

Are you spring cleaning?

The Recycled Building Materials Facility accepts more than just doors and windows!

We take donations of hardware, furniture, appliances, flooring, tools, and much more.

Your donations help HFH build homes for partnering families.

For donation information, please contact the HFH of Wausau office at 715.848.5042.

Do you like taking things apart?

If so, HFH of Wausau has just the place for you.

We need volunteers on our deconstruction crews.

These crews remove woodwork, flooring, cabinets and other items from houses that will be torn down for road expansions or other community development efforts.

The items removed from these homes are sold at the Recycled Building Materials facility to raise funds for HFH home building projects.

RBM Hours:

Saturdays: 9 am to 1 pm, except holiday weekends.

500 S 38th Ave., between Modern Builders and Wausau Mine Company.

Cover story continued

"This is going to be someone's home," said Klinner. "We want our students to understand that second-best efforts are not good enough. Only their best work will be acceptable."

At this writing, both high school houses are enclosed and have sheet rock on all the walls.

Students are now taping, texturing, and finishing the interior walls in preparation for the cabinetry that will arrive in early April.

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau appreciates the cooperation of the D.C. Everest and Mosinee School Districts. This program has been of benefit to the districts, HFH, and the community for many years.

The houses will be moved to their final sites in early May. We will need volunteers to complete the finish work and landscape the exterior, along with a myriad of other tasks.

If you or someone you know has an interest in touring the homes or becoming a volunteer for the construction crew, please contact the Habitat for Humanity of Wausau office at 715.848.5042.

Spring is coming! Is your home ready?

By Elaine Nowak

Cozying up to a fire with a cup of hot chocolate feels good on a blustery day. But when the days get longer, the sun shines brighter and seed catalogs fill the mailbox – you know, spring is on the way.

Now is the time to start thinking about getting your home and yard in shape for spring. The following checklist can help.

INDOORS

Refrigerator Cleaning – Spring is a great time to "date check" the jars of pickles, jams, or other condiments in the back of the refrigerator. It's a great time to take everything out of your refrigerator and sanitize the inside. Don't forget your ice cube trays and ice maker.

Air Filters – Changing your air filters when the seasons change is a good idea, since most filters need to be changed every three months. Check your manual for proper maintenance and replacement instructions.

Check Your Batteries – Keep your family safe and sound this spring by changing the batteries on your fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Oven and Stove Top – Grease build-up on your stove top burners or in your oven can be a fire hazard. Run your self-cleaning oven before weather gets too warm or clean your oven with oven cleaner when you can open a window for ventilation. Either way, make sure you remove the built-up grease. Don't forget the area around your gas burners or electrical heating elements.

Fire Extinguisher Check-Up – With grilling season fast approaching, it's a good idea to have a fire extinguisher nearby. If you don't have one, buy one. If you have a fire extinguisher, have a professional check it to make sure it's charged and ready to use.

OUTDOORS

Check Gutters – What did fall leave in your gutters? This spring check for debris, leaks or loose gutters. Make sure downspouts carry water away from your building. This will save you the hassle of water in walls, basements, or crawl spaces.

Sump Pumps – As the winter snow melts and the rain starts, you will want to make sure that your sump pump is in good working order.

Low Areas in the Yard – Fill in low areas around your foundation that may allow water to seep into your basement; low areas in other areas of your yard may allow standing water which is a great place for insects to breed and grow.

Outdoor Tools – Gas- and battery-powered lawn and garden equipment can make your spring and summer chores easier, but only if they are in good working order. Spring is the time to clean your equipment, sharpen blades, and make sure that everything runs well.

Examine Roof – Take a walk around your house or garage to see if there are shingles that are missing or are cracked, buckled, loose or that have missing granules. They need to be replaced. Also check the flashing around plumbing vents, skylights and chimneys. You may want to have your chimney flue cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep.

Firewood Storage – If you have a wood pile, make sure it is stored at least 18 inches off the ground and at least two feet from any structure. This may prevent a fire hazard and an insect infestation problem.

Meet the Tayse's... HFH has changed their lives in a very special way

By Kathy Farrell

Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of Wausau has changed the lives of over 53 families, and one family has enjoyed the benefits of their Habitat for Humanity home in a very special way since July 2007.

Brian, Carrie, and Serenity Tayse moved into the fortieth home built by HFH of Wausau. Their home was completed by volunteers, D.C. Everest High School students, church and community groups.

Prior to moving into their home, the Tayse family lived in a cramped apartment, which was too small for Brian, Carrie, and their daughter, Serenity, who had special needs.

Serenity was born with spina bifida, a condition that causes her to have partial paralysis from her knees to her ankles. She has very little feeling in her ankles and feet and often uses a wheelchair or crutches.

This was very difficult for Serenity since the small apartment was not handicap accessible. Serenity's Head Start teachers learned that the family was living in an apartment which had:

- doorways too narrow for Serenity's wheelchair
- carpeting that interfered with Serenity's wheelchair movement
- a shower that was inaccessible
- a bathroom that was too small to allow for Serenity's medical procedures. (The living room was used instead.)

Worst of all, Serenity's safety was continually at risk due to the tight configuration of rooms. "Serenity was constantly falling down and getting banged up," said Carrie.

One of Serenity's teachers was familiar with Habitat for Humanity of Wausau and she helped the Tayse's gather information and apply to be selected as a partner family. Some months later, they learned they'd been selected and they would help build their first home.

The Tayse family worked together to complete the sweat equity requirement.

Habitat For Humanity requires partner families to provide 300 hours of sweat equity. Since HFH of Wausau partners with local high schools, our partnering families are required to provide at least 150 hours of volunteer community service and a minimum of 150 hours of sweat equity on their homes. Carrie and Brian volunteered many of the 150 community hours at their church and other community projects. Both worked on their home once it was set on the property.

Serenity, who was 6 years old at the time, was often onsite as her parents worked with volunteers to finish the house and yard. During the build, Serenity was given her own tool belt and worked on projects.

When the house, built by D.C. Everest High School students, was ready to be lifted on to the foundation, Serenity was fitted with a hard hat and was hoisted into the cab of the crane. The photo of Serenity in the cab is one of the family's favorite memories of that day.



HFH of Wausau made sure house number 40 was modified to accommodate Serenity's needs. Even the location was changed to accommodate a school bus. "HFH of Wausau switched lots for us to ensure that the bus could get to us easily," said Brian.

"The building process was so well organized," said Carrie. "Communication during the building process was great. All of our questions were answered."

The family was surprised by how many people – mostly strangers to them – came to help finish

the house and yard and that so many in the community were willing to donate materials.

A church group came from outside the area to help paint and finish the house and garage. After the group left, the family found scripture passages printed on a few of the wall boards inside their garage. The volunteers had asked if it was OK to do this; the family had agreed, then forgot all about it.

The Tayse family experience all the facets of homeownership. According to Brian, one of the most challenging aspects of homeownership is "not having the talents to fix the little things that go wrong."

Both Brian and Carrie learned valuable skills as they readied to move in. They participated in home-ownership education classes. But, Brian says there was much he did not know.

Brian and Carrie have contacted HFH construction chair, Berland Meyer, many times during the past five years with questions about their home. A HFH of Wausau volunteer always responds "to help us figure things out."

While Habitat is not responsible for repairs beyond the first year of ownership, they have never failed to respond to the Tayse's concerns.

"Knowing that my family is provided for and that Serenity is safe brings me great comfort."

Each member of the Tayse family appreciates their new home in a unique way. "Knowing that my family is provided for and that Serenity is safe brings me great comfort," said Brian.

Carrie agreed and added that, "It's nice knowing our payments are going towards something that we own and that we can decorate as we choose without a landlord to stop us from painting!"

"My room is the best!" exclaimed Serenity. The Tayse's church family custom-painted butterflies and rainbows on Serenity's bedroom walls, something they were not allowed to do in a rented apartment.

"Partnering with HFH of Wausau was all positive; it was a good experience," said Brian. "People who are interested should definitely apply and see what happens. We are grateful that Habitat for Humanity of Wausau picked us."



The Tayse family needed a home that would meet their daughter's needs ... and thankfully, Habitat for Humanity of Wausau was able to provide one for them.

There are hundreds of other families in the Wausau area who are living in homes where the entire family sleeps in one room; homes that have open electrical outlets or broken switches; homes that have leaks, mold, lead paint or other health hazards.

You can help us make a life-changing difference in the lives of a Wausau-area family.

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau depends on volunteers and the donations of people like you to make these homes a reality. Your gift of any amount will help us buy building materials for less fortunate families.

Please help us today.

These families don't need a hand out – they just need a hand up.

Please remove this page, fold, and mail in a stamped envelope to:

**HFH of Wausau
PO Box 1372
Wausau, WI 54402-1372**

Yes, I would like to help Habitat for Humanity of Wausau provide housing for people in our area who currently live in houses that are not safe or secure.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to donate:

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ \$100 to pay for a kitchen sink, 2 bedroom walls, 4 door knobs, or 4 boxes of nails | _____ \$2,000 to buy vinyl siding, carpet or flooring |
| _____ \$150 to pay for two windows or a front door | _____ \$4,000 to buy a roof or insulate the entire house |
| _____ \$500 to pay for the interior paint or light fixtures | _____ \$5,000 to buy electrical wiring |
| _____ \$800 to seed a lawn and provide landscaping | _____ \$7,000 to buy a foundation |
| _____ \$1,500 to provide a furnace or drywall | _____ \$10,000 to frame the entire house |
| | _____ Other amount \$ _____ |

I would like to volunteer!

_____ Please contact me about opportunities

It takes many gifts from many people like you to build a home. This is only a partial list of the materials needed. The gift you give will help provide materials to construct a home for a partner family.

_____ Check enclosed (*Payable to Habitat for Humanity of Wausau*)

_____ Charge my: _____ Visa _____ Master Card _____ Credit _____ Debit

Name appearing on card: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date _____

Christmas light recycling

By Staff Writer

In November 2012, Vintage Tech, Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of Wausau's current recycling partner for computers and electronics, launched a recycling program for Christmas lights.

"Every year, tons and tons of holiday lights are thrown away and end up in landfills across the country," said Chuck Strek, chairman of HFH of Wausau's electronics recycling program. "Don't throw those old strings of lights away; donate them to HFH of Wausau's Recycled Building Materials facility."

There is no cost to you for disposing of the holiday lights. HFH of Wausau will recycle them and use the proceeds to assist low-income families in our community.

A holiday-light collection "pilot program" was set up in 2012 to determine the Wausau community's interest in this type of recycling. Through our experience, we learned quickly that Wausau residents do make the effort to recycle where possible.

During the holidays, HFH of Wausau placed donation boxes, donated by Graebel Moving and Storage, at local grocery stores, Evolutions in Design, The Window Box, and Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The public response was overwhelming.

By the end of January, Habitat for Humanity of Wausau collected over 1,178 pounds of lights. Habitat for Humanity of Wausau plans to continue the program during the 2013 holiday season.

Please keep Habitat for Humanity of Wausau in mind when you need to dispose of your Valentine's, Halloween, camping, or Christmas lights this year. You will be helping Habitat for Humanity build homes for people and keep material out of the landfill. It's a win-win situation for everyone.

Holiday lights can be dropped off at Habitat for Humanity of Wausau's Recycled Building Materials facility at 500 S 38th Avenue, Wausau on Saturday mornings.

For more information, call the HFH office at 715.848.5042.

HFH of Wausau welcomes newest board member

Jesse Maas, a Weston native, has a Bachelor's degree in Communications with a public relations emphasis from the University of Wisconsin of Stevens Point. He is currently a commercial insurance agent with The Insurance Center.

Maas recently accepted a position directing the Wausau Area Builders' Association's Builder-PAC committee, which plans an annual silent auction and secures political action committee donations. In addition to that responsibility, Maas also manages the social media for the organization.



Jesse Maas

"I feel that I have been given more from my community, my family,

and the great state and country in which I was born than what I'm entitled to or what I've earned," said Maas. "It doesn't seem right to enjoy it without giving some of my time and effort back to my community. I'm deeply drawn to do something that isn't just for me, my own family or my own pursuits.

"I've found that 90 percent of what it takes to be successful is communicating effectively, meeting deadlines, and being resourceful," said Maas. "For me, no call or email goes without response; no deadline is missed; no decision is made without doing the background work to make it an educated one."

Maas lives in the Weston area with his wife and son.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

By Joanne Genrich

It's important to recognize all the people who help Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of Wausau give area families a hand up.

On January 23, the HFH of Wausau Board of Directors, volunteers and supporters shared an evening of fellowship and recognition at the Eagles Club in Wausau.

Board President Dave Eisenreich expressed HFH of Wausau's sincere appreciation for the volunteers and sponsors who continue to support HFH of Wausau and the community.



Evening of fellowship at the Eagles Club in Wausau

Construction Chairman Berland Meyer shared a Power Point presentation used to promote HFH of Wausau to the community. Meyer finished the evening with a musical slideshow showcasing our volunteers in action.



HFH of Wausau recognizes that the continued dedication of our selfless volunteers and supporters are the reason that we are able to impact our community.

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau, Inc.
Post Office Box 1372
Wausau, WI 54402-1372

NON PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WAUSAU, WI
Permit No. 3



**Habitat
for Humanity®
of Wausau**

Spring 2013

Holiday Light Recycling

6 Number of drop off locations

8 Number of weeks the program was offered

30 Number of cents per a pound of lights that HFH receives

1,491 Number of strands collected to date

1,178 Number of pounds collected to date

\$353.40 Number of dollars HFH has received as a result of the program



News of the Wausau Area Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity

serving Wausau, Schofield, Rothschild, Mosinee, Marathon City, Weston, Kronenwetter

Post Office Box 1372
Wausau, WI 54402-1372
www.habitatwausau.org
email: office@habitatwausau.org
715-848-5042

in this issue

- Ready for Spring?
- Meet the Tayse's
- Holiday Light Recycling
- New Board Member
- Upcoming Freeze Your Buns Run
- Thank You to All Volunteers



Students Gain Skills While Providing for Others

By Berland Meyer, Construction Chair

Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of Wausau continues to collaborate with local high schools in the construction of HFH homes. This year we are building with D.C. Everest High School and Mosinee High School. After reducing the scope of this program for the last few years, we are proud to once again partner with both schools.

Building with local high schools gives area students the opportunity to learn step-by-step home construction and gives them exposure to potential career opportunities.

When HFH of Wausau's licensed professional sub-contractors come on-site, they often are asked to talk to students about their trade and the skills needed to work in that area.

Kevin Rohland is an electrician who works for Best-1 Plumbing and Heating in Weston. Kevin has worked on our high school houses for at least eight years and every year he meets with students to discuss the responsibilities and skills needed to become a certified electrician.

Students realize they need excellent math and reading skills

if they want to pursue a career as an electrician. They're also aware that they need to follow directions carefully, plan ahead, and get along with people. Most important, students learn that they need education beyond high school.

skills are as important as technical skills in getting and keeping a job," said Pernsteiner. "If you can't get along with people, you can't hold onto a job no matter how good your job skills are."

Ron Klinner echoed, adding, "Learning to think on your feet and make adjustments through problem-solving techniques is a skill learned through working in this 'hands on' program."

Another important lesson for students is the importance of quality workmanship.



Students from both D.C. Everest and Mosinee Districts are involved in the HFH program.



Students learn about construction step-by-step.

Both instructors Chad Pernsteiner from D.C. Everest and Ron Klinner from Mosinee High Schools believe that students involved in the Building Trades class learn things beyond the scope and sequence listed in the curriculum.

"Interpersonal relationship

Continued on next page

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau Hosts an Open House and Ribbon Cutting

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau hosted an Open House at the Recycled Building Materials Facility January 17. In conjunction with the Open House, the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce performed a ribbon cutting welcoming Habitat for Humanity of Wausau's Recycled Building Materials Facility to the business community.



Dedicated People, Quality Products, and above all, Service

New Equipment Sales • Rotating Apparatus Repair
Power Services • Reliability Services
Steam & Hydro Controls

800-283-8332 • www.lselectric.com

Better Service...Better Value

All your protection under one roof.®



American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Family Insurance Company
Home Office - Madison, WI 53703

BC-220505 - 2/11



Jim Clemens, Agent
2013 Schofield Ave
Schofield, WI 54476-2364
(715) 359-7710
jclemens@amfam.com

proud supporter
of Habitat for Humanity

Peoples
STATE BANK

Member FDIC

www.tiny.cc/a8dlt

Find us on
Facebook

