

WELCOME *Mat*

Habitat and home builders plan 8-day building blitz in 2012 National event gets cooperation of NAHB and local affiliates



Rochelle Fisher

By guest columnist Rochelle Fisher, president and CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Summit County

"Partnership" and "collaboration" have been the business buzz words for the last several years. While Habitat for Humanity stretches itself each year to partner and collaborate with the for-profit building community - subcontractors, laborers, trades people, and home builders - the year 2012 will show just how much the building community and its

associated industries can come together for the greater good.

During the week of June 4, 2012, Habitat for Humanity will partner with three private builders - all members of the Home Builders Association Serving Portage and Summit Counties - to build three homes in eight days as part of the Home Builders Blitz 2012, a national event sponsored by Habitat for Humanity International and endorsed by the National Association of Home Builders. The brave builders who have stepped up to the batter's box are Steve Miller of Rembrandt Homes, John McCarty of Dutch Heritage Homes, and Steve and Julie Brandle of Metis Construction. Supporting their efforts will be Carmine Torio, executive vice president of the local HBA; and John Labriola, chief building inspector of Summit County.

The Home Builders Blitz 2012 is a partnership between Habitat for Humanity affiliates and the local building community to make sure more families have a chance to own a simple, decent house. In Summit County, three homes will be built on Ardella Avenue on Akron's east side near Joy Park Homes. Joining the collaboration is Tony O'Leary, executive director of the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, who donated the lots to Habitat for Humanity about a year ago.

The goal of the week is that across the country Habitat for Humanity affiliates will partner with their local home builders associations to construct 250 homes, giving builders a positive experience and a renewed sense of community. Here in Summit County our builds will kick off on Monday, June 4, and be dedicated at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 15. Our role is to secure the land, provide the house plan, obtain permits, provide fund-raising publicity and marketing support, generate gifts in kind and identify homeowners based on our family selection criteria. The builders will assist with planning and development, recruiting more local business partners and suppliers, providing on-site expertise, coordinating all labor and taking a home from framing to completion in eight short days. This is extreme home makeover right here in Akron!

We will also maintain our founding premise of working with volunteers on the job site and facilitating each family's contribution of sweat equity in their new home - in a shorter time frame and at an accelerated pace. Our hope is to not disturb the neighborhood on

Ardella Avenue too much over the eight work days, and our goal is to keep the work to daylight hours. Never has this affiliate taken on such a project before and this is a great way for us to begin the celebration of 25 years of serving Summit County.

Every day, Habitat strives to build a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We ask for your help. Your support helps Habitat build stronger families, better communities and more hope. If you are interested in getting involved with the 2012 Home Builders Blitz here in Summit County, contact us at 330-745-7734. We need all the help we can get to make the dreams of three families a reality.

Learn about legacy giving

As the holidays approach many of us begin to wonder about the legacy of our families. What will become of our name? What can we do now to leave a legacy to an organization we care about?

Established in 1986, Habitat for Humanity of Summit County is a founding partner of Leave a Legacy Summit/Portage/Medina and has been the recipient of several legacy gifts. I have served as a cabinet member since the program began locally in 2002 and have worked to create an awareness and understanding of legacy giving in our community for many years.

What most people don't know is that gifts of all sizes can be left as legacy gifts to nonprofit organizations. You don't have to be a millionaire to leave a gift that will make an impact on lives yet to be touched. Most nonprofit organizations can accept bequests of cash and stocks as well as life insurance. Some are more sophisticated and can accept annuities and help with long-term estate planning. Habitat for Humanity many times works with families who have gifts of land to give so that we have building lots for the future. I encourage you to take time and talk with the nonprofit organizations that you support and see how a legacy gift could impact future generations.