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# Raising the Roof

Winter 2010 Volume 15, Issue 2

## MISSION

*Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County unites God's people to provide decent, affordable housing for families in need.*



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- New Partner Family
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## NEW PARTNER FAMILY

As we embark upon the holiday season, we have a new partner family that has much to be thankful for this year. They are the recipients of our first rehab project and our 11th build.

Kelli Larsen, a single mom of two boys—Eathon and Keagon—was very excited to finally get the news that we had found a location for her and her sons. Kelli, from Sycamore, wanted very much to stay in the area. She had been on our wait list for almost three years. The day she got the call that we had closed on property she said was one of the most exciting days of her life—it meant the opportunity for her to own her own home, finally. Her son, Eathon, is a member of the U. S. Army and is currently stationed in South Korea. She sent him a message telling him their dream had come true. She waited to tell her son Keagon that there was a possibility until they knew for sure and he was extremely excited to hear the news as well.

Eathon was home on a two week visit recently and did get to spend some time at the house. Kelli, so far, has enjoyed taking part in the rehab because she gets to see it unfold from old to new in front of her eyes. Words cannot describe for her what it will be like to be in her own....home.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jennifer Mescher, DeKalb, President
- Ileana Brooks, DeKalb, Vice President
- Thorn Jarvis, DeKalb, Secretary
- Nyoka Polyak, Cortland, Treasurer
- Randy Carls, Elburn
- Elaine Davis, Sycamore
- Bill Dawson, DeKalb
- Lori Golden, DeKalb
- Thorn Jarvis, DeKalb
- Gil Larimer, Sycamore

**I am very interested in supporting the efforts of Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County. I would like more information about volunteering for a working committee.**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Selection           | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Selection         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Support             | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Coordination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Relations   | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity/Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising           |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please remove this address from your mailing list

My information has changed, please see above for changes

**Please mail form to:**  
Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County  
PO Box 503  
DeKalb, IL 60115-2055

**Or fax form to:** (815) 758-5525  
**Or Email your interests to:** [habitat@tbc.net](mailto:habitat@tbc.net)

**Website:** [www.hfhdcillinois.org](http://www.hfhdcillinois.org)

## BOARD UPDATE

As with many non-profit organizations, we operate with a Board of Directors (the Board). The Board is responsible for the functioning of our affiliate including deciding if families qualify to partner with us, where we build, and how we build among many other things. We have a part-time Administrative Assistant that keeps the daily workings of the affiliate running whom reports to the Board.

We are currently seeking board members. Some of the responsibility of the Board is to act on building decisions, seek out and approve the purchase of land or homes to rehab, assist during the building process as supervisor on the job site, help with fundraising activities, and assist in making any other crucial decisions that may arise or be presented to the board.

Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County functions as a 'mortgage' holder to our partner families through a no interest mortgage. There is a process that a family must go through in order to see if they qualify. Once they qualify they assist in the building/rehabbing of their home by being on-site during the build process. The Board functions as mentors through that process and guides them in the steps they need to complete once they partner with us. After their home is built we function as support as needed and offer advice as questions arise. We are not a 'landlord' to the families but a support system.

If you are interested in getting involved but don't think you can because you have no building qualifications—please don't let that scare you away. Many of our board members, past and present, had no building experience when they came on the board. They wanted to be involved with an organization that was making the difference in their community. Please attend one of our next meetings. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in the conference room next to our office. For office directions please call during office hours or check out our website at [www.hfhdcillinois.org](http://www.hfhdcillinois.org).

My name is Chris Peddle and I've been involved with HFHDC for almost 10 years now. I was a board member for 4 years and have been the part-time AA for almost 6. This was a life changing decision for me—I have learned so much about building, about people, and about helping my community. I'm so glad I joined the board and am so lucky to have been on hand to see the keys being presented to so many deserving families. My hand has not only built their home...but has touched my heart and theirs.

Come be a part of an amazing organization—no experience needed!

## THANK YOU MONSANTO AND IDEAL FOUNDATION—FUNDRAISING UPDATE

This year we have been blessed in many ways as far as fundraising. In August we held our annual garage sale that brought us over \$10,000—THANK YOU DEKALB COUNTY. In the spring we received a wonderful donation from the Ideal Industries Foundation—THANK YOU IDEAL INDUSTRIES! And a few months ago, we received notification that we were the recipients of a grant from the Monsanto Corporation—THANK YOU MONSANTO CORPORATION! Without these funds we would have a very difficult time meeting the needs of our county in trying to purchase and build or rehab a home. These funds allow us the ability to keep our affiliate running and keep providing a service to families in our county. We receive no federal or state funding and are a fully functioning affiliate by donations only. We watch our dollars like everyone else, seek donations on building supplies as we can, and function through volunteers as much as possible. Without your help we wouldn't be able to do this—THANK YOU!

If your company has a matching grant program, please think about Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County, Inc as a place to donate. We'd greatly appreciate it. However, we take more than monetary donations too—donations of land or building materials are always welcome as well. Call us for more details or to discuss a possible donation.

November 2011

Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County has continued to build throughout the years despite the lagging economy. This late fall we have begun a brand new project for us—a home rehab. This home will house a family in Sycamore. However, the cost of land is still high and we continue to struggle to find buildable lots that we can put a decent, affordable home on for a family in need. Your past generosity has helped our local affiliate build decent, affordable homes and acquire reasonably priced, buildable lots.

As we are all aware, our current world economic turmoil continues to bring affordable housing out of reach for many DeKalb County families. The need for our services is increasing daily for many residents. Your contributions are still needed in order to continue building in DeKalb County for those in needs. Our ministry, with your help, has changed the lives of 11 families. And there is so much more for us to do; so many more families to serve, so many more homes to build or rehab!!

We believe that every person deserves to live in decent, affordable housing. Please help us help others by donating to the **GIFT FROM THE HEART** program. Your donation stays here in DeKalb County. Thank you for your past, current and future generosity.

God Bless you all during the upcoming year,

*Jennifer Mescher*

President, Board of Directors

Please detach and return with your donation.

Enclosed is my gift of: \_\_\_\$500\_\_\_\$200\_\_\_\$100\_\_\_\$75\_\_\_\$50\_\_\_\$25\_\_\_Other

**Please make checks payable to HFHDC and mail to address below.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law)

**Mail to:** Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County  
PO Box 503  
DeKalb, IL 60115

Office Hours: Call Office for Updated Hours  
Monday's from 5:15pm to 8:00pm  
Subject to change