

Greene County Habitat for Humanity



ON OUR WAY

During the month of October of 2006 the Church Relations Committee of Habitat for Humanity met to elaborate a plan to reach the churches of Greene County in the year ahead. Brad Willett, President of Habitat for Humanity expressed his desire that Greene County Habitat have a closer relationship with the faith community in the county. The Church Relations Committee has the challenge to spread the message that Habitat for Humanity is a Christian Ministry that works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.¹

Churches have proven to be a wonderful partner with Habitat in the search for serving the needy families of different communities around the world. Thousands of volunteers have taken part in one of the most exiting ministries in the Kingdom of God. Extending their hands to help the poor.

In 2005, celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of Habitat for Humanity, house 200,000 was completed and today another family has a house they can call their own.

Greene County Habitat for Humanity has build twenty three houses since it was founded in 1993. We have accomplished this through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials. There are no words to express our gratitude to our community. **(Great job Tennessee Volunteers!)**

The Church Relations Committee is committed to work hard to find partners and volunteers to help our needy families. But, we know that we can not do it alone. Those who have partnered with us in the past

and those who wish to elevate the Lord's calling in their life, are invited to come and help us fulfill our new theme: *"Expanding a horizon, one house at a time."* (The horizon of our needy family's.)

The challenge ahead, is great. With your help, we can be a blessing to our poor families. Begin by praying for all of Habitat for Humanity's employees, volunteers and those who support us financially. Then pray for our community so that God touches the heart of willing people to be a part of a great team in Greene County. Don't forget, include yourself and ask God how you can help our affiliate. Call us. 423-218-0771.

HOW CAN I HELP?

The Church Relations Committee has a diversity of ways in which everyone who is interested can help. Church leaders can organize groups of volunteers in their congregations. Some can help providing contact with church leaders, church board members, pastors and others. Others may help by sending thank you cards, contact letters, follow up letters, data base and other important outreach work. This is just a portion of the many ways the community can get involved in this ministry.

Since we believe that the Church Relations Committee is very important for Habitat for Humanity, an aggressive program is in the process to accomplish our commitment to reach as many churches as possible. New ideas and approaches will be applied. Our faith community is great; the Committee's desire to work is on fire. If we can combine both in one spirit and allow God to lead us, Greene County will be an example for other communities. Ask about our Church Relations Committee.

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIR

During the Church Relations Committee meeting in October of 2006, Daniel Vélez was selected as the new chair for the committee. Mr. Vélez was born in Puerto Rico and has lived in the United States since 1989 and in Greene County since 2004. Mr. Vélez has Master's Degree from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico. He has also been a pastor for over twenty five years. Mr. Vélez is the founder of two churches, and has pastored several congregations, founded a food ministry in his hometown and with his wife, Lilly, have worked with Children's Ministries for many years. Mr. Vélez and his wife, actually minister as clowns in Hispanic and English speaking churches. He presently works for the Child Advocacy Center of the Third Judicial District. Mr. Vélez is a very close friend of Greene County Habitat for Humanity's clown, Kar Penter-The Friendly Builder.

¹ HFH Mission Statement