



Community

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PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

Richard (Rick) Martin is the President of the Board of Directors of our local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity Inc. and a member of the Geezer Crew



After 30 years of good work, the Augusta/CSRA affiliate of Habitat for Humanity continues its service to the community. Since November 13, 1986, our affiliate has built or renewed 74 homes, providing 276 members of partner families with a new beginning—a place to call home, a place to call their own, and a place in which to take pride. Under the direction of our Board of Directors and our Executive Director, Elaine Mathews, we continue to enjoy success in our mission to promote dignity and hope by working with economically disadvantaged people to help them create a better human habitat in which to live and work. The fact that we are here at all

is due to the faithful stewardship of the Boards, Executive Directors and staff that have seen the affiliate through the tough times and left us with a firm foundation and a healthy future. We all owe a special debt of gratitude to Dennis Hoyt for his exceptional service to the affiliate and the staff and Board members like my predecessor, Rich Dimenna, who supported him. We are building on that firm foundation to move closer to reaching our mission and goal of ending substandard housing in our community.

Most recently, we presented the keys of our new home to a most deserving partner. As with all of our projects, this was made possible by the devoted efforts of many members of our community joined together by our mission. Special mention should be made of the tireless efforts of Larry Harris, our Construction Manager, Bill Daugherty, our Saturday Crew Leader, and a group of highly-skilled and devoted regular volunteers affectionately known as the Geezer crew. They were our regular work force, but many other volunteers came to support the build including groups from Air Force III IS, Fort Gordon BWOLC, Popeye's Management, Verizon Wireless, Fort Gordon, Fort Gordon SCCC, Trojan Battery, Wells Fargo, Fort Gordon ALC, John Deere, Valspar and others. The project also had many sponsors from the community including Claffey Printing Co., Dow Corporation, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Valspar, Whirlpool, Wow! of Augusta, Dixie-Riverside, Inc., Hunter Douglas, Swiss Krono, Wells Fargo, Whitaker Electric Co., Inc., and Yale. We will soon be getting the community together again as we start a new home in February for another fine partner.

There is more progress to report on another important source of support for our mission. In addition to the Walton Way ReStore, we now have another location on Washington Road in the west Augusta area. Proceeds from the sale of repurposed building materials, cabinets, doors, windows, furniture, and many

more items that are donated to the ReStore defray our administrative costs so all other funds can go directly to building homes. The ReStore is also an excellent source of affordable items for members of our community for their own home improvement projects. ReStore West is a promising new source of support for our mission and an important contribution to our community.

Finally, I would like to invite everyone to join our good work and help us promote dignity and hope through affordable housing. Elaine Mathews' description of our Habitat Families is an excellent statement of the positive effect of our mission. "Our Habitat families have worked hard to overcome obstacles in their lives in order to become home buyers. They have left behind a life of substandard living conditions, many from unsafe, overcrowded or deplorable living environments. By partnering with Habitat for Humanity, these families are able to provide a better life for themselves and their children, thus breaking the cycle of poverty and changing the course of history for their families. By working hundreds of hours of sweat equity, helping to build their own homes, and attending educational workshops on budgeting, financing, managing mortgage payments and home maintenance, they learn the life skills needed to become successful, first-time home buyers." Contact us at (706) 481-8681, info@augustahabitat.org or www.augustahabitat.org.

HURRICANE MATTHEW...OR HURRICANE MATHEWS?



I was asked to write about my accomplishments in the first six months as your Executive Director and to give insight to what I envision for the future of Augusta/CSRA Habitat for Humanity. I didn't think I had gotten much done other than learning the ropes, however, as I began to make the list of things to note, I was astonished! Apparently, I jumped in with both feet and created a whirlwind! Grant you, my role is just to help with the vision of the affiliate and ensure that the wishes of the board of directors is accomplished and everything that has been done is with the support of an EXCELLENT staff and an EXCELLENT support team of volunteers.

So... What have we done together?

House Completion



After three years of struggling to find the next homeowner, we welcomed Fawn Sebek as our newest homeowner. On October 15th, her house was dedicated and Fawn Sebek started her new life as a homeowner. We are on schedule to start construction of House 75 in mid-February.

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New Partner Families

A new partner family, Cadaciza Freeman, was approved by the board of directors on October 20th and she is on task to be one of the next homeowners. Cadaciza works for Serenity Behavioral Health and is currently attending college to future her education. She has three children, Genesis age 8, Galeeyia age 7, and Fannie age 6. Two of Cadaciza's children are special needs and she works hard to balance raising her children, work, and college to make the best life she can for her family. We are excited to have Cadaciza as a partner family. Cadaciza is working on sweat equity hours in the downtown ReStore to get a head start before construction begins.

The next partner family, Larry and Dianne McGee and their 13-year old son, were approved by the board of directors on January 12th. Both are disabled and originally from Waynesboro, Burke County. Larry is a Vietnam era Marine and a welder. Larry and Dianne have been working in the ReStore Downtown to get their initial sweat equity hours completed prior to the start of construction on their new home. Larry has already fixed a couple of our hand trucks with his welding expertise. Larry, Jr. wants to help out but he is too young. Both are very active in their church, Fairview Missionary Baptist, by helping with the food and clothes pantry, cooking in the kitchen and singing in the Gospel Choir. Larry also sings in the Male Chorus. Larry and Dianne have been big assets to us as they work on their equity hours and we are thrilled to have them as a part of the Habitat family.

The relationships we develop with partner homeowners does not end when their new home is completed, they remain friends for life.

ReStore West

It has always been the vision of the board of directors to grow the ReStore and make it a more viable resource to increase our mission of building affordable homes. With the board's blessing, we went in

search of a location that would give us more exposure and grow awareness of the affiliate. A perfect opportunity came about as Hancock Fabrics closed their doors. The location gave us ample room, move in ready interior, and a location on Washington Road in the west Augusta area. The location went from an empty space to a brand new ReStore in just 45 days. The store is going strong and will continue to grow giving us more and more growth and awareness opportunities.



Cutting the ribbon to open ReStore West

Marketing

Who are we? What do we do? How do we do it? Does the community know Habitat? Through restructuring the roles and adding ReStore staff to incorporate the second location, we discovered an "under utilized talent" on our staff. Virgil Huston, downtown ReStore associate, has a background in web design. His position is now reallocated and Virgil works part-time in the ReStore and part-time in the office as our social media specialist. Check out the new design of our webpage, www.augustahabitat.org, and follow us both on the affiliate and ReStore Facebook page.

30th Anniversary

November 13th, 2016 marked the 30th Anniversary of our affiliate. A 30th Anniversary is an accomplishment, and like with any marriage, has its ups and downs. This affiliate is grown, it has struggled, and it held on. Divorce was never an issue and a celebration is in order. Let's make it an anniversary to remember and look back at all we have done over 30 years and what we can accomplish in the next 30!

Now... What can we accomplish next?

In 2016 we built one house, in 2017 we can build two, in 2018 let's build four and 2019 let's build eight. Let's continue to double our efforts each year until we can build eight houses together. Once we have hit that milestone, we will hold steady to rework infrastructure including staffing needs, then continue to build more and more houses to get more and more families out of substandard housing.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL



Usually, COMMUNITY concentrates on our local affiliate, but a recent adventure by two of our affiliate's best known volunteers (former Executive Director Dennis Hoyt and former Board President Rich Dimenna) recently



travelled through Tokyo and then on to Vietnam to take part in an Habitat for Humanity International project to build homes in that country.

For Dennis, this was a traumatic experience since he had last been there during the Vietnam conflict.

Many do not realize that Habitat for Humanity International builds homes in 70 countries around the globe. The houses that are built in many cases do not resemble the homes that we build in this country. A house built in other countries will reflect the culture, local materials and building techniques. In some countries, food is generally prepared outside; therefore it may not have what we think as a kitchen. In areas that are prone to flooding, the house may be built on stilts. Electrical service is minimal and sporadic. A flush toilet and clean drinking water is not common in many areas. Quoting from the Habitat for Humanity International website...



Habitat houses around the world

"Throughout the countries where Habitat for Humanity works, houses are designed for the local setting. Habitat builds with locally available materials by country, reducing costs and making it easier for homeowners to maintain the houses.

For example, houses in many African countries are constructed with fired clay bricks and tile roofs made of cement or fired clay. Houses in Latin America often are built with concrete block or adobe walls and metal roofs. Houses in the Pacific are often built with wood frames and are constructed on stilts.

People of different countries use their houses in different ways. Habitat's house designs reflect these cultural considerations. Meals are cooked outdoors in many African countries; there, Habitat plans call for a kitchen area outside of the house. In the Philippines, laundry and other chores traditionally are done on a small outdoor utility porch, so house designs reflect this custom.

No matter where they are built, Habitat house sizes always are designed to meet the homeowner families' needs while keeping costs as low and affordable as possible for low-income families".

Each US affiliate tithes to Habitat for Humanity International in order to support the building or restoration of buildings in less developed countries. Each affiliate has a choice as to letting Habitat for Humanity International decide where to send the funds, or to select a single country

for our funds to support. In 1987 our affiliate chose a single country in order to track the impact of our donations over time. We selected Vietnam as our country of choice., and our progress has been very significant:

Since 1987 our affiliate has tithed \$132,294 and has assisted over 40 families in Vietnam!

Please visit the Habitat for Humanity International website and view our work in the four corners of the globe.

New Homeowner

Closer to home, we celebrate the completion and dedication of Fawn Sebek's new house. Fawn is shown here with Board of Directors President Rick Martin as he presented her with the keys to her new house. Fawn is an exceptional Partner who dedicated herself to working off her sweat equity hours in very short order.



Even more impressive is that she made good Habitat for Humanity friends and continues to volunteer at the downtown (Walton Way) ReStore.

ReStore West

We are very proud of the new ReStore West that opened in the old Hancock Fabric store on Washington Road (Behind the old Piccadilly Cafeteria) at 3112 Washington Road!

Opening the new store allows us to grow in the community and expand the Habitat for Humanity mission of eliminating poverty housing.

Remember stock changes daily, so visit often. Start your New Year with a resolution to clean out your attic or garage and donate to the ReStore.

Deconstruction

Planning a renovation this year? Call the ReStore to investigate "DECONSTRUCTION". Habitat for Humanity will carefully remove materials that would otherwise be discarded by your contractor. This is a "WIN/WIN" for everyone. For the homeowner deconstruction means less cost, since your contractor spends less time on the job. The contractor spends less time in demolition and more time doing construction. Habitat for Humanity receives donations and the landfill doesn't get filled with recycled materials. A purchaser utilizes materials at a reduced price and improves their property. Good for you, good for the contractor, good for the environment and good for the end user! **Everyone wins!**

Publix to sponsor our next house

We are pleased to have been selected by the Publix Supermarkets Charities to be the recipient of a sponsorship of our new home due to start construction in mid February. Publix has donated \$5.5 million dollars to 120 Habitat for Humanity Affiliates. We are proud that they selected our Georgia affiliate. Their donation will



enable Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the Southeast to build 60 houses and provide decent, safe quality housing to 60 families in need.

Corporate sponsors such as Publix show excellent community involvement and a social conscience to the communities they work in and support.

Community Foundation Grant

The Board of Directors of The Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area approved the awarding of 48 grants totaling \$611,000 to deserving area agencies. Augusta/CSRA Habitat for Humanity, Inc. was one of the agencies presented with a grant.



Shown from left to right: Elaine Mathews, Executive Director with Shell K. Berry, President/CEO of The Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area and Rick Martin Board President.

VIETNAM, SEPTEMBER 2016

By Dennis Hoyt



This past year (2016), I was presented an opportunity to return to Vietnam. The excitement of this proposal overcame my concern. The year I spent in military service in the Vietnam War there in the late 1960's had been a very difficult year.

How far is Vietnam from Augusta Georgia? Actually from Augusta, Georgia to Hanoi is 8,655.4 miles as the Boeing jet flies. I really didn't pay very much attention to the number of miles the destination would take before Rich Dimenna and I started our journey on September 29, 2016. We drove to Charlotte, North Carolina to catch a flight to Boston, then to Tokyo. The next stop was Hanoi! Our first

adjustment was the time zone change in Vietnam. It was an 11 hour difference. 11 hours difference means that at 8:00 p.m. in Augusta, Georgia it is 7:00 a.m. the next morning in Vietnam. Sounded simple enough, until I called home from Vietnam at 4:30 p.m. and gave my Wife an early start (5:30 a.m.) in Augusta, Georgia!

Our next adjustment was to understand the currency used in Vietnam (VND, the Vietnam Dong). Example, one U.S. dollar = 22,538.91 Vietnamese Dong. Can you imagine how many VND you would have in your pocket or purse if you converted \$200 U.S. dollars?

The average wage per person in Vietnam is around 3.2 million VND (\$150 per month). Believe me when I tell you the people live a very simple life. The house we worked on was surrounded by farmland, much of which was planted in rice and corn. The soil was a dark rich color and the rows were all cultivated by hand. The morning brought out hundreds of men and women to farm the land. On our visit they were planting young corn plants. I did not see a tractor or any auto-

mated implements used for planting the fields. Each worker had a hoe and a basket; a few had rubber boots, but most were barefooted as they worked. Very few, including women, had a pair of gloves to protect their hands. They did have the traditional straw hat to protect them from the harshness of the sun.



Our worksite gave me an appreciation for modern tools! The materials and delivery of materials to the site (something we are accustomed to here in the U.S.) simply did not exist there. The bricks used there varied in size and shape - not enough to stop our work. The mortar was

mixed by hand after sand was shoveled into a pile, then cement and water was added. Then the fun began! The mix went into small buckets and was carried over to the site. That is where we learn to become amateur brick masons! Such a labor intense method is done amid hot, humid, unbearable temperatures. Often the sweat from our brows dripped into the mortar mix and gave us additional working time! Hot, humid conditions were the conditions we worked in for a week; the people of the village work daily in these unpleasant conditions.

Our building team consisted of ten members plus a group leader, a construction leader, a Vietnam Representative, a plain clothed police officer, the home owner and his friends. Each day we were bussed from Phu Tho to the village where we were working. The trip took about one hour each way. The bus ride was like a virtual reality show. There were bicycles and motor scooters dodging each other, cutting in front of the bus and the few cars that shared the road. The horn was the most vital piece of equipment of the vehicle. The driver blew the horn expecting everyone to understand that he was coming through without hesitation!



Understand that the motor scooter is the main form of transportation. It is common to see 4 people on one motor scooter; even to see eight chickens in eight chicken crates tied together on the back of a motor scooter. On one occasion, we were in front of a Catholic Church, when a couple just married

were posing for wedding pictures. After the photos, they got on a motor scooter, the bride in her white gown holding a large handful of balloons as they left the church!

Habitat went the extra mile with our accommodations and meals. They provided breakfast in the hotel and bussed all of the work team to a large tent on the edge of a field for lunch. Inside of the tent were two lines for us to enjoy Vietnamese cuisine. We shared lunch with people from around the world. Many were from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the Philippines' – just to name a few.

I would like to share some of the things we observed about the Vietnamese culture of today:

We saw lots of schools. Education seems very important, though the culture is still very primitive. The school children attend school Monday through Saturday. Most of the children we saw wore uniforms consisting of khaki, white shirts and a red scarf. They were dismissed into the congested crowds of people at the end of the day. The people had to be self-reliant to navigate the masses.

We were amazed at the diversity of commerce in the downtown area. It seemed so incredible that there were so many shops in such small spaces. People walked everywhere. The city seemed divided into sections. There were sections for food, clothing, and jewelry shops. So much commerce in such tiny spaces existed. Unfamiliar smells of the foods of the culture filled the air. We were told not to give money to beggars, but that it was okay to buy from vendors. Many of the street vendors spoke English and would gladly spend time with you if you were going to buy their merchandise. The sale of fans and intricate, artistic cards were prevalent.

We attended a very elaborate unique Vietnamese Water Puppet Show. Water puppetry is a traditional Vietnamese form of art that dates back several centuries. It was performed in a shallow pool of water. The puppeteers are highly skilled and precise in their skill. The wooden puppets, artistically and beautifully crafted, were controlled by the skilled puppeteers to perform a show portraying Vietnam folklore, culture, farming and historical legends. Musicians performed as part of this show.

We visited one mall. It was four stories and seemed to have a different cultural base from the average people with whom we interacted. There were two Art Museums and small art galleries.

Vietnam is a Socialist Republic government and a Communist State. Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism are the main religions there. We were able to attend Mass in a Catholic Cathedral in Hanoi, twice while we were there. The Cantor at one of the masses had a beautiful voice creating a very holy celebration of the Mass.



Reflecting on this Vietnam trip, I came away with many deep and humbling thoughts. The differences between our cultures are vast. The many things I saw made me extremely grateful for our way of life. I know how truly blessed United States citizens are. We take so many every day blessings for granted. We may well complain about EPA regulations. However our life here is so enriched by strict standards for safe water, safe food supply, safe work environments, health safety, transit safety, safe levels of emissions, and many other measures to protect our well-being.

I have always been very patriotic and proud to be an American! This trip gave me an even deeper appreciation for the freedoms and blessings we have. I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to represent the Augusta/CSRA Habitat for Humanity Inc. I am also grateful to have been able to see what life is like for the people in Vietnam today.

VIETNAM BIG BUILD 2016

By Rich Dimenna

The map showing where we were on the flight from Tokyo to Hanoi had a white line across it, something I hadn't seen on the other flights Den-

nis and I were on while travelling from Augusta to Vietnam. At first I thought it was a problem with the display, and then I realized what it was – it was the Tropic of Cancer. And we were going below it, into the tropics to build houses for a Habitat for Humanity project.

It's a long way from Augusta, Georgia, to Phu Tho province in Vietnam – geographically, politically, economically, and culturally. Phu Tho (pronounced 'foo tau') is about 50 miles west of Hanoi in what we used to call North Vietnam. The first hurdle Dennis Hoyt and I had to overcome to participate in the Habitat for Humanity International "Vietnam Big Build 2016" was the idea of flying into Hanoi. We were both in the military during the Vietnam War, and flying to Hanoi was not something either of us ever expected to do. In retrospect, and for different reasons, we're both glad we did it.

You've already had the opportunity to read Dennis's reflections on the trip. He described much of the culture we observed there, both in the village where we worked and in Hanoi, where we were tourists for one day before and one day after the building took place. I won't revisit that aspect of the trip except to note that Hanoi reminded me of a huge, 3-mile by 3-mile flea market. Instead, I will focus on the actual construction we accomplished and what I think it meant – the "big picture," if you will.

The Vietnam Big Build 2016 is the second major international building event that Habitat for Humanity – Vietnam has sponsored. The first was three or four years ago in the South of the country. The one Dennis and I attended was in the North and was bigger than the first. 200 volunteers from around the world travelled to Phu Tho to build – at least in part – 20 homes for Vietnamese families that could afford to pay at least part of the cost of the homes. In US dollars, the cost of each home was about \$3000. An additional \$500 was required to install "modern sanitation" before Habitat would agree to build a home. The modern sanitation consisted of a small outbuilding containing a primitive toilet seat around a hole in the floor which drained into a septic tank. It was the septic tank that made this facility modern. There was no running water in this small bathroom, so flushing was accomplished with a bucket of water taken from a large drum just outside the door. The fact that this was a major upgrade to the existing facilities was in itself enlightening.

Dennis mentioned the extremely low income typical of the country. A typical homeowner family was expected to pay about one-third of the cost of the home, or about \$1000. Habitat Vietnam would typically finance a loan for the homeowner for a period of two to six years depending on the ability of the homeowner to pay. This is a little different from the US financial model, wherein the homeowner pays the entire cost of the new home. Nonetheless, it is still consistent with Habitat's philosophy of offering, "a hand up, not a handout."

We were scheduled to work in a village (commune) beginning Monday morning, October 3, at about 8:30 AM, but we didn't live in the commune during the week. We stayed in a quite modern hotel – with air conditioning! – in the capital city of Phu Tho province, Viet Tri, for the entire work week. The 200 volunteers had been split into teams of 10 each, and each team worked on one house for the entire week. Our team was all coordinated through the Atlanta Habitat office, but we had people from Dallas, South Dakota, Missouri, Atlanta, Augusta (of course!), and Colorado.

Community



We travelled to the work site Monday morning. The bus ride to the commune was about 20 – 25 miles and took about 50 minutes. We met the homeowner, saw his current home - stucco-type walls, thatch and tarp roof, one or two open windows, dark inside the one room house, water supplied by a tank outside, one electrical line, and six people. There was a partially completed foundation for the new home along with several piles of building materials – sand, bricks, bags of cement, steel wire, rebar, and tools (all

hand tools). And as I realized from the map on the plane, we were in the tropics, which meant it was hot and humid – very hot and very humid. The Vietnamese on site included the homeowner, a construction supervisor who oversaw several of the building sites, two professional construction workers, and a Habitat representative who worked with us while supervising the overall project and who served as our interpreter. Only the construction supervisor and the Habitat interpreter spoke English. The others spoke no English at all, perhaps with the exception of understanding, “OK.”



Work began by completing the foundation. This required building rebar frames to lay in the periphery of the foundation, then mixing and pouring concrete into the channels containing the rebar to form the base that would support the walls. My job was to bend the wire boxes used to hold the rebar in place. These boxes were formed with ¼-inch steel wire, and all the bending was done with a simple hand tool made from the same steel wire. In fact, everything we

did was with hand tools, with only two exceptions. They had a vibrator to settle the concrete into the foundations, and they had an electric grinder to cut rebar. Everything else was done by hand.

All instructions for how to accomplish the work were by demonstration and hand gestures – remember that the construction guys spoke no English, and we spoke no Vietnamese. The Vietnamese pros were very patient with us strange Americans, although once in a while they did start to chuckle a bit. They were also incredibly hard-working. They and the homeowner were there when we arrived in the morning, they worked with us all day and taught us the skills we needed for the day's work, and then stayed after we left at 4:30 each day and got the site ready for the next day's work.

We finished the foundation by Monday afternoon – and yes, we were on a very specific and tight schedule to ensure the walls were erected by the end of the week. We left Monday afternoon with the concrete setting for the next day's job – start the walls. When we arrived Tuesday morning, the two construction pros had laid the brick forming the corners for the first couple of feet of the walls. They then set about teaching us to lay brick. Dennis mentioned the variability in brick dimensions. They could vary by as much as a half-inch in any direction, and some bricks had a curve to them. All of these variations were accommodated by varying the amount of mortar used to keep the row level. The walls were actually a double row of brick, so it took a little while to lay about 2-1/2 feet each day.



The hardest part of the job was mixing the mortar. It all had to be mixed by measuring sand by the wheelbarrow full, adding cement by the bag, and adding water by the bucket. None of this was very precise, it was all mixed on the sidewalk with shovels, and then carried to the bricklayers (of which I was one) by hand, one bucket at a time. The variability in the mortar was large, so sometimes it was loose and runny, other times quite dry and hard to use. But over the next three days, we got the walls up to about eight feet high to form a single room house about 15 x 30 feet.

By 4:30 Thursday afternoon, the walls were up. By the time it was over, I had gotten pretty good at laying brick (at least by Vietnamese standards) and pouring concrete.

Friday was a half-day of work. Lunch that day was to be a celebration for completing the project, complete with dignitaries to help celebrate our accomplishment. But first, we had to build another rebar frame for the top of the walls and pour a concrete pad to support the roof. We didn't build the roof, just the concrete pad to support it. We finished our work on time, had



a small celebration with the homeowner, who made tea for everyone and used his “good” tea set to serve it. We shared lots of hugs and well wishes, and even got the local police representative and the local People's Committee representative to smile and shake hands and take a picture or two with the group – quite an accomplishment. Then we went to lunch.

Friday's lunch was when the whole project seemed to come together for me. There were some long, drawn out speeches by local politicians, sponsoring organizations, Habitat for Humanity personnel, and some of the supporting volunteer groups. But what really struck me was when I found myself standing in the buffet line next to the New Zealand ambassador to Vietnam. We spoke for a bit about the VBB project, the fact that many volunteers from New Zealand were working that week, and that the New Zealand government felt it was important for the ambassador to attend the ceremony. But it was more than that, because I then realized (or finally recognized) that the United States Embassy in Vietnam was also there. The Deputy Chief of Staff (I think that was her position) was present during the week, and I began to wonder about the political implications of what we were doing. Obviously, these two governments found it important to be represented at this Habitat for Humanity project.

While I don't expect that we changed the world order in any marked way during this one week project, I am certain that we showed a group of Vietnamese families an aspect of American (and New Zealand, and Australian, and Filipino, and) concern and helpfulness and openness that could not be accomplished with anything other than a people-to-people event such as this one. It's hard to know the long term impact of our week in Vietnam, but based on the hugs and handshakes at the end of the week, I think we provided a friendly face for them to recall when thinking about Americans. The groups of Vietnamese kids who gathered for pictures with us happy-go-lucky foreigners and even the

government representatives who joined in the picture taking and hand shaking, will have this experience to think about when the subject of foreigners comes up, just as Dennis and I will think about them when talking about Vietnam.



I think our time was well spent and we accomplished some good. And we took a significant step toward helping 20 Vietnamese families build their new homes and have a decent place to live.

HOW YOU CAN HELP HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

I Want To Volunteer



If you would like to volunteer your time, please visit our web page www.augustahabitat.org and click on the "VolunteerUp" icon or contact our office during business hours at Augusta/CSRA Habitat for Humanity, 1002 Walton Way, Augusta, GA. 30907, Phone (706) 481-8681 extension 101 We welcome anyone who would like to assist our affiliate.

If you are a new volunteer, create an account, or if you are an existing volunteer, login. Select the month that you want from the top of the page to see what is available. Click on the item you are interested in and follow the instructions. If there is nothing listed on that page, don't be concerned because the schedule may not yet been determined. Check back with us later.

If you want to work in the construction of a new home, we require no experience...Experienced leaders will be glad to assist you. Feel free to contact us for other opportunities to help the community. We look forward to seeing you!

Donations

As a non profit organization dedicated to providing quality housing to those who are willing to do what is necessary to achieve stability and home ownership, we are always in the need for donations at whatever level you can afford.

Donations are tax deductible and we willingly accept PayPal through our website www.augustahabitat.org, direct donations at our office at 1002 Walton Way, Augusta, GA, 30901, or by mail to P.O. Box 657, Augusta, GA, 30903.

ReStore

Also welcomed are new or gently used building products etc. which can be donated to the ReStore. Sales from the ReStore provide much of the funding that finances new homes for our Partners. The ReStore often has those hard to find items that are no longer in production. If you need a door, hardware or plumbing parts for an older home, please visit the ReStore, you may very well find the part(s) you are looking for.

Please think of the ReStore the next time you are replacing an item that is still serviceable. Please talk to your friends and let them know that they can help our ministry with any donation that they are able to make.



WHAT DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED?

Doors and Windows
Masonry
Cabinets and Counter tops
Flooring and tile
Electrical
Lighting
Vinyl Siding
Tubs, Sinks and Toilets
Dishwashers
Tools, Hardware etc.
Furniture
Appliances (In good condition)
Lumber and Sheetrock
Roofing Materials and Gutters
Fans
Insulation (New)
Plus: Cars, Trucks and Boats
Household Items
Knickknacks

These donations are tax deductible.

Please help us to help others less fortunate than ourselves.!

We have many corporate and local companies that support us on a regular basis. The support of these organizations is critical to our continued success.

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If you have a comment or suggestion regarding COMMUNITY, please direct your comments to Brian White (Editor of COMMUNITY) at brianw1491@gmail.com.

