

## Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg prepares for 4th Annual House Party & Auction – Mardi Gras Style!

Stop in at the Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) offices right now and you might overhear the staff discussing a new Dixieland style song they heard, or the tasty Cajun flavoured dinner they tried the night before. Don't lose faith – the HFHW staff haven't given up Winnipeg traditions, they're simply gearing up for the 4th Annual House Party & Auction which is taking on an exciting Mardi Gras theme for 2006.

As a major fundraiser for Winnipeg's Habitat Affiliate, the Annual House Party & Auction takes months of planning to successfully complete. This year's festivities are scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2006 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. This exciting night will include fantastic silent and live auctions plus live entertainment by the Merv Maute Dixieland Band. The Winnipeg Convention Centre's expert chefs will prepare the event's

tasty Louisiana style food, and those who attend can expect to leave with handfuls of vibrant Mardi Gras beads and masks.



The fundraising goal for this year's event is \$50,000, and proceeds from the event will be used to help build Winnipeg Habitat homes in 2007. As the Operations Manager for HFHW, Steve Dick is eagerly anticipating the November third event. "The House Party & Auction is a great opportunity for Habitat supporters to enjoy a fun filled night out, while at the same time, help us

realize our mission of building safe, decent, affordable housing for low-income working families," he says.

By purchasing tickets or donating an auction prize to the event, Winnipeggers will also be helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina. A portion of the proceeds from the November third event are being set aside to use in the rebuilding of the U.S. Gulf Coast region.

*Tickets to the 4th Annual House Party & Auction are \$100 each (a \$40 tax-receipt will be issued). For more information on the event, to purchase tickets, or to donate an auction item, please contact Elaine Smith, Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Office Manager at [esmith@habitat.mb.ca](mailto:esmith@habitat.mb.ca) or 204-235-2181.*

***"What I do, you cannot do; but what you do, I cannot do. The needs are great, and none of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."***

***Mother Teresa of Calcutta***



*Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses, so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.*

## Winnipeg Habitat Affiliate Hosts Canada's First National Student Build Excitement, Energy, and Home Building Ensur!

From May 6 to 13, 2006 an unassuming Winnipeg Street corner became a shining example of just how valuable the energy of Canada's youth is. Twenty-one students from across the country arrived at 1172 Henderson Highway to begin the nation's first-ever National Student Build. The Richardson Foundation sponsored the inaugural event and Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) was eager to put its hosting skills to the test.

Entrusted to arrange lodging, meals, and transportation for the lively group, was Linda Peters, HFHW's Volunteer Coordinator. "The Canadian Mennonite University was the perfect place for the kids to stay and two large passenger-vans were secured to transport them back and forth. The vans also came in handy for some of the daily Manitoba themed excursions we took the gang on," Peters reported.

It might have been the perfect balance of work and play that was achieved by the event, but the new home of Lisa Strykiwsky and her two children quickly took shape within the first two days. Most of the students arrived



in Winnipeg with no experience using power tools and a very limited knowledge of how new homes are constructed. With the patient guidance of House Leaders and HFHW Project Manager, Vern Koop – walls were constructed and raised within the first day!

By the end of the weeklong event, the modest bungalow was completely enclosed with doors and windows, and the shingles and vinyl siding were also in place. The students bid a tearful goodbye to their standing accomplishment on the thirteenth of May, but other volunteers continued to work throughout the summer on drywalling, painting, and landscaping.

With the absence of hammers and drills, the new home at 1172 Henderson Highway is now peacefully quiet but one can still feel a vibrant air of excitement surrounding the house; it might be the enthusiasm of the new Habitat Homeowner who received her keys during the home dedication ceremony on September 14, – but we shouldn't rule out the lingering energy of the twenty-one students who made the first National Student Build a huge success!

*Photography by Jason Halstead.*

# Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Builds Six Homes in Fifty-Six Hours Blitz Build Recipe a Huge Success!

The 2006 Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) Redonda Street Blitz Build called for a recipe like no other. The required ingredients included seven generous House Sponsors, hundreds of phone calls, and logistical planning that would make any Military General proud.

To start construction on the six new Redonda Street homes, the dedicated staff from HFHW mixed all the parts together and harnessed the enthusiasm of over 900 volunteers from July 8 to 15. The build site was a continual frenzy of energy and as the photos below showcase, the result was a whole-lot-of team building, a good dose of soul building, and best of all – a successful recipe for home building!



## Our Apologies!

Recently, Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg launched a direct mail campaign in support of its upcoming 4th Annual House Party & Auction. During the mailing process, an error occurred on the part of our direct mail processor and some of the people on our mailing list received multiple copies of the advertisement.

We received a number of calls from Habitat supporters who were concerned that perhaps past financial support wasn't being used as effectively and responsibly as possible. We appreciated the feedback, and are thankful that those Habitat supporters who received multiple copies, took the time to let us know about the problem. A refund for services and postage has been issued to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg.

Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg would like to express our deepest gratitude for the tremendous financial and personal support – past, present, and future – given by our donors, volunteers, and sponsors. We strive to maintain a streamlined and efficient operating budget on all projects.



Did you know that Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg is able to accept donations online?

Use your credit card to make your donation via our secure website.

To make an online donation today, visit us at [www.habitat.mb.ca](http://www.habitat.mb.ca)

# Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Volunteer Profile: Dawn Thomas-Jerlo

All Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) volunteers seem to share a set of common traits: unlimited enthusiasm for the Habitat cause, a strong sense of community responsibility, and hearts filled with compassion and care. A strong supporter and one who consistently displays the complete set of "HFHW volunteer traits" is Women Build Committee member, Dawn Thomas-Jerlo.

An eager participant in both onsite building and behind-the-scenes planning, Dawn has been a regular volunteer with HFHW's very successful Women Build Committee. "I love the camaraderie and the energy that comes with working



Dawn takes a break from Blitz Building on Redonda Street.

beside people that you've just met," Thomas-Jerlo says. "I really believe that I'm spending my free-time for a worthwhile cause and

that's what keeps me coming back. I think I've volunteered over 200-hours with Habitat Winnipeg during the past year and because I work from home, I'll be able to continue volunteering my time in 2007."

*Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg is always eager for new people to join their volunteer team. Current openings for volunteers include: ReStore retail clerks and warehouse staff, various committee members, and volunteers willing to prepare and donate lunches and snacks for office and committee meetings. For more information on volunteering with HFHW, please call Linda Peters at 233-5160 extension 209.*

## Annual Golf Tournament Lends a Hand to Habitat

The Professional Property Managers Association's (PPMA), Annual Sombrero Open Golf Tournament was held on June 22, 2006 at the beautiful Larters at St. Andrews Golf & Country Club. Proceeds from the annual Mexican themed event are donated to PPMA's charity of choice, Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW). This year's exciting event raised \$12,000, and to date, the event has raised over \$29,000.

Thank you to PPMA for their continuing support of HFHW and its mission to build safe, decent, affordable housing for low-income working families!



PPMA representative Dennis Clinton presents cheque for \$12,000 to HFHW's Sandy Hopkins, CEO.

# Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Homeowner Profile: David Bahamon & Bileyi Rojas

For Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) homeowners David Bahamon and Bileyi Rojas the joy of participating in the construction of their new Habitat home may have been bittersweet. Through the intense heat of a Winnipeg summer, and some very tired muscles, the young couple were drawn back to raw-memories of their native Colombia, the home that almost was, and the family they left behind.

In 2000, David and Bileyi, along with their young daughter Stephanie, called the southern region of Colombia home. They had successfully purchased a small building lot and navigated a long and complicated application process for construction funding from the Colombian government. With the building materials onsite, and David eager to begin the building process, life looked promising for the vibrant family. Sadly, severe regional violence entered the couple's lives, and although David and Bileyi are reluctant to talk about the events that led them to Canada – the pain of leaving behind their parents and grandparents is clearly visible.

Classified as refugees, the family of three were sponsored by the congregation of Douglas Mennonite Church and arrived in Canada during the late fall of 2002. Bileyi remembers the shock of the intense climate change and her feelings of homesickness, "It was so cold when we arrived. The church brought us warm clothes to the airport and as we were driving, I couldn't believe all the people who were outside walking. All I wanted to do was stay in where it was warm," she says.

Wanting to provide a home for his young family David quickly found

work as a painter with Security Decorating, and the family of three moved into their own small one-bedroom apartment. Conditions at the cramped suite became more of an issue when Bileyi learned she was expecting the couple's second child, and once new daughter Michelle

ReStore events, and on numerous occasions enthusiastically told their Habitat story to the local media.

During an official Home Dedication ceremony on October 11, 2006, David and Bileyi will receive the keys to their new Habitat. A traditional



*David and Bileyi take a lunch break during the Blitz Build.*



*Bileyi helps build her family's new home.*



*Big Smiles: L to R: Bileyi, Stephanie, David and Michelle.*



*The new Bahamon-Rojas home at 143 Redonda Street.*

arrived, the challenges of raising two active children in a tiny apartment became paramount.

An application to HFHW was approved in 2004 and the family has worked eagerly at completing the required 500-hours of sweat equity through a variety of HFHW activities. In addition to the over 150-hours the couple spent working on the actual construction of their new home, they willingly worked at

Winnipeg winter will follow shortly after the family takes possession, but with a home to call their own and no major upheavals to anticipate, the Bahamon-Rojas family is sure to feel warm and snug in the months to come.

*David and Bileyi's new home at 143 Redonda Street was sponsored by the National Youth Project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.*

*"I have spread my dreams beneath your feet. Tread softly because you tread on my dreams."*

**W.B. Yeats**

**Habitat for Humanity  
Winnipeg Staff**

- Sandy Hopkins, CEO
- Steve Dick, Operations Manager
- Vern Koop, Project Manager
- Brian Born, Contoller
- Linda Peters,  
Volunteer Coordinator /  
Human Resources Manager
- Elaine Smith, Office Manager
- Michelle Nyhof, Special Events /  
Media Relations Coordinator
- Marianne Wishnowski,  
Reception / Administrative  
Support

**Habitat for Humanity  
ReStore Staff**

- Al Leighton, General Manager /  
Resource Development
- Connie Feenstra, Store Manager
- Wade Snow, Receiving Manager
- Bill Muirhead, Retail Staff
- Sheila Picklyk, Retail Staff
- Crystal Cameron, Retail Staff
- Heath Feenstra, Retail Staff
- Chad Friesen, Retail Staff

# The Home that Cycles and Hope Built

## 2006 Lake to Prairie Ride Raises Over \$110,000 for HFHW

Would you ever give up two-weeks of your summer holiday time to battle through 1200 kilometers of strong headwinds, grueling hill climbs, and sleeping dormitory style with a bunch of people you had just met? This past July, thirty-two brave cyclists did just that and chose the 2006 Cycle of Hope, Lake to Prairie ride as a great way to spend their summer vacation. As they conquered the hills and winds of the open highway, a new home was rising out of the empty foundation at 159 Redonda Street.

Starting on July eighth, volunteer builders used the funds raised by the cyclists and began construction on the new home of Assefa Aredo, his wife Asefash, and their three children. The building of the two-story home went fast and smooth. So quickly in fact – that when the cyclists arrived back at the build site on July fifteenth – they were able to walk through a physical tribute to their determination and hard work.

As one of HFHW’s major fundraisers, the 2006 Cycle of Hope event started in Winnipeg on July second as the cyclists and support crew climbed aboard vans and

drove en-mass to Marquette, Michigan. The actual ride started on July fourth and finished back in Winnipeg on July fifteenth. Each cyclist was required to pay a registration



*The Cycle of Hope sponsored home at 159 Redonda Street.*

fee and commit to raising a minimum of \$2500 through pledges and their own fund-raising initiatives.

One veteran Cycle of Hope cyclist, Linda Rubell says, “During the hardest parts of the ride, thinking of the family we were helping really gave me the inspiration to keep going. And to arrive back and see the actual home we helped build, is truly moving.”

The winning combination of working towards a new home

for a deserving low-income family and the companionship of an enthusiastic group of people has also enticed veteran Cycle of Hope support crew member, Syl Parry, back to the event for his second year. “The cyclists and support crew are really a diverse, interesting group,” he says. “This past ride was full of good times including a fantastic tailgate-party and with some very scenic driving, I really enjoyed the experience.”

The success of the Lake to Prairie ride was never more evident than on the twenty-seventh of September during the dedication ceremony of the new Cycle of Hope sponsored home. During a tearful thank you speech, homeowner and father Assefa praised the riders and support crew for all of their hard work in helping to greatly improve the lives of his family.

And for the cyclists and support crew, memories of stiff limbs and a summer holiday spent on the road are easily replaced with a sense of accomplishment – courtesy of a quick drive by the home that “Cycles and Hope” built.

# Thank you! 2006 House Sponsors



**2006  
Cycle of Hope**

## Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Adopt-a-Day Sponsors \$5,000 to \$12,000 Level



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60 Archibald St.  
Winnipeg, MB  
R2J 0V8  
Phone: 233-5160  
Fax: 233-5271  
Web: [www.habitat.mb.ca](http://www.habitat.mb.ca)

*Building homes, building hope*

## ReStore Home Improvement Outlet

Want an economical way to fix up your home, cottage or office? Visit Winnipeg's ReStore for fantastic new or gently used building supplies. The ReStore also carries a wide variety of home furnishings such as sleigh beds, dining room tables and chairs, and mirrors. Be sure to drop in often because we receive hundreds of new items daily!

By shopping at the ReStore you are helping Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg meet its goal of building homes for deserving low-income working families. In addition to helping Habitat raise the money needed for building homes – you will help protect our environment by reducing the amount of reusable construction materials that end-up in our landfills.

Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg's ReStore is located at 60 Archibald Street.

### ReStore Hours

Monday to Saturday  
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday – Closed

For details on donating items to the ReStore visit us online at [www.habitat.mb.ca](http://www.habitat.mb.ca)

