

A Message From Our Past President, Adam Wolfer, Ph.D

My term as president of Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity came to an end yet I remain on the Board of Directors. Good things are happening in the affiliate. I am excited to be a part of the changes and wanted to share the following:

We're hired our first Executive Director (again). We hired someone who started in February and unfortunately things didn't work out. He relocated out of the area and we've filled this role in the most capable hands of Len Lelevich. Len has been a part of our affiliate since our inception and we're thrilled and grateful to have him fulfill this important role in our organization. Welcome aboard, Len!

One of the tasks for our Executive Director will serve as the initial contact for our various partners. As a part of that, he will be working with PNE Corporation, who has again made Cowlitz County Habitat for Humanity the recipient of the funds raised in their August 2007 charity golf tournament. A new partner is GGP, the management company for the Three Rivers Mall. We have had several events at the mall and look forward to future activity with them.

Our Volunteer Coordinator's term with Americorps ended July 31, 2007, so Judy Drage will be finding new challenges for her life. She will definitely be missed but has assured us that she will remain active whenever she's in town and available. David Schaasfma has taken on the task of our new Volunteer Coordinator and has been dutifully working on obtaining new volunteers – both on site and our various committees. Welcome, David!

The Development/Public Relations Team has been working hard to raise

funds and awareness of Habitat for Humanity. The Construction Team is finishing up house number 6 and working on house number 9. The Family Selection Team has helped find new partner families and the Family Relations Team is supporting our partner families. The Church Relations Team is talking to the churches about our mission. And somehow in all of this, Diane Perron and her dutiful office support staff are keeping everything organized and running smoothly. I am continually impressed by these wonderful people.

As I write this I have just returned from a funeral in Montana. My godfather, John Lager, lost his long battle with diabetes and the ravages it inflicted. John was my dad's cousin and he married one of my mom's best friends. As often happens at these times, I learned things about a man who had been an important part of my life. John served his community in many ways while working hard as a dry-land farmer and demonstrated a lesson that I heard best expressed in a song by Montana singer/songwriter Jack Gladstone in a song entitled *The Builder*.

*With their tools, they build the walls
That stand solid, fresh and tall
You know, building is a risky thing to do
When the work you perform outlasts you*

My year as president of Habitat for Humanity has rapidly come to a close. As mentioned earlier, I will remain on the board, but will turn the reins over to the quite capable Ron Naff. The year has been everything I expected it to be: challenging, fulfilling, frustrating, and most of all rewarding. I have met people who have educated me on the challenges that life can throw at us, and people who have dedicated much of their energy to helping those who are challenged. Quite often,

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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those people are one and the same. I have been asked to step outside of my comfort zone to accomplish what needed to be accomplished. I have led a lot of meetings, presented on occasion and discussed Habitat with many people. I hope that I can continue to serve our community in many ways; it has definitely been a challenging opportunity.

Thank you for all you do with us – and the challenges that you set for yourself.

Adam

