A letter from the Board President:

Passionate: To feel strongly about something. To feel strongly enough to do something about it. To do something that makes a difference!

My journey with Habitat for Humanity goes back over 30 years when I became acquainted with Habitat making a difference in Illinois in partnership with one program of the social service agency I served. My journey continued as an admirer of the organization and its work across the country – even across the globe. But it was an arms-length relationship – not yet a passionate relationship.

My arms-length relationship changed with an opportunity to put some arm-muscle into the Lutheran Build with Manatee Habitat in 2014, as part of my church’s partnership with five other Lutheran churches to build a home at Hope Landing, in Elleton. Volunteering three times a week over six months gave me an “up close and personal” immersion into the Habitat “family” – staff, volunteers, home buyer families, sponsoring organizations from our community, donors – everyone who makes a difference and makes the mission of Manatee Habitat possible.

Passion for Habitat was now a part of who I was – and I wanted it to continue to be. With the conclusion of the Lutheran Build, I stayed as a regular volunteer every work day – a weekly commitment that has continued to this day. Wonderful people! Energizing work! A result to celebrate – a new affordable home for an economically challenged family. A home serving as a platform for a family to build a healthy and productive future. Building Hope!

I was honored to be asked to join the work crews as a leader and surprised when I was asked to join the Board of Directors. I guess my passion was showing! Construction volunteer, Board governance leader, Habitat event participant, financial donor. See what passion will get you! I would have it no other way.

And I hope you will have it no other way as well, as your passion for Habitat is sustained and grows. Thank you for your faithful interest in all things Habitat. Thank you for your gifts of volunteer time, donations to and purchases from our Restore, participation in our celebrations, and financial support to secure the resources needed to continue to build, modify and repair homes to serve family needs – and support our work building healthy communities.

Passion – and Partnership! As passionate partners working together in the Habitat mission, we can make a difference.

Roger Arnoldt, Board President
Manatee County Habitat for Humanity Dedicates Second New Home in Bradenton

On June 10, State Rep. Jim Boyd was there to congratulate Nicole Hamilton and her family on their new home. Barbara Inman, President and CEO of Habitat Florida also joined the celebration along with Hamilton family guests, representatives of Beall’s Home Sponsor, Manatee Habitat staff, board members and volunteers. “It is a pleasure to be here for this dedication and to have the opportunity to thank Representative Boyd for his leadership and support of affordable housing on the state level. Florida builds more Habitat homes than any other state for several reasons. Of course, the weather is a big reason, and another is the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program the Florida Legislature supports to help communities build affordable housing,” Ms. Inman said. Beall’s sponsored the new home at 2206 10th St. W. and participates in the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program that also requires the company to provide volunteers to help build the house. Cheryl Woelfjen, Beall’s Public and Government Relations Director, attended the dedication with several of the Beall’s employees who volunteered more than 200 hours on the home’s construction. “Beall’s employees stepped forward for this opportunity and loved doing it. It was not difficult to find volunteers and many came out many more times than once,” Ms. Woelfjen said.

Reconfigured Home is dedicated for the Hunter Family

The dedication of the home of Eric and Tonya Hunter on May 20 was a celebration of teamwork for achieving the goals of freedom and independence. Tonya had endured years of limited access in her own home after surgery and an unexpected illness left her wheelchair dependent. The renovation of the home with a raised living room made it possible for her to move around the house without physical assistance. The Manatee Habitat Rehab Crew installed indoor and outdoor ramps, expanded the doorways and remodeled the bathroom so she can move freely in the house and in and out of the bathroom and shower. Bruce Winter, Construction Director and members of Rehab Crew expressed that this project was one of the most rewarding projects they have worked on. Tonya, with humor and her endearing spirit thanked each one of over 20 volunteers and staff present personally with an anecdote about something that happened in the process.

Jack Shaw Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

“Jack is one of the greatest volunteers. He is always ready to help, will do whatever needs to be done, and will go the extra mile for the cause,” said Winter, Bruce Construction Director. Jack Shaw has built 38 houses with Habitat. “I was very surprised by this award. I do it for the satisfaction and because the people are wonderful to work with,” Shaw said. Jack began volunteering with Manatee County Habitat for Humanity on a Lutheran Build Project in 2009 and has now helped build 38 houses. He is a “Jack of all trades” and master of many. He installs siding, soffits, fascia, windows, interior and exterior doors, cabinets, countertops and flooring — often in a leadership capacity. Habitat volunteers donated 18,331 hours valued at $40,748 last year — July 1, 2016 June 30, 2017. Additional Volunteer Awards 2016/2017: Over 500 Volunteer hours of construction – Gary French, Herb McCarthy, Bob Marat and Sally Eaton

Construction Volunteer of the Year – Roger Arnholt

Bent Nail Award Recipients: Paula Costa, Kent Humphrey, Tim MacDonald

Family Service Volunteer of the Year – Barb Kopp

Office Volunteer of the Year – Melanie Richards

ReStore Volunteers of the Year: Harline Salazar – Joyce Koubia; Cortez – Jean Richardson

Acting Secretary- Treasurer- Nancy O'Callahan

NEWS IN REVIEW

It only takes a hug from East Bradenton resident May Lizzie Jennings, the unofficial mayor of her impoverished community in Washington Park, to know you are loved. The 71-year-old exudes faith in God and takes the Biblical command of “Love thy neighbor” to a whole new level. Jennings is on a mission to spread that love throughout her neighborhood, and it’s a mission noticed by Habitat for Humanity’s program manager, Didi Hager. Habitat is partnering with Jennings to form a new coalition to identify Washington Park assets, enhance them and determine what the community needs. Habitat is focusing on specific areas of the neighborhood and identifying vacant lots for potential purchase.

“We are looking at the whole community, but targeting this area for new construction,” Hager said. “This is just the beginning of activity. We are looking for other people to get involved in this grassroots effort to help this neighborhood, and hopefully build a coalition behind that. Habitat can only be a spoke in the wheel. We can’t be the whole wheel.”

Tropicana is chipping in for the effort, donating money for lawn equipment and picnic tables that Jennings hopes to use for Bible study classes for the neighborhood children. The small coalition recently met for the first time with only four people attending.

JOIN MANATEE COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN A FAITH BUILD IN 2018

As a Christian Housing ministry, Manatee Habitat is very grateful for the support of the faith community and the institutions who have participated in the past builds. A Faith Build is planned for 2018 and all organizations of faith are invited to come together in this mission. A Faith Build is a concrete way to faith into action as congregations share God’s love by building an affordable house for a family in need of a decent place to call home. Together faith organizations will raise the funds to purchase the construction materials and provide the labor and prayer support to build a house in Bradenton in partnership with a local family. Rev. Rosemary Backer is leading the Faith Relations committee and championing this outreach. If your church would like to participate please contact Amy Van Dell at avandell@manateehabitat.org or (941)748-9100.

STILL TIME TO JOIN AND SUPPORT THE WOMEN BUILD 2017

The Women Build started with a bang with more than 40 volunteers in early May leveling the lot around the foundation and starting the ICF Block walls for the attached villa that will become the homes of Brittany Holley on one side and Brittany Mayhew on the other. During National Women Build Week May 6-13, local leaders lent their support along with National sponsor Lowe’s Heroes encouraging women to spend a day on the jobite to build, learn and advocate for affordable housing. The heavy hitters included Carol Probstfield, president of State College of Florida; County Commissioner Betsy Benac; Bradentown Chief of Police Melanie Revan; Manatee School Superintendent Diana Greene and Angelo Colonneso, Manatee County Clerk of the Court. The Women Build in Bradenton received lots of media coverage and a TV program was produced.

Home Sponsor Boar’s Head Brand volunteers have been on the jobite three times doing different stages of construction and serving delicious hot dogs each time. Though well on the way to completion with the roof on; and windows and doors in place, there is still much to do and opportunities to get involved. Women are encouraged to volunteer now by registering on-line or by contacting Barbara Slater at balater@manateehabitat.org or (941)748-9100 x. 110.

You can support the effort with an online donation. Go to www.manateehabitat.org and click on Support Us to help Manatee Habitat reach the goal.