



Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity is a locally-run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people in need to build and renovate decent, affordable housing.

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Habitat for Humanity
2005-2006
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Greetings Habitat Faithfuls!

Through the faithful dedication of many there are four families in Cowlitz County that are enjoying simple, decent homeownership and four new families on the road to homeownership. In the past few months I have come to a better understanding of just how precious homeownership is to our Habitat families. Because Habitat for Humanity serves God's people who have incomes at 25-50% of the local median, we are meeting housing needs that no other local agency can. To put that into "real terms" a qualifying family of 4 with an annual income between \$10,700 and \$21,400 can become a homeowner through Habitat. A no-profit construction and no-interest mortgage with monthly payments set at 25% of a family's monthly income makes the American dream of homeownership a reality for families who tell us they had no hope of ever owning their own home. Each family's land and house that they've worked alongside volunteers to build becomes an extension of their identity. Habitat families greatly value their homes and take pride in what they've accomplished.

One of our affiliates dedicated and faithful volunteers, a Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity founder, had a vision for homeownership for families in need long before our affiliate was established in 2000. Verian Potter-Runnells has invested countless hours in a tireless effort to bring this reality to families in Cowlitz County. Her devotion to the mission of Habitat has been relentless. With sadness, we say goodbye to Verian and her husband, Al, who will be moving to Olympia. Their de-

parture will leave a void. God's prunings are often difficult, but usually bear invaluable fruit. We pray for God's fruit for both the Runnells and our Cowlitz Habitat affiliate.

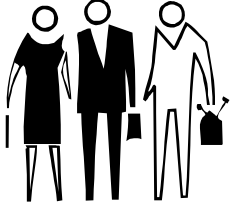
I close by inviting you to become part of the fruit of Habitat. As we come to the close of a year and venture into a new year, please prayerfully consider your part in God's ministry through Habitat for Humanity. Is He calling you to pound nails? to raise funds? to nurture families? to scout land? to give financially? to make phone calls? to provide lunches? Your time and talents are precious and we invite you to share them through Habitat for Humanity.

Kathleen Wirtz

Executive Director

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Meet Our Partner Families

Submitted by Diane Perron

Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity is a locally-run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people in need to build and renovate decent, affordable housing. The houses are sold to those in need at no profit and with no interest charged.

Volunteers provide most of the labor, and individual and corporate donors provide money and materials to build Habitat houses. Partner families themselves invest hundreds of hours of labor - "sweat equity" - into building their homes and the homes of others. Their mortgage payments go into a revolving Fund for Humanity that is used to build more houses.

We'd like to thank all our volunteers and sponsors for your continued commitment and effort to help Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity eliminate substandard housing. With your help and dedication we have been able to select the following new families:

The Noss Family

The Piper Family*

The Lawson Family (Saturday, Dec. 10, 9:00 AM, Perry Lawson groundbreaking at 601 Lewis, Kelso)

The Ruiz Family (Sunday, Dec. 18, 2:00 PM, Cindy Ruiz groundbreaking at 1504 Bowmont, Kelso)

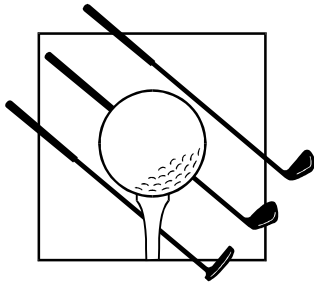
*Please see the "Meet Lori Piper" article below. We'll continue to introduce you to our other families over our next couple newsletters. Additionally, we will be providing updates on our website with photographs and information on the status of each home for the above families. You can visit our site at www.cowlitzhabitat.org. Watch us grow!

Meet Lori Piper

Hello, I am Lori Piper and I am the newest partner family for Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity (CCHFH). I am a 35-year-old single parent of two. Mackinze is 14 and Joe is 12. I am a Licensed Practical Nurse, but have been unable to work for the last couple years due to complications of Multiple Sclerosis. I have been doing the best I can to support my family, so when my sister, Cindy Siegel, told me about a meeting for Habitat that she read about in the church bulletin from the Kelso Presbyterian Church we went and I listened to their presentation and were very impressed with the program. I filled out the application and turned in all the required information. I wasn't real sure what I expected to happen, so when I received a call while shopping at Wal-Mart from Kathleen Wirtz, telling me that my family was approved I was surprised and shocked. It wasn't until later that I begin to realize how blessed my family was and how much this was going to change our lives for the better. I just want to provide a home for my family and this is one we can be proud of. I can think of no way I would ever have been a homeowner and figured I would rent for the rest of my life. CCHFH is an amazing program providing decent affordable housing for families in need. I love their motto "a hand up not a hand out" I just hope they know how much my family appreciates this opportunity.

I also want to tell you all about the house that I feel was made just for us. You see the house we will be moving into was built with lumber donated by Weyerhaeuser and built by the CCHFH and WEYCO volunteers. It is lumber that is from the trees planted after Mt. St. Helens erupted in 1980. The house was started in May 2005 but I didn't find out about it till September 2005 when it was almost complete. I feel this is a special house and love the story. I grew up here in Kelso/Longview and was 10 years old when Mt. St. Helens erupted and I remember it well. We are looking forward to earning our 500 hours of sweat equity and moving in.

There will be a House Dedication Ceremony on November 19, 2005 at 11:00a.m. at the home on 311 18th Avenue in Longview. It will be hosted by Weyerhaeuser, and all family, volunteers and donors are invited to join in.



First Annual Build-A-House for Habitat Golf Tournament & Shoot-Out

We held our 1st Annual Build-A-House for Habitat Golf Tournament & Shoot-Out on Saturday, August 6, 2005 at the Three Rivers Golf Course in Kelso. We wish to thank all our SPONSORS and GOLFERS for their support and participation.

Thank you for making our golf tournament such a success! Through your help and support, we are eliminating sub-standard housing in our local communities! We'd like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the following companies and individuals who contributed toward that goal:

Bronze Sponsors: Longview Fibre

Steelscape, Inc.

Hole Sponsors:

Baker Lumber Company

Office Max

Coldwell Banker-Flaskerud Realty

Clifford & Martha Schostal

Cowlitz County Title

Columbia State Bank

Gorley's Precision Machines

Great Escapes Travel

Kathy & Steve at John L. Scott Realty

J.H. Kelly

Mary Van Sickle

Lelevich Construction

Entek Corporation

U.S. Gypsum

Hole-In-One-Sponsor: Coldwell Banker Flaskerud Realty

Donors:

Andrews Promotions

Home Depot

Ecological Land Services, Inc.

Horse Lovers Haven

Roger & Gladys Morey

Robert & Marion Metke

Clark Potter

P.N.E.

Searing's Plumbing & Electric

Al & Verian Runnells

Faith Healing Massage

Bank of America

Bob Gaston, Photographer

A special thank you to Verian Runnells, Roger Morey, Bob Metke and Diane Perron for all their efforts in organizing and facilitating the August 2005 event.

**Please join us next year on SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2006
at the Three Rivers Golf Course.**

IF THIS ARTICLE CAUGHT YOUR EYE... WE NEED YOU!!
We are currently looking for SPONSORS and a Golf Tournament Committee. If you are interested in either opportunity, please call us at (360) 425-6177.

Team Schedules

Call to confirm December meetings.
(Most teams don't meet in December.)

Board of Directors

3rd Monday @ 5:30 p.m.
CCHF Office, at Great Escapes
Travel, 1347 14th Avenue, Longview
(please use rear entrance)
Len Lelevich, President

Church Relations Team

2nd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.
CCHF Office
Robert Metke, John Williams Co-
Chairs

Construction Team

1st Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m.
Frank's European Cellar, basement
of the Commerce Plaza Bldg.

Family Selection Team

2nd Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m.
CCHF Office
John Edmiston, Chair

Family Support Team

4th Monday at 7 p.m.
Call for location.

Office Support Team

Call for dates, times & location.
425-6177

Public Relations Team

1st Monday @ 4:00 p.m.
CCHF Office

Site Selection Team

Call for dates, times & location.
425-6177

Volunteer Resources Team

Janet Perez, Judy Drage Co-Chairs
Call for dates, times & location.
425-6177

Volunteer Orientation

New volunteers are required to
attend an orientation.
4th Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
(5th Tuesday in November)
CCHF Office

Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity Wish List

Super-Duty Gas Weed Eater
Commercial Strength Wet/Dry Vacuum
Gift Cards for building materials
Pentium II (or equivalent) COMPUTER
Digital Camera
3 or 4 LARGE Metal Lock Job Boxes (For each jobsite to store tools.)
Donated STORAGE SPACE to store and/or sell surplus building materials.
Rolls or Books of Postage Stamps
Roll-Around Scaffolding

TOOLS

- 1 Dozen Cordless Drills (18 volt min)
- Skill Saw
- 4 Screw Guns
- Router
- Speed Squares
- 6 Pry Bars
- Sawzall
- Generator(s)
- Extension Cords (4 ea 50' & 100')
- Ladders:Suggested Sizes/Qty: (4 ea 8' & 2' and 6 ea 6' & 4')
- Levels (4 ea 4' and 2 ea 2')
- 3 Box Fans

Thank you for your generosity!
All gifts are tax-deductible

Wanted: Vacant Land or Houses Needing Rehab

Currently there is a need for low-cost vacant land and/or houses in need of rehabilitation within the Longview city limits. If you or anyone you know would be willing to discuss a gift or a grant to help us pay for land, or has land (big or small) that we could buy or receive as a gift, please call us at 360-425-6177.

Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity is looking to continue to build simple decent houses in the Longview-Kelso community, in partnership with families in need. A selected family invests sweat equity into their house as down payment and is left with an interest-free mortgage to pay for the cost of constructing their home. This "biblical finance plan" allows a habitat affiliate the opportunity to use mortgage payments to build additional houses. Thanks to the City of Longview and their grant award of Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Funds, additional properties can be purchased in Longview to meet Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity's needs of construction through 2006.

Thank You To All Our Wonderful 2005 Supporters!

Dear Friends of Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity,

We are most grateful for your continued dedication, efforts, selflessness and support on behalf of Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity. We currently have three more houses that will soon be filled with three new families in need of a home. You are the backbone of our affiliate and we couldn't succeed without YOU and your support. Thank you!

Lunch donations graciously and lovingly prepared and served by:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church; Rose Valley Friends Church; Bethany Lutheran Church; 1st United Methodist Church; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; First Presbyterian; St. Rose Catholic Church; Subway; Domino's Pizza; Amalak; Kelso High Diversity; Columbia Heights Elementary; Carol Ledbetter; Dan Verrier; Jodie Fisher; Marion Metke; Julie Deuel; Kathy Hatcher; Gloria Nichols; Dolly Burch; Janet Perez; Judy Drage; Diane Perron; Ann Mottet; Marie Goins; Cynthia Frauenfeld; Toni Miner; Virginia Siegel; Lori Piper and Mary Christensen.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL 2005 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS!

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Longview Community Church

First Presbyterian Church Kelso
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Adam Wolfer
James Daly
Coy & Garri Middleton
Mick & Cathy Fox
Bill Nelson
Loyde & Joyce Harkey
Calvin & Mary Pease
Brian Haugen
Anita Roberts
Herman & Dorothy Johnson
Scott & Catherine Stinnette
Dr. Nancy D. Kuehlwein
Paula White
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Carl & Mary Wingate

Linda Brefeld
Robert & Marion Metke
Cindy & Pete Foley
Rev. Ron & Kay Naff
Jack & Jeanette Grimes Shirley Nelson
Mike Olden
Cathy Hatcher
Leon & Rene Rennells
S. Marie Job
Billie Stiles
Donald & Genny Kissinger
Robert & Barbara Wagner
Penny Lightfoot
Charles & Mary Williams
Mr. & Mrs. McDermott

Paul & Donna McLain
Gerald & Judy Flaskerud
Gladys & Roger Morey
Richard & Robyn Green
Lisa Harold
Bob & Barbara Price
Robert & Ingrid Jacobsen
Al & Verian Runnells
Charles & Sally Khim
Lois Swanstrom
Len Lelevich
John & Geraldine Willems
Gail McCarthy

Lumbermen's along with the Kelso Senior High Students and Lower Columbia College – **Thank you for all your Fundraising Efforts!**

SPECIAL THANKS to all those that provided **DEVOTIONS** at the construction job sites each Thursday and Saturday:

Kris McElroy-Weber
Len Lelevich
Brian Haugen
Steve Thorpe
Carole Sprouse
Don Mason
Ron Naff

Verian Runnells
Coy Middleton
Danny Houle
Matt Naff
Marion Metke
Roger Morey
Ken Steely

Janet Perez
John Williams
Mary VanSickle
Margaret Meharg
Bob Metke
John Edmiston

**Our apologies if we have inadvertently left anyone off this list.
Thank you to ALL of our very special donors!**



Calling All Lutherans!

Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity has a wonderful opportunity to partner with the Thrivent organization to construct one additional house in 2006. We need local Lutherans to comprise 50% of the volunteers and 10% of the funds to build a Habitat house. If our grant application is approved the Thrivent organization will fund an additional 70% of the construction costs. We need:

- Lutheran volunteers
- Thrivent members to identify themselves
- One contact volunteer from each Lutheran congregation

To contact our office please call, 425-6177, or email, office@cowlitzhabitat.org, TIME is of the essence, our grant is due soon and we need you accounted for!

PLEASE, help in bringing the dream of homeownership to one additional family in need!

From Devastation to New Life

Much good has come from the Mount St. Helens eruption of 1980, THANKS to the Weyerhaeuser Company.

Following the volcanic eruption, the company planted 18 million seedlings into the ashen ground, and today those trees now stand 70 feet tall. A thinning process is needed to maintain the health of these trees, and the company is using lumber from the cut trees to build 25 or more Habitat for Humanity homes.

One of those Habitat for Humanity homes is right here in our community. The house is located in Longview, and with the help of Weyerhaeuser and Habitat volunteers, is well under way.

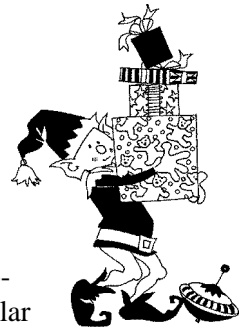
Weyerhaeuser is also pledging \$1 million to Habitat for Humanity to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Mount St. Helens eruption.

FESTIVAL OF GIVING December 4, 2005

Have fun and help Habitat for Humanity at the same time!

The Festival of Giving is a fun shopping event designed to benefit local non-profit organizations. Admission to this special evening of shopping at Three Rivers Mall involves a \$5 tax-deductible donation to a participating charity.

Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity has tickets available for purchase in our office. This evening of shopping will include special sales provided by stores and vendors, door prizes and more. In the past certain dollar values in eligible purchases earned you a free poinsettia or movie money and the shopper with the most sales earned a mall gift certificate. Best of all, **100%** of your \$5 ticket purchase price is donated to the organization selling the ticket. The large part of your ticket is retained for your tax records and the small coupon is turned in the night of the event for the door prizes. Your presence is not required to receive your door prize.



The event will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2005 from 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. Children five and under are free.

Please consider purchasing your own ticket, tickets as gifts for your office staff or selling tickets at your favorite gathering place. Please contact Diane at our office Tuesday through Thursday to arrange to pick-up tickets. Our phone number is 425-6177.

Thanks for your help and support!

Equal Housing Opportunity

We are pledged to the letter and spirit of the U.S. policy for the achievement of Equal Housing Opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

Put Your Recyclables to Work for Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity



The Monticello Lions Club donated their Aluminum can drop boxes to us three years ago. Cans placed in the drop boxes are taken to Waste Control where an account is set up for Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity.

You can deposit your donated cans in our outside boxes located around town beside most Lions Club newspaper drop boxes.

Or you can take the cans along with other recyclables such as copper or steel you would like to donate directly to Waste Control on 1st Avenue and tell them at the window to add the money to Cowlitz County Habitat's account.

If you have a business or work at a place where they throw away the cans and want them recycled, call us at 425-6177 and we can get a box to you and put you on our pickup list.

Thanks to all who are already helping us out in this way. Keep up the good work! You are also helping out the environment. If you can help with this program, we do need additional drivers to pick up and recycle cans.

Additionally, we are anxious for more indoor drop spots and have cardboard containers with plastic bags available in the office. We can accommodate weekly pickups.

How Can I Help Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity?

Donate to Cowlitz County Habitat and receive:

- A charitable donation tax receipt
- A tax deduction up to the amount allowable by law
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are giving families a decent place to live

Yes! I would like to help build warm homes for families in need in Cowlitz County.

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 Another Amount

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

My gift is in honor or remembrance of _____

(Please include their name and address so that it can be acknowledged.)

Mail to:
Cowlitz County
Habitat for Humanity
PO Box 1451
Longview, WA 98632

I am interested in volunteering in this area: _____

I can make the following in-kind donation (services, materials, etc.) _____



Volunteer Celebration Breakfast

Location: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1428 22nd Avenue – Longview
Time/Date: Saturday, December 10th, 10:00 am

You are invited to the Volunteer Celebration Breakfast!!!

In honor of our volunteers, we are hosting a free breakfast for all who have helped construct, provide lunches, and work on teams. We encourage you to bring one guest who is unfamiliar with Habitat for Humanity. If you can, please RSVP by calling the office at (360) 425-6177. It will help us with our preparations to have an approximate head count.

We hope to see all our volunteers and partnering families there!



Cowlitz County
**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Building Hope, Homes, and Stability

**PO Box 1451
Longview, WA 98632**

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