

Students, Community Dedicate Habitat House

By: Julia Ferrante

Dozens of students from Bucknell and Susquehanna universities, community volunteers, family and friends came together Saturday, Sept. 19, to dedicate a new Habitat for Humanity home to a local family.

Alberto "Tito" Lopez, a service advisor at a local car dealership; his wife, Virginia; and their children, Angela, 4, and Nathaniel, 1, will begin moving into their new home as Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity's 17th partner family.

"We very much appreciate your giving us this opportunity to live in this house," Tito Lopez said during Saturday's dedication ceremony, which was held at the Lopez home off New Columbia Road. "Our family was growing, and we were looking for a place. Habitat was our first and last stop. We're going to give it a shot and I think we will make this work."

The Bucknell and Susquehanna university Habitat chapters, which work in partnership with the Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity affiliate, raised \$20,000 toward the cost of the Lopez home and served as the home sponsors. The university chapters



Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with the Lopez home build and dedication.

for years had an informal competition to raise funds for Habitat but joined forces this year to collect more money more quickly, said Eric Lassahn, a Union-Snyder Habitat board member and campus liaison.

The students shared fundraising ideas such as selling candy apples in the fall and delivering door hangers to local homes before Halloween asking for donations to Habitat. They also served on family selection, family support, construction and fundraising committees with local affiliate volunteers.

Hannah Zachary, a Bucknell sophomore who served on the family selection committee, said at the dedication that the Lopezes are "some

of the friendliest and most genuine people I've met."

"They were dedicated and adamant about making this work," she said. "I saw Tito at every build and he was pounding nails faster than any of the students."

Habitat's goal is to fulfill the dream of home ownership with simple, basic homes for families in need, said Cherie King, president of the Union-Snyder Habitat affiliate. Families must be able to pay a no-interest mortgage and commit to 250 hours of "sweat equity," either by helping with construction of their own home or working on future affiliate projects.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Habitat House Dedicated CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Thank You to Those Who Made the Lopez Home Possible

A special "thank you", to the Bucknell and Susquehanna University Habitat Chapters for their financial support and the many hours volunteered on site during the construction of the Lopez house. Many local volunteers, and others outside the community, were also involved.

We also wish to acknowledge and thank the following businesses that offered donations and or discounts for the material and services needed for this house. In spite of the difficult economic times we are facing, these companies continue to offer the support that we need.

Thank You

A Better Cabinet
Advanced Concrete Systems
A.O. Smith Co.
Bi-Lo Plumbing
Bingaman Lumber
Bob Kepner Lawn Service
Central Builders Supply
Class A Carpet
CVC Mechanical
Day Excavating
Designer Homes
Discount Linoleum
Forest Homes
Friedman Electric
Gutelius Excavating
Hunter Douglas
Ink Spot Printing
Leach's Greenhouse

Lewisburg Builders Supply
Lowe's
McBryan Contracting
Metal Industries
Penn Lyon Homes
Rental Stop
Ron Mowery & Son
Sherwin-Williams Co.
S.J. Eaton Plumbing
Sporoco Inc.
Square D
Stanley Wood Products
Temple Products of PA
Trane Corp.
US Supply
Whirlpool
Yale Residential
Zartman Construction

They also must complete a home ownership course.

Volunteers began constructing the 1,000-square-foot, three-bedroom ranch-style home in March.

It costs about \$80,000 to build a Habitat home. The Lopez family, which was selected as a partner family among 40 interested families and eight applicants, will pay back Habitat through an interest-free mortgage. The payments will be put into the Fund for Humanity to be used for future home construction.

King, the Union-Snyder Habitat president, commended the students for their dedication.

"They've helped perfect strangers achieve the American dream of home ownership," she said.

Union County Commissioner John Mathias, speaking at the dedication, noted that the students raised 25 percent of the cost of the home.

"These young men and women come and live among us for a brief time and they make a difference that will last a lifetime," he said.

Kenny Lakes, president of the SU Habitat chapter, presented the Lopez family with four gifts: "Flowers, so you will always have beauty in your home. Bread so you will never go hungry. Salt so you will always have flavor in your home, and candles so you will always have light."

Habitat volunteers and the Rev. MacKenzie Scott, the Lopez family's pastor at the First Baptist Church of Lewisburg, also presented the family with a Bible, a mailbox, a scrapbook, a homeowners' manual and a payment folder during the dedication ceremony.

USHFH

Board of Directors

President—Cherie King

Vice President — Tom Rambo

Treasurer — Pat Wendt

Secretary — Holly Paige

Members

Charles Devanney, Julia Ferrante,

Rick Gora, Paul Hoot,

Jim Kazakavage, Greg Krohn,

Eric Lassahn, Pam Perna,

Mike Weaver

USHFH President Lends a Hand in Atlanta



Cherie King works on one of the eight houses during Whirlpool Building Blocks week.

Get Involved This Fall

Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity has been growing by leaps and bounds, which is reflected in the full schedule planned for this fall. The events are designed to get the community and you more informed and involved in its mission:

“ Building homes for area families in need. ”

On Saturday, Oct. 10, we will be hosting a “ S scavenger Hunt ” in the Lewisburg area. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., starting and ending at the newest home in New Columbia. Each team will be given a tool belt and hints as to where the tools to fill the belt are located, which is area businesses. Teams will be given points for tools, first back, last back, and special bonus points. The top three teams will be awarded prizes donated by the Sholley Agency, Puirseil 's Irish Pub, Walmart and Blockbuster Video. Refreshments will be served afterward. Entrance fee to participate is \$10 per person.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Can you imagine building eight houses in four and a half days? Well I can, I helped! I have just returned from my fourth Whirlpool Building Blocks build in Atlanta, where this took place. Since I have been doing the Whirlpool builds, we have built 36 houses in four years! That means 36 families no longer live in substandard housing! It 's amazing to think that so many people have been helped by this program that was completed in less than four weeks time.

This year 's build was hosted by two Atlanta affiliates and the houses were built in Jonesboro, just south of the city. I can' t imagine the work that went into the week of this build. They had rented storage units that held all of the stuff that would be used on the house such as doors, windows and cabinets. They were packed full and included everything we would need to complete our house down to the cabinet knobs. They have it down to a science so that nothing is forgotten.

I was very fortunate to have been picked for this build. There are only a handful of us that have gone every year since the inaugural build in Nashville four years ago. I have met wonderful people and made great friends! It 's so powerful when you have 250 people there for the same reason...to rid the

world of substandard housing. There is such strength in numbers and the energy you pull from each other is tremendous. By day three, I felt like I could hardly stand, but my friend Rick Norton from Whirlpool 's plant in Cleveland, Tenn. gave me the strength to go on, he also gave me Advil. Rick and I have never worked on a house together, but have been on all four builds. We both share the passion for Habitat for Humanity and the difference it makes in our communities.

So many great things happened on the build. In addition to the eight families becoming homeowners, we had a chance to volunteer and help others. I learned from others on the build that it is sometimes difficult to volunteer for Habitat. There are waiting lists in some areas, so some of those people do Global Village Builds with Habitat or end up volunteering for something different until they are selected. We are so lucky in central Pennsylvania because we can give anyone that wants to help Habitat a volunteer opportunity to do so!

Please everyone, if you are even just thinking about it, come out and help us. It will change your life and change someone else 's as well!

- Cherie King, President



**Union – Snyder
Habitat for Humanity
Building Houses,
Building Hope**

**Call 570-374-2437
Toll free: 888-995-4387
On-line: www.ushfh.org**

**For newsletter submissions:
Dawn Raszcewski, Editor
info@ushfh.org**

**Mike Weaver--Technology
Consultant**

Fall Events CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Local Radio Station WKOK 1070am will be airing a one hour long roundtable featuring Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanities Vice President Tom Rambo; one of our family members Larry Harder; and Development Officer Sandy Hopkins. The program will air on Sunday, Oct. 11. What an opportunity for you to tune in and find out more about all aspects of the organization.

Thinking about volunteering? Then we have the event for you - open enrollment for volunteers is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 14 at the Union County Public Library. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. you will have the unique opportunity to speak with representatives from all of the committees on a one on one basis so you can learn how your special talents and interests can be used to help area families achieve their dream of home ownership. Committees that will be represented are Development, Church Relations, Family Support, Family Selection, Construction, Public Relations, ReStore, Site Selection and Site Rehabilitation.

Nov. 15 brings a brand new event to the area – a Quarter Auction. This is a very exciting event

with an unique “ pay as you play ” option. Much like a regular auction their will be items up for bid to the audience. The attendees can purchase as many numbered paddles as they wish, which will be used for bidding. The twist is that each item is assigned a value: one, two, three or four quarters. For each paddle that you wish to use, you will place the total number of quarters in for bid on that item. For example: if you have three numbered paddles and an item comes up for bid that is valued at two quarters and you want to use all of your numbers, you will place six quarters in for the bid. The announcer will then keep pulling numbers until there is a match with someone ' s paddle and that person will be the winner. The event will be held at the American Legion, located at Buffalo Road and Route 15, refreshments will be available. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with the auction starting at 2 p.m.

If you would like more information on any of these events or to donate an item for the Quarter Auction, please contact Habitat ' s Development Officer Sandy Hopkins at sandy@ushfh.org or at 570-490-9158.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Selinsgrove, PA 17870-0064
PO Box 64

Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity



Non-Profit Organization
U.S Postage Paid
Permit No. 46
Selinsgrove, PA 17870