

Catch^{THE} Building Spirit



Catch the Building Spirit
Catholics & Presbyterians Building Together

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLICS AND PRESBYTERIANS BUILDING TOGETHER

“Christ empowers us to continue his mission through the Holy Spirit.”

—John 14:10-17

Catch the Building Spirit Celebrates 20 Years

by Rick Willis, Chairman

This has been an amazing year for Catch the Building Spirit as we celebrated our 20th anniversary of building and renovating homes for low-income families in the Miami Valley. We continue to maintain our wonderful partnership with Dayton Ohio Habitat for Humanity as together we strive to allow a family’s dream of owning a home become a reality.

Our success is based on simple core values: uphold a focus on our Mission Statement and preserve the never-ending strength and dedication of our many volunteers from Dayton area parishes, faith communities and our Presbyterian Coalition. This focus allows CtBS to continue the mission of reducing the shortage of quality, affordable housing for families in need while building friendships with our many volunteers as we meet our Christian responsibilities. The financial gifts we are blessed to receive from our parishes and churches allow us to help underwrite our annual house build endeavor each year as we provide sound constructed houses with well thought out floor plans and energy efficiencies, allowing our partner families low maintenance and lower utility cost.

Our year began with development of a new logo to reflect our growth and

to enhance our continued branding efforts with CtBS. We are proud of our accomplishments within the community and our new look will help identify who we are as we continue to carry on our mission. By developing the CtBS brand, we have become constant in showing a strong presence in the Dayton community by establishing safe, stable environments to help families in need to grow in society while making a positive impact within the neighborhoods we touch. The number of parishes and churches associated with CtBS continues to grow, making this year the largest group of Catholic and Presbyterian faith based groups involved. We have also been successful this year in having corporate sponsors join and support our endeavor as we continue to develop new opportunities for volunteer and financial support.

As a board of trustees, most of us wear a second hat by also taking on the role as a house leader during the construction of our house project. Sharing building skills, maintaining designated times on the house construction site and communicating daily with a construction schedule that completes the house on time and ready for the family to move in. With this comes a level of quality

construction with a clear focus on detail and craftsmanship each of the house leaders maintains throughout the building process. During our 20th anniversary, we constructed the largest house offered by Dayton Ohio Habitat for a sizeable and most deserving family in need. The two-story, 2000 SF home was constructed with a level of excellence and pride unmatched with any past accomplishment.

This exceptional year continued with developing youth group involvement during the building of our house, providing opportunities for a younger generation to be involved with this vital mission. In return, we strive to perform as role models for all youth, and will help forge a foundation for future involvement with CtBS while paving the way for the next twenty years.

We look forward to the future after having a most successful 20th Anniversary as we carry on building homes for families in need and to make a positive impact in our neighborhoods. To the Catch the Spirit board of trustees, house leaders and the many volunteers who have helped support our mission, *Thank You* for making this year a very special journey.

The Idris Elias Lasu and Helen Laso Family

Since leaving war-torn Sudan in 1999, Idris and his wife Helen have worked to make a better life for their family. In Egypt, Idris presented their case for resettlement to the United Nations.

Then, with the assistance of the International Organization for Migration, the family moved to Dayton in 2001. Idris and Helen first lived in a large rental home in Beavercreek, which became unaffordable on the family's income. Idris, Helen, and their children, Bakhita, 19, Vivian, 11, Ronie, 13, Gibson, 16, and Hakim, 17, now live in a cheaper apartment, but the children are not allowed to be outside. Fighting is common in the neighborhood and a bullet once came through the window of their children's room. Idris must drive the children to parks and dream of a day when they can play outside in a safe neighborhood.

Idris and Helen first heard about Habitat for Humanity when they came to the U.S., but they did not know how to apply until a friend drove them to the office to begin the application process. Idris describes their experience in the program as "inspiring" and says that "working with people for a common cause is amazing." Both Idris and Helen enjoy working at the build sites. They also feel better prepared to manage their household budget after attending Habitat's financial management classes, although they know



paying a mortgage is only a small part of being a responsible homeowner.

Idris and Helen have come far to build a home for their family. With Habitat's help, it will be possible for their family to live and thrive in an energy-efficient, decent, and affordable home in a safe community.

—Dayton Habitat for Humanity



2012 CtBS House—Awesome! The guys outdid themselves with this one. You would think that these guys were professionals. This house is really beautiful.

In Memoriam

Jerry Cozart, one of our former trustees passed away this year. Not only did he work on the houses, he developed our Power Point presentation that we use for our fund-raising. He was a big-hearted individual and a great fund-raiser.

His family spent a day working on our house this year and plans to make it a yearly event. I am sure Jerry is looking down on his family with a big smile on his face.

We also lost Ted Randall, a former trustee. He also helped in moving our organization forward, especially in the administrative area.

20 Years of Building Houses and It Is All Because of You, Our Donors and Volunteers! We Couldn't Have Done It Without You! Thank You!

For more information about Catch the Building Spirit or to make a contribution or volunteer your time, please call the Catholic Social Action Office at 224-3026 or the Presbyterian House Build at Dayton Habitat for Humanity at 586-0860.

If for some reason your name was inadvertently missed, we apologize. Please notify the Social Action Office at 224-3026 so a correction can be made. Thank you.

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*As valued members of our CtBS team, please consider these businesses for your remodeling or household repairs.

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and prepare for 2013.
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in December.

Make your checks payable to
Catch the Building Spirit
and please send your donation to
Catch the Building Spirit
Catholic Social Action Office
1436 Needmore Road
Dayton, OH 45414.

Retirement

This year we lost to retirement three long-time Trustees—Harry Leahy, Bob Swab, and Jeff Wade. These three made significant contributions to our organization. Bob worked as a house leader, a liaison with our organization and Habitat, worked on getting a procedure manual for the trustees and all the committees and above all, kept us all on our toes. These are just a few things that Bob was involved in. Jeff also worked on the houses and in addition, served as secretary and treasurer. He was the best treasurer an organization could have. Harry worked on the houses, especially with the electrical wiring. He also entertained us during Blitz Week with his ukulele.

They will be missed. We wish them well.

Better Business Bureau Approved

Catch the Building Spirit (CtBS) is an approved charity by the BBB and also a recognized charity by the United Way. If you would like to make a donation through the United Way, you can direct part of your donation to CtBS, but you must write in "Catch the Building Spirit" on the donation card. Any donation you can make will be greatly appreciated.

Want to Know What Is Going on at CtBS?

The website where people can find out what is going on each week at the CtBS work site or what the future plans are:

www.CatchTheBuildingSpirit.com

Information about Dayton Habitat for Humanity can be found at

www.daytonhabitat.org

Come join the fun and camaraderie!