



# Hammers & Hope

Fall 2007

Offering "A hand-up not a hand-out"

In Stillwater, Oklahoma

## OSU & Stillwater HfH - A Winning Team

Stillwater Habitat for Humanity is fortunate to have a dedicated group working toward the better of our community in the Oklahoma State University student chapter. The student's main goal this year is to spread the word and allow more people to lend a hand in building sufficient homes for those in need.

Last spring 9 students traveled to Slidell, Louisiana in efforts to help rebuild homes for Hurricane Katrina victims, as a part of the Collegiate Challenge program. They were able to work amongst homeowners who were acquiring their "sweat equity" as well as many other student volunteers nationwide. These members, now chapter officers, carried their effort back home to Stillwater and are continuing to offer "a hand up". They include Valerie Cerny, Chapter President; Christina Bala, Vice President; Brian Sealey, Treasurer; Kendra Todd, Secretary; Brooke Tennison, Fundraising Chair; and many more new participants such as Caysie Taylor, Publicity Chair; and Dawn Kruckeberg, Advocacy Chair.

Eileen Cravello, Stillwater Habitat Secretary says, "This is a great bunch of kids. They not only talk the talk but their actions show they share our mission to better this community and our country."

This year in order to continue the growth of OSU HfH their planned



activities include Homecoming, Shack-A-Thon, Into-the-Streets, Elite Repeat, Collegiate Challenge, and of course building in Stillwater with their affiliate.

"We are looking forward to another great year with STILLWATER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, and hope to continue in the pursuit of eliminating poverty housing. This has been the most rewarding experience and we would like to thank our Stillwater affiliate for letting us be a part of it" -OSU HfH Members

Christina Bala  
OSU Chapter Vice-President

## Their Loss, Your Gain

Stillwater Habitat for Humanity was the benefactor of the 2007 OSU Homecoming Philanthropy project. Part of that project involved removing the contents of the old Scholar's Inn apartments. What does that mean for you? In short, it means we are overflowing with new merchandise.

Six weeks of removing stoves, windows, refrigerators, cabinets, and

well, everything INCLUDING the kitchen sink has resulted in an abundance of goodies just waiting for you to discover your treasure of choice. When asked what items they have received, ReStore manager, Dorinda Gouw, said, "Washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, water heaters, cabinets, and ranges...lots and lots of ranges." Appliance prices range from \$50-\$250 depending on age and condition.

Come by and find your treasure.

### A Habitat Homecoming...

The OSU spirit is alive and well and isn't limited to sports. More than 30 organizations were involved in moving the usable contents from the old Scholar's Inn Apartments to the Habitat ReStore. (Related story on page 3)

OSU recently purchased the complex and agreed to give Habitat the contents if we could finish in 6 weeks. Thanks to the students, our "Faithful Few" (Ron Beer, John Leonard, Larry Baker, Buddy Harrell, Gail Garst, John Andrews, and Charlie Peterson) and an assortment of other Board Members and volunteers, the project was completed in time.

"You never know what to expect," said Board Member and frequent volunteer, Dana Morford, "but they really worked hard (continued on page 2)

SHfH meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at various locations in Stillwater. A detailed schedule can be accessed at [www.stillwaterhabitat.org](http://www.stillwaterhabitat.org) or by calling our office at (405) 377-0403. Visitors are always welcome.

## 2007 Board of Directors

Beulah Hirschlein, Pres.  
Marvin Barth, V.P.  
Donna Koepp, Treas.  
Eileen Cravello, Corr. Sec.  
Marie Hesser, Rec. Sec.  
Kermit Bowling  
Gene Burress  
Linda Dickerson  
Brad Essary  
Buddy Harrell  
Bud Lacy  
Robert Memmott  
Dana Morford  
David Mooneyhan  
Alice Richardson  
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Woody Smith  
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Ken Stern  
Dennis Teal  
Buck Wright

## Committee Chairs

Brd. Development - Woody Smith  
Church Relations - Dennis Teal  
Finance - Dale Alspach  
Family Selection - Bud Lacy  
Family Support - Woody Smith  
OSU Chapter - Christina Bala  
Site Selection - Gordon Sloggett

## Staff

Reta Crotzer, Bookkeeper  
Dorinda Gouw, ReStore Manager  
Charlie Peterson, Construction  
Supervisor

**We couldn't do it without you!**

## An Absolutely Elite Habitat Partner

Elite Repeat, an all volunteer resale shop, has been in business for over five years. Located at 711 S. Main, its mission is to help with the recycling effort and to provide gently used items to customers at a very reasonable price.

Since its beginning, Elite Repeat has been a partner with Stillwater Habitat for Humanity, receiving a great deal of help with obtaining items from them, and they also help with our renovation when needed. In return, the shop has donated nearly \$60,000 each year to the local habitat chapter to help them in their mission of providing housing for qualified applicants.

Are we enjoying our work? Absolutely! Each week, up to 60 volunteers report for their chosen tasks, making new friends and providing a wonderful service to our community. Are we drawing customers? Absolutely! Approximately 80-90 customers make their purchases each day, finding treasures and great bargains. Are we receiving donations? Absolutely! Stillwater and the surrounding communities remember us every day, bringing great loads of clothing, books, linens, toys and furniture so that we keep our sales floor overflowing.

Do stop by to shop, donate, or volunteer. We would love to see you! Open 10-5, Monday through Saturday.

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing for people of all faiths, races, and ethnicities throughout the world. Visit [www.stillwaterhabitat.org](http://www.stillwaterhabitat.org) for more info.

## A Habitat Homecoming

(continued from page 1)  
and they got a lot accomplished. Whatever we asked, they did.”

Twenty-four Greek Organizations and six Residential Halls participated in the event. Several of the students asked to be put on the regular roster of volunteers, sitting the stress relieving benefits of physical exertion. Others just liked pounding holes in the bound-for-demolition walls. Whatever their motivation, the twice daily groups were a God-send. More than 400 students participated in the 10 day project. More pictures can be found at [www.stillwaterhabitat.org](http://www.stillwaterhabitat.org).

.We couldn't have done it without the help of these OSU students. Thanks to all and...**GO POKES!**





**A Much Appreciated Donation**



**Dorinda Gouw, Manager of the SHfH ReStore, 510 E 12th**



## New Manager for the ReStore

The Habitat ReStore hired its first Manager, Dorinda Gouw, last May. Her primary functions will be to increase donations, expand the volunteer base and assist in the development and organization of operations. Her position is part-time as the Habitat ReStore is currently only open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 AM - 4 PM and Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM.

The ReStore just celebrated its five year anniversary with hot dogs, balloons and a good time for all who attended. Ron Buck, long-time volunteer recalled, "I didn't think Stillwater was big enough to support a venture like this. Never was I so happy to be proven wrong." The ReStore has grown to exceed its capacity and the Board's expectations. To date, they have raised in excess of \$100,000. Go to [www.stillwaterhabitat.org](http://www.stillwaterhabitat.org) to see more pictures from the 5-year anniversary party.

The Resale store focuses on the collection and selling of home and building materials. Low priced items for the home benefit many people in the community. Items available include: building and construction materials, home appliances, tools, electric and heating equipment, lighting, lawn and garden items, plumbing equipment, furniture and many other home related items.

The recent donation of a flatbed trailer and purchase of a used box truck have helped with donation pick ups. Another donated trailer sits proudly at each job site during the building process. Every donation helps further our mission to reduce substandard housing in Stillwater and we are thankful for each one, regardless of the size. Remember the value of the widow's mite.

## Stillwater HfH Wish List

- Experienced builders
- New 18 volt batteries for DeWalt drill
- Paint job for our "new", currently bright yellow, box truck
- Dependable small pickup for donated trailer & general transportation

## Donate Cars to Build Homes

Your car donation can help a family build a home, and the hope of a better life! Car, truck, boat and RV donations help Habitat for Humanity build houses in partnership with families in need of decent, affordable shelter. Donate

**Donate your vehicle to help build homes.**



**Habitat  
for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>

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**877-277-4344**  
**[carsforhomes.org](http://carsforhomes.org)**



Donor text: a car, truck, boat, RV or other vehicle to Habitat's Cars for Homes<sup>™</sup> vehicle donation program by calling 1-877-277-4344 or visiting [www.cars4homes.org](http://www.cars4homes.org)



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www.stillwaterhabitat.org

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Stillwater, Oklahoma

**Habitat  
for Humanity®**

**An amazing year is underway for Stillwater Habitat for Humanity ...**

## **A Word from our President**

- We have benefited from the Athletic Village Project by being beneficiaries of structural materials from Patio Apartments and Scholars Inn, items that will be made available for resale at Habitat ReStore.
- We were allowed to take items from the Architecture Building (now being updated and enlarged) for resale.
- The Stillwater Public Library donated carpet squares that were sold before they could even be displayed.
- We've have received four lots for future building sites.
- We have a partner family in Home # 13 and will soon have a family in Home # 14.
- We are moving one home from Athletic Village to upgrade for partner family # 15.
- We have added very capable people to our Stillwater Habitat for Humanity team.
- Hardworking Board members, old and new, are productive and vital to our success.
- Our updated Web site [www.stillwaterhabitat.org](http://www.stillwaterhabitat.org) has homeowner application, volunteer form and photo gallery.
- Former board members are leading the way in home construction.
- A phenomenal friend has made us a gift of a badly needed trailer.
- We were the recipient of a large gift earlier in the spring.
- We have been given two vehicles for resale.
- We continue to receive monthly donations from Elite Repeat and dedicated donors.
- Our OSU students and sponsor spent spring break helping build homes in Katrina/Rita ravaged Louisiana.
- Habitat for Humanity is the benefactor for the 2007 OSU Homecoming Philanthropy project.
- One of our former board members is guiding the development of a Habitat program in Mozambique.

Thanks to you we are having an amazing year. Working together, the possibilities are endless.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Deulah Hirschlein*, President