

From Behind the Hammer

— Jerry Marlatt, Building Superintendent



The Building Committee is gearing up for another big year of building houses “For and With God’s People In Need”.

We already have the three partner families for 2018 approved by the Board of Directors

Dawn Chadrick & children— Jacqueline (Jackie) Vasquez Moreno & child—Aaron Williams & Chelsea Smith & children

We will be building these three houses on the north side of 17th Street across the street from where we built last year. The official building start day for this year will be **Saturday April 7, 2018**.

Meanwhile the Building Committee will be doing some pre-planning and preliminary work in the warehouse this winter.

We will also see a lot of activity going on east of the building site this summer as the work of the infrastructure and paving will be progressing. This work is necessary for us to be able to continue to build in the subdivisions.

Very Exciting !

Members of the Building Committee are: *Jerry Marlatt and Randall Heckman, Co-Chairmen. Gary Arentsen, Jim Swanson, Milt Kotrc. Roger Payne, Kay Payne, Marshall Everitt, Steve Walters, Darrell Teply, Delbert Sindt, Ken Mumm, Paul Jackson, Milt Dahlgren, Tom Hardekoff, Keith Lindvall*

Ken’s Farewell Message as President



From Behind the Gavel

— Ken Mumm, President

In some respects, it’s hard to wrap my head around the fact that KAHfH will be building its 80th home in just a few months.....80 homes since 1992. And yet, it’s not so unbelievable. When as many fine folks as we have in our Kearney community come together, we can accomplish so much!

2017 was another very special year in the life of KAHfH. We celebrated 25 years of building homes with and for God’s people in need; we built three more homes; we logged over 350 different volunteers; we logged over 9,500 hours of volunteer activity. I’d say that was a pretty good year. In addition, let me note that our Habitat Homeowners contributed \$141,591.75 in taxes in 2017. That’s because the Habitat homes’ assessed valuation is \$9,033,320! This has all happened because of faithful

volunteers and donors. Without the cadre of people involved in KAHfH, this wouldn’t have happened.

2018 promises to be as good as well. We will again be building on the Marlatt Addition and will also see some construction activity going on as we plan to have infrastructure started on our second addition. Each year, as we plan for the upcoming building season we are excited to see what transpires, as there are always pleasant surprises. We anticipate the same for 2018.

I end with a big THANK YOU for all of the support I’ve received these past four years as president of this wonderful mission. I can’t imagine my life without it.

I turn the gavel over to a very capable and talented Marshall Everitt. Please give him all of the support and prayer you’ve offered me.

I’ll see you on the building site!

What You Have Created Together

Kearney Habitat is beginning our 26th year of building simple, decent, affordable homes for and with God’s people in need! The funds necessary to build the 79 homes completed thus far have come from a wonderful variety of sources. Individuals, churches, foundations, memorials, businesses, service clubs and others have provided the financial resources needed to make this housing ministry possible. These awesome folks have been an incredible blessing!

Thousands of volunteer workers and a few paid professionals have joined with the future homeowners in constructing these homes. They have been very mindful that generous donors have provided the funds to purchase the building materials. It is an amazing combination of remarkably caring people!

In an effort to keep our friends and supporters informed we have included with this newsletter the fact page “**What my donation can do**”

We give thanks for what all the donations have helped make possible...home ownership for 79 Kearney families. As this new year begins, we trust you will feel a deep sense of accomplishment knowing what you and so many others have created together.

—KAHfH Fundraising Committee *Margaret Messbarger, Mel Wiens, Blaine Drozd, Jim McKenzie*

Angelita (Anna) Hernandez was the first homeowner of the 2017 build season. She received the keys to her home from Delbert Sindt on November 16, 2017. As is customary in their culture, the guests were treated to homemade tamales. They also received the first PicnicTable from the Family of Christ Church



**Angelita Hernandez
Amelia—Ivan—Ariana**



1209 East 17th Street

The second homeowner for the year was **Melissa Kelsey**. Her home was dedicated on November 30, 2017 so she and her children had a new home for Christmas. This was one of her dreams when she moved to Kearney in 2004. She has kept working at this goal until it was finally realized. The keys were presented by Kay Payne.



1305 East 17th Street



**Melissa Kelsey
Lillie—Michael—Emily**

Sadie Brandt was the third homeowner of the year. On December 14, 2017 she received the keys from Randall Heckman as well as a number of other gifts from Habitat Partners. She and her son Aiden are excited to begin the next phase of their life in their very own home.



1307 East 17th Street



**Sadie Brandt
Aiden**

All of the dedication photos are on the website habitat.kearney.net

Volunteers.....the key to continued success for KAHfH

Happy New Year! I can confidently speak for the Kearney Habitat Board to proclaim 2017 as a great year for Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity.

Many thanks to our volunteers and donors for making 2017 a success. Of course, special thanks to those who work diligently onsite and behind the scenes for Habitat. So many people focused on building dreams for families.

Volunteers are not easy to come by these days. Many groups, churches and other organizations find themselves pulled in several directions for their time and energies.

Businesses are constantly solicited for money and time. Of those businesses, many understand the value of Habitat and continue to show support year after year.

Our community grasps the importance of promoting dignity and independence for all people for affordable shelter. In this world, with the divisiveness and the challenges we face in our country, it is hopeful and refreshing to see a community come together to help their fellow man.

As I reflect on 2017 and the number of church affiliates, business and organizations who helped build three new homes, I am pleased to have made contact with so many new volunteers.

For example, NebraskaLand Bank stepped up to provide food and helped serve at our 25th Anniversary BBQ. The City of Kearney jumped in with volunteers from city offices to help on a week day and Eaton Corporation brought workers to help build. Wow! Great crews. Not to mention students from UNK who showed up and dug right in.

With so many people pulled in different volunteer directions, it was great to see Habitat of Kearney on their priority list.

Challenges of finding volunteers is one thing, shuffling the numbers of volunteer and coordinating communication is another.

A sorority at UNK contacted me last summer about bringing in a group of builders on a Saturday. My response, "Why, yes of course." Later to find out there were eighty of them. Oh dear, what a problem to have. Eighty sorority girls on site. How will this work? Many emails and phone calls later, we compromised.

We never want to turn help away. Who knows if we would ever get them back? We certainly don't want people bored on site and not engaged in the process.

Finding a balance and good communication are keys to success.

Getting in front of service clubs and promoting is also key. We are at an age where millennials make up a huge part of our work force. Getting in touch with the young generation is so important to continue to build the legacy of Habitat in Kearney and worldwide.

How do we appeal to the younger generation and keep this well-oiled machine going?

I feel once we engage and get them on-site and make them feel welcome, they see the value of lending a helping hand. They see first-hand the fruits of their labors.

I challenge all of you reading this to think of a club, organization or business that may not have been a part of the amazing Kearney Habitat story this year. Maybe a group involved in the past and through attrition or leadership changes, has fallen off the Habitat radar.

I commit to making good solid connections and contacts in 2018. It is a group effort. Let's make 2018 even more amazing.

Thank you.

Rena Zimmer

—Church Relations and Volunteer Coordinator

Cans for Habitat

You can put them (secured in bags please) in the cage box on the north side of the Habitat building at 1815 1st Avenue.

You can take them and other aluminum items to Anderson Wrecking on Avenue M and ask them to put your donation on the KAHfH account.

OR, if you have a place with a lot of cans, our "can man" Charlie will come and pick them up. Just call 234-6030 and leave a message for him

Many cans or just a few . . . every little bit helps the "can" cause.

In 2017, you contributed \$1,016 in cans. Let's beat that figure in 2018.



THANK YOU

2018 Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity

Marshall EverittPresident
Paul Bartlett . . . Vice President
Cory ChristiansTreasurer
Beth ForbessSecretary

Committee Chairpersons

Jerry Marlatt Building
Randall Heckman . .Co-Building
Renee Zimmer. Church Relations and Volunteer Coordinator
Kathy Everitt . . .Family Nurture
Tammy Jeffs . . Family Selection
Jim McKenzieFund Raising
Bonnie Mumm Hospitality
Glennis Nagel . .Public Relations
John Zulkoski . . .Site Selection
Cindy Barney Finance
Barbara Clark Technology

Other Board Members

Carol Erickson, *Judy Fisher*,
Deb Fox, *Tom Hardekopf*,
Ken Mumm, *Paul Jackson*,
Darrell Teply,



Photo courtesy of Barrego Images

We welcome a new volunteer, drone pilot Francesco Borrego. He is a licensed pro from Florida and you can see his work here: @Barrego Images on Facebook. We will have more of his work for HfH on our web page habitat.kearney.net
2018 homes will be to the left of the arrow.

Winter 2017-18

Kearney Area

Habitat for Humanity

1815 First Avenue

Kearney, NE 68847

Check the website and Facebook and
Twitter for current information

habitat.kearney.net

Thanks



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LIPS Print Service



KAHfH Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Supper



February 19, 2018 6:30 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church



4511 6th Ave

Kearney, NE



KAHfH Board provides the main dish and side dishes but you can contribute if you wish.



Address changes & Other Business

Call 234-6030 (office)

kahfh@yahoo.com

Requests for changes can be left on the answering machine. Leave a clear, concise message so that Julie can get back to you ASAP. Or send via email BEST WAY You can also request an email copy of the newsletter in color

Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity † 1815 First Avenue, Kearney, NE 68847 † 308-234-6030 (office)