

"Building Homes, Building Hope"

Breaking Ground, Breaking Records

By Julia Ferrante

Aidan McKinney, 11 and his fellow Boy Scouts from Lewisburg's Troop 509 took their places along the tables, ready to roll.

One by one, the Boy Scouts and about 50 other community members, Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity volunteers and chefs from Vic's Pub and Pennsylvania College of Technology squirted mayonnaise on a 102-foot long span of overlapping red, white and green tortillas as dozens of spectators watched.

"This is the glue," explained Chef Phil Gajda, co-owner and executive chef of Vic's, who was in charge of the wrap assembly.

Next came the turkey, bacon, tomato, lettuce, salt and pepper. Then it was time to roll the wrap.

Together, the group made history Saturday, Sept. 18, securing the record for the world's largest sandwich wrap with the Miami, Fla.-based World Records Academy (<http://www.worldrecordsacademy.org>). Building the 102-foot wrap was part of Union-Snyder Habitat's inaugural fund-raising event: "Breaking Ground, Breaking Records" at Vic's Pub and Blaise Alexander Ford off West Market Street.

Something for everyone

The event, which drew several hundred people throughout the day, featured affordable fun and entertainment for all ages, including green carnival games made by Habitat volunteer Sue Goddard from reused or extra construction materials; giveaways; and activities with inflatable games such as sumo wrestling, sword fighting and the Bunge Cord Challenge.

Many local businesses stepped up to support the event in partnership with Habitat, Union-Snyder Habitat President Tom Rambo noted. Churches and other nonprofit organizations offered food items such as decorate-your-own cupcakes, whoopee pies and soda. Union County Public Library offered used books. And the Folk Justice Band played throughout the day.

Those who attend had the chance to sign the starting beam for Habitat's next home and to meet some of the organization's partner families.

Retired major league left-handed relief pitcher Steve



Kline officiated a pitching game. Kline, a Sunbury native who attended high school in Lewisburg, played for the Cleveland Indians, Montreal Expos, St. Louis Cardinals, Baltimore Orioles and the San Francisco Giants and now coaches a minor league team.

"Slices of history," or pieces of the wrap were sold for \$1 each. And Drew Kelly of Sunbury Broadcasting's "Drew Kelly's Morning Show" recorded interviews for future radio spots.

All in the wrap

It took about 20 minutes to assemble the wrap, which consisted of 144 12-inch tortillas, two gallons of mayonnaise, 40 pounds of turkey, 400 slices of bacon, 500 lettuce leaves, 750 slices of tomato, 15 pounds of cheddar cheese and 1,200 toothpicks, according to Mary Gajda, co-owner and general manager of Vic's Pub.

The hardest part was the actual rolling, McKinney of the Boy Scout troop said. But he added, "It was really fun. I liked the whole experience."
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Goddard turns passion into 'Green Games'

By Becky Weaver

Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity's "Breaking Records, Breaking Ground" event offered more than a record-breaking wrap. It was a family event that featured nine "green" games made from recycled materials that were left over from Habitat home builds.

Sue Goddard, Union-Snyder Habitat's 2009 construction volunteer of the year, designed and constructed the green games in her garage. Goddard, who



grew up "messaging around" with carpentry for fun in her grandfather's garage, has a lifelong passion for woodworking. During college, she honed her woodworking skills by helping out with a theatre shop and worked with a carpenter in Maine before becoming a career carpenter. She retired two years ago.

When Goddard was asked to help Habitat build green games at the "Breaking Records" event, she said, her first inclination was to make them in a "craftsman-like manner."

"But when I was asked to use recycled materials and put a 'Habitat twist' on them, my focus shifted a bit," she said. "I went through the materials in the Habitat storage barn to see what could be utilized. I tried to be creative with the use of materials on hand and also to make the projects, where possible, reflect construction techniques and/or house-like

structures.

"I also focused on making the games fold or stack to take as little storage space as possible," she said. "I tried, whenever possible, not to use materials that would be better utilized elsewhere."

It cost about \$100 to make the green games with recycled materials, which is about \$150 less than it would have cost to make them with new materials, said Lisa Rossi, a board member and development chair for Union-Snyder Habitat. Sherwin-Williams of Lewisburg donated paint and sold the primer to USHFH at cost.

"All of the games could be made out of household goods," Rossi said.

"Additionally, a senior from a local high school helped to collect bottles for one of the games as part of a project."

Volunteer active in formation of USHFH

By Julia Ferrante

A local pastor who was one of the founders of Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity has died.

The Rev. Marion E. Smith of Pennsfield Apartments died July 18 at The Manor at Penn Village in Selinsgrove. He was 91.

Born Feb. 16, 1919 in Williamsburg, Pa., Smith was a son of the late Jeremiah A. and Elsie (Treese) Smith. On June 1, 1941, he married the former Erla E. Ritchey, who preceded him in death on July 2, 2008. She was the daughter of the late James H. and Margaret (Glass) Ritchey.

Smith graduated from Morrison's Cove High School, Martinsburg, in 1937 and from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1948. He also attended Bucknell University in Lewisburg. He served in United Church of Christ congregations in McConnellstown, Altoona, Mifflinburg, Denver and Beaver

Springs. After retiring in 1984, he served as pastor of Ebenezer United Church of Christ in Laurelton every other Sunday for 15 years and helped in other churches as well.

Smith was active in the formation of Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity and also served as an Adult Literacy Volunteer.

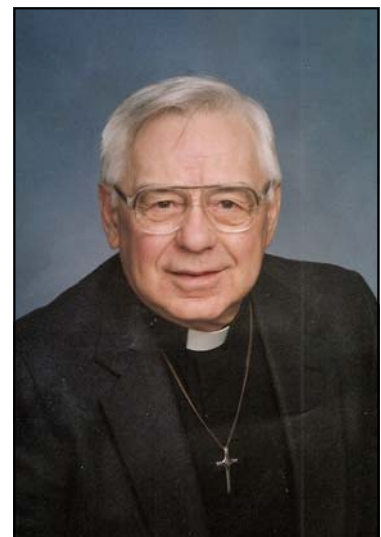
He is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, David E. and Sharon Smith of Millmont; daughter Margaret Ann Spirk of Coal Township; two grandchildren, Marian L. Dirks of Reading, Mark G. Spirk of Austin, Texas; and two great grandchildren, Katie L. and Kiefer P. Dirks of Reading.

He was preceded in death by brothers Raymond (in infancy) and Paul Smith and by two sisters, Thelma Hornwalt and Frances Evans. A memorial service was held at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Selinsgrove with interment in Mt. Pleasant United Church of Christ

Cemetery, Martinsburg.

Contributions in Smith's memory may be made to Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 64, Selinsgrove, PA 17870 or to St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 400 N. Market St., Selinsgrove, PA 17870.

The V.L. Seebold Funeral Home, 601 N. High St., Selinsgrove, was in charge of arrangements.



Friend family moves into Habitat home in New Columbia

By Anne Marie Talty

Saturday, Aug. 14 was an extraordinary day for Amanda and Robert Friend and their children. Brian, 6, and Amanda, 3.

The family stood on the front porch of their new home at 562 New Columbia Road as friends, family and Union-Snyder Habitat for Humanity volunteers gathered for an official dedication and blessing.

"This has been an amazing opportunity for meeting new people and building relationships," Amanda Friend said. "Thank you. I don't know what else to say to show our appreciation."

Dozens of volunteers, including the Friends and participants from the Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild Program, worked for several months to fulfill the family's dream of homeownership. The Friends had been living in a cramped, drafty, two-bedroom apartment in Bloomsburg. Their new home, which includes many donated materials, has separate bedrooms for the children and a space for family dinners.

The Friends are the 18th family to partner with the Union-Snyder Habitat affiliate since the organization was founded in 1991. Their 1,040-square-foot, three-bedroom, ranch-style house, is adjacent to the home of the Lopez family, a fellow

Union-Snyder Habitat partner family.

During the ceremony, the family pastor, the Rev. Eric Funk of Christ United Methodist Church in Selinsgrove, said the home would serve as a symbol of hope for those in need.

Volunteers presented the family with an array of gifts including a doormat and a scrapbook documenting the building of the home. Tom Rambo, president of Union-Snyder Habitat, gave the family a Bible, saying, "May this be the foundation for your lives and family."

Union-Snyder Habitat Treasurer Patricia Wendt handed the keys and a mortgage coupon booklet to Amanda and Robert Friend. The family will pay back Habitat through an interest-free mortgage, and the payments will be put in the Fund for Humanity to be used for future Habitat families.

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

Central PA YouthBuild partnership
Union-Snyder Habitat launched a two

-year partnership with Central Pennsylvania YouthBuild last year. Groups of young adults from six counties in the Susquehanna Valley were selected to work with the local affiliate and another organization that provides affordable housing.

The YouthBuild trainees, who range in age from 18 to 24 years old, split their 30-hour, five-day weeks between the classroom and the construction site.

The partnership is mutually beneficial to Habitat and YouthBuild, noted Rachel Smith of the Central PA Workforce Development Corp., which administers the YouthBuild program. The program provides young adults with hands-on construction skills as well as academic training.

"The partnership also provides an avenue to learn what it means to give back to the community," Smith said.

YouthBuild participants Samantha Bell and Shala Snyder, who helped set walls and install electrical wiring in the home in the early stages of construction, had not seen the house since. When they arrived at the dedication ceremony, they looked at the home and said, "Wow," in unison.

National Night Out



USHFH offered a rock-painting activity at the National Night Out, Aug. 3 in Lewisburg. Hundreds of families and volunteers from local organizations participated in the crime-prevention event, which is observed nationally.



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Breaking Records (continued)

The World Records Academy had several requirements for breaking the record: The wrap had to be measurable; the record had to be breakable, verified and represent "a real achievement;" and the event had to be legal, moral and set a good example for others, Rambo said.

Rambo, along with Gajda; East Buffalo Township Chief of Police Barry Hosterman; Michelle Kashuba of Shubie Doo's Salon & Day Spa in Lewisburg; and sous chefs Heather Sherwood and Angela Hess did the official measuring and officiating after a few trial runs in weeks leading up to the event.

"From our point of view this went really nice and smooth and easy," Phil Gajda said. "During the last five weeks, we practiced with a 16-foot wrap and served it at our Friday happy hour. By the time we got to the 100-foot wrap, we had it down to a science."

Chef Mary Trometter of Penn Tech said the event was a great opportunity for her 20 culinary students who helped assemble the wrap.

"The students are seeing how chefs can contribute to the community," she said.

Beth Foley of Lewisburg, whose daughter Caitlin, 13, helped build the wrap, bought 20 slices of history.

"I am feeding my family dinner," she said.



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