachelor's degree in Business Marketing. There was never any doubt about returning to the Valley – this was home. But there wasn't a large demand for a marketing degree in an area dominated by the hospitality business, and at a time when the economy was soft. While she fortunately didn't have difficulty finding good employment, it still did not allow her to purchase an affordable and secure home on a single income. Like the Red Sox eighty-six year World Series drought, this was an "Impossible Dream".

She recalls one incident that made her more determined than ever to do something about her situation. She had answered a rental ad for a two-bedroom apartment. During the discussion with the landlord she mentioned that she was a single mother. Suddenly the apartment was no longer available! "That did it," she said, "I'm simply not going to stand by – I will show them I can make it!"

It turns out that a close friend, Melanie Gove told Sue about her own good fortune having been chosen for one of the homes in the North Road condominium complex – why didn't she apply? By her own admission, Sue was hesitant – this represented a big jump. However, once



Sue Derouin and daughter, Alexa, about to receive keys from Doug Morehouse, Board of Directors and Chairman, Construcion Committee

she thought through the fact that her mortgage payment would be far less than what she was paying for rent, that her daughter Alexa would be in a safe and stable environment, that Alexa would be going to the same school and living next to her friends, Sue decided to take the leap and apply with Habitat.

She met the financial requirements, certainly was a resident for a year or more, had no problem agreeing to the requirement to partner with Habitat, and definitely had a demonstrable need, but there would be competition. After a long agonizing wait, her "Impossible Dream" came true.

First Yard Sale of Season Huge Success

The first yard sale of the season at Bear Peak Lodge on June 12th and 13th was a huge success. Couches, sleep sofas, bunk beds, recliners, chest of drawers, cabinets, bookcases, appliances all went out as quickly as the doors opened. Volunteers from Habitat, Kiwanis, Camping World as well as family selectees earning sweat equity hours ensured that questions were answered and assistance rendered in the movement of heavy items. All means of conveyance were used to take items home (see photo).

The next yard sales will occur July



24th (3pm to 7pm) and Jul 25th (8:30am to 2:00pm) and then again Sep 4th and 5th (same hours). Once again a Pre-buy capability has been implemented on many items with prices adjusted to make room for more items.

In addition to the Pre-buy, we are continually online with many items for sale. Donations that are held and picked up at the donor's location gives us greater funding to build houses! Go to mww.Habitat.org to see how the Online Yard Sale procedure works.

A big thank you to General Manager John Lowell of Attitash Mountain Resort and his staff for their community minded spirit!



Mount Washington Valley

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Mt. Washington Valley Habitat for Humanity is an organization based on Christian principles.

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Message from the Board of Directors

Can it be...?

Can it be that the work on 42 North Road is complete, and the last family accepted the keys on the morning of June 27th? It only seems like yesterday that Habitat purchased through foreclosure the land and partially completed building from the Alice Allen Realty Trust. It consisted of a 6,000 sq. ft. shell, but only one of the original six units in the structure was partially framed. Most of the rest of the interior was unframed, but allowed for relative easy reconfiguration from six units to four. The Zoning Board of Adjustments approved the change from six to four units; the Planning Board approved the revised plans, and a building permit was issued, all accomplished in 2012. Construction was planned for the spring. The first step was to initially make the building weather tight by installing windows, doors, and siding. It was about a year later the first family moved into the newly completed three-bedroom unit.

How often is it written – “it could not have happened without...?” And so it is with North Road. It could not have happened without those who showed up virtually every Thursday with their Habitat shirts, hats and tool belts transforming raw materials into four beautiful homes; it could not have happened without grant money from the Kendall C. and Anna Ham Charitable

Foundation; NH Electric Coop. Foundation; Robert & Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Foundation; Gibson/Woodbury Foundation; Madeline G. von Weber Trust; Samuel P. Hunt Foundation; and IBM Community Grant Program; it could not have happened without monetary contributions from hundreds of donors; it could not have happened without suppliers providing significant discounts; it could not have happened without those who hauled furniture and appliances for the indoor yard sales; it could not have happened without administrative support; it could not have happened without the public being made aware of Habitat’s mission and accomplishments; and it could not have happened without major contractors donating their time and equipment. Too all those who made it happen – a huge “thank you”

Lastly, **can it be** that we will no longer have the leadership, wisdom, devotion, expertise, and guidance of Doug Morehouse whose name for the past 14 years has been synonymous with MWV Habitat for Humanity housing construction. Doug is stepping down so that he can spend more time with his wife Judy and family. Words are thin when it comes to extolling the contribution that Doug has made to Habitat, the Valley and the Habitat homeowners. It is safe to ask, “could it have happened without...?”

Thank you Doug!