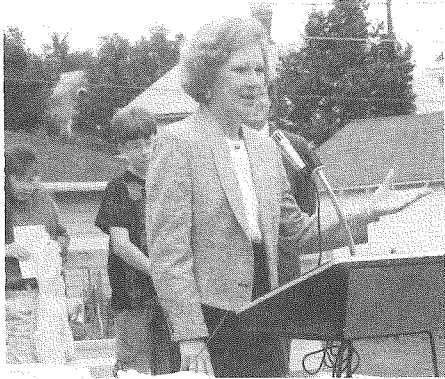


# HABITAT HERALD

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Fall 1990



## Rosalynn Carter Visits TCHFH; "St. Paul Initiative" Grants are Announced

Former First Lady and Habitat for Humanity volunteer Rosalynn Carter visited the TCHFH project at 425 Goodhue in St. Paul on Friday, September 14. Her hour-long appearance was attended by over 100 Habitat volunteers, local community leaders, and major donors.

Mrs. Carter's visit helped to celebrate the recent news of two grants of \$25,000 each from The St. Paul Companies and the First Bank System Foundation/First Bank St. Paul. The grants will be used to support TCHFH's "St. Paul Initiative", an effort to strengthen Habitat's home building activities in the city of St. Paul.

A highlight of Mrs. Carter's appearance was the ceremonial raising of the first exterior stud wall, with Mrs. Carter hammering the first nail into the wall's base plate. Mrs. Carter also met at length with the family chosen as the prospective homeowners for this project, Judy Mussehl and her three children and granddaughter.

During her remarks at the ceremony, Mrs. Carter said that "Habitat is the most wonderful organization I know of. It gives you the chance to live your faith in a very real and tangible way." Mrs. Carter encouraged people of all faiths, and with all kinds of skills, to join Habitat's unique home building efforts.

## Prince of Peace and Our Saviour's Lutheran Churches Build New Home in Phillips

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Burnsville and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, located in South Minneapolis, completed a special home-building collaboration in mid-September.

Over 300 volunteers from these two congregations built the new three bedroom home at 2641 - 17th Avenue South in Minneapolis. In addition to providing all of the volunteer labor for this home, Prince of Peace and Our Saviour's committed \$30,000 toward this project.



The construction effort featured a "blitz-building" week, June 9-16, during which over 80% of the construction work was performed by volunteers working two, 8-hour shifts each day. The entire construction schedule for the project ran only about three months, which is much shorter than the average schedule for a typical Habitat home.

Rev. Merv Thompson, Senior Pastor at Prince of Peace, said, "Working on this home has strengthened the spirit of our congregation more than any project we have done in a long time." Rev.

Thompson believes this home is just the beginning of greater things to come. He reports that "many churches have contacted Prince of Peace to find out how our project came together. I think many other churches are going to find the resources to build an entire house and get involved real soon."

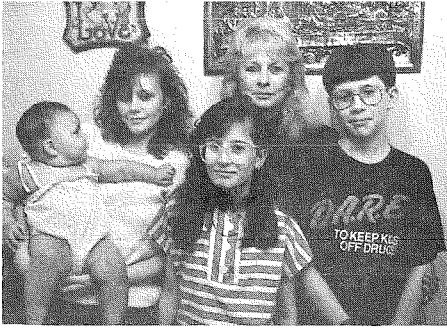
Madeline Denise and Clifton Phifer and their three young children were chosen for this home. They moved in early in September. The house dedication ceremony was held September 16, coinciding with the observance of the Habitat for Humanity International Day of Prayer and Action. Among those in attendance at the dedication was Habitat homeowner Larry Wade, whose home next to the Phifers at 2645 - 17th Avenue South, makes him and his family the most enthusiastic of the Phifers' new neighbors.

## Coming Up On Tonight's News...

Current renovation of the three bedroom home at 3444 Fifth Avenue South, the financial and volunteer focus of the Minneapolis Area Association of REALTORS, has been receiving special television news coverage on KARE-TV, Channel 11.

The REALTORS have awarded the project a grant of \$10,150, one-half of anticipated expenses. Individual REALTORS are volunteering as construction labor every Thursday.

KARE-TV, attracted by TCHFH's use of volunteers in strengthening communities, assigned features reporter Ken Speake to cover a series of reports on the progress of the house renovation. Speake's reports, which began on the 6:00 p.m. news in June, have highlighted the work of prospective homeowners Tou Vang, Yer Yang, their three children, and numerous volunteers. KARE-TV news will continue the series through the completion and dedication of this home.



## Getting to Know the Mussehl Family

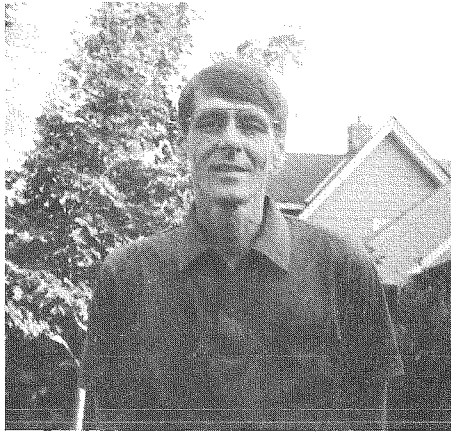
July Mussehl and her family have begun the exciting and committed process of becoming Habitat homeowners through the St. Paul West Area Chapter of TCHF. The Mussehl family includes Judy (36), her daughters Shawn and Jamie (18 and 11), Jesse, her son (12), and Shawn's baby daughter, all of whom are looking forward to 425 Goodhue Avenue as their new address. Originally from Rochester, Judy came to the Twin Cities about eight years ago to seek employment so that she could better provide for her growing family's needs. She is the sole supporter for her three children and does this through employment as a cocktail waitress. Recently, however, her hours have been cut back due to remodeling at the restaurant.

Judy discovered Habitat for Humanity in the United Way's resource book called, First Call for Help, and began to explore the program here in the Twin Cities. Currently living with a friend in apartment housing, Judy remarked that her motivation to get a Habitat home is linked to her desire for her children to "have security for once in their lives". Judy's family-oriented personality is evident in the way she has already encouraged her children to become involved in the construction of their "home-to-be". Both Jesse and Jamie were present and very interested in the groundbreaking of 425 Goodhue, and Jesse is enthusiastic about helping with the ensuing construction. Judy's work with the building/site committees and architects has been mutually beneficial in the entire process as well.

Jamie and Jesse, who are settling into the school year, have commented that one reason they are so excited about their new home is that perhaps mom will let them get a pet! Another reason for excitement in connection with their new home is that during Rosalynn Carter's recent trip to the Twin Cities, she met with the Mussehl family at the site of their new home on September 14. We welcome the Mussehls into partnership with TCHF.

## John Oehlke - The Best Thing Going on Two Wheels!

John Oehlke first heard of Habitat for Humanity while volunteering on the AMEXTRA project in Mexico City. AMEXTRA is similar in nature to Habitat, but takes into consideration the entire lifestyle of the housing recipient. Through AMEXTRA, John met Mexican Habitat volunteers. After spending some time talking to them, he was hooked!



Upon his return to Minneapolis, John immediately contacted Habitat, offering to volunteer. Two hours later, he attended a Phillips Board meeting. John, who owns the Sunsource architectural firm, now chairs the Phillips Site Selection Committee. He finds his TCHF work personally rewarding, especially when he sees the fruits of his labors evidenced at the house dedications. He won't dispute that completing a site selection process is time-consuming and draining, but acknowledges that seeing families moving into their new homes makes it all worthwhile.

John's personal goal for the Site Selection Committee for next year includes speeding up the site acquisition process.

When John isn't searching high and low for TCHF projects, he's usually atop a 10-speed bike. An avid cyclist, John recently competed in the 18th annual RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa). Each of the 8300 cyclists in this event sponsored by the Des Moines Register completed 495 miles. John rode on behalf of TCHF, raising over \$1,700 in pledges. Next year he hopes to see "Team Habitat" participate - 10 riders aiming to raise \$20,000 in pledges and complete the race! A "Wheeler-Dealer" like John Oehlke is the kind of volunteer whose spirit and enthusiasm know no brakes.

## Issues For the 90's: Family, Selection and Nurturing

Habitat for Humanity is growing by leaps and bounds! By the end of 1990, our Twin Cities Affiliate will have helped 19 families purchase their first home; next year that number could double! As more houses are renovated, we've learned that an equally important part of our work is building relationships with the families who will move into the homes. Currently, TCHF is exploring ways to better nurture Habitat families through construction as well as during their first years of home ownership.

When TCHF homeowners are selected, a volunteer Family Partner from the chapter works with them to answer questions, explain the Habitat program, give advice on home ownership and maintenance. These Family Partners get together occasionally for training and to share ideas on improving this valuable assistance to new homeowners.

In September, an in-service training session was held for all volunteers from Family Selection committees. The purpose of the session was to better equip volunteers in the selection process. We hope to provide similar in-service trainings for other committees throughout the year.

A Social Work intern will work during the next year in the area of Family Nurture as another way to better serve our families. Major responsibilities include editing a Habitat homeowner's manual and establishing other means of support for home ownership and maintenance. For more information on becoming a Family Partner Volunteer, please call the Habitat office.

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**Habitat Herald**  
Published Quarterly by:  
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

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Minneapolis, MN 55406  
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Stephen Seidel, Executive Director

Creating decent affordable homes  
in these areas:

- North Area Chapter (St. Paul)
- West Area Chapter (St. Paul)
- Phillips Chapter (So. Mpls.)
- Northside Chapter (No. Mpls.)
- Northeast Suburban Chapter  
(Arden Hills, Blaine, Columbia Heights,  
Coon Rapids, Fridley, Mounds View,  
New Brighton, Spring Lake Park)
- Dakota County Chapter

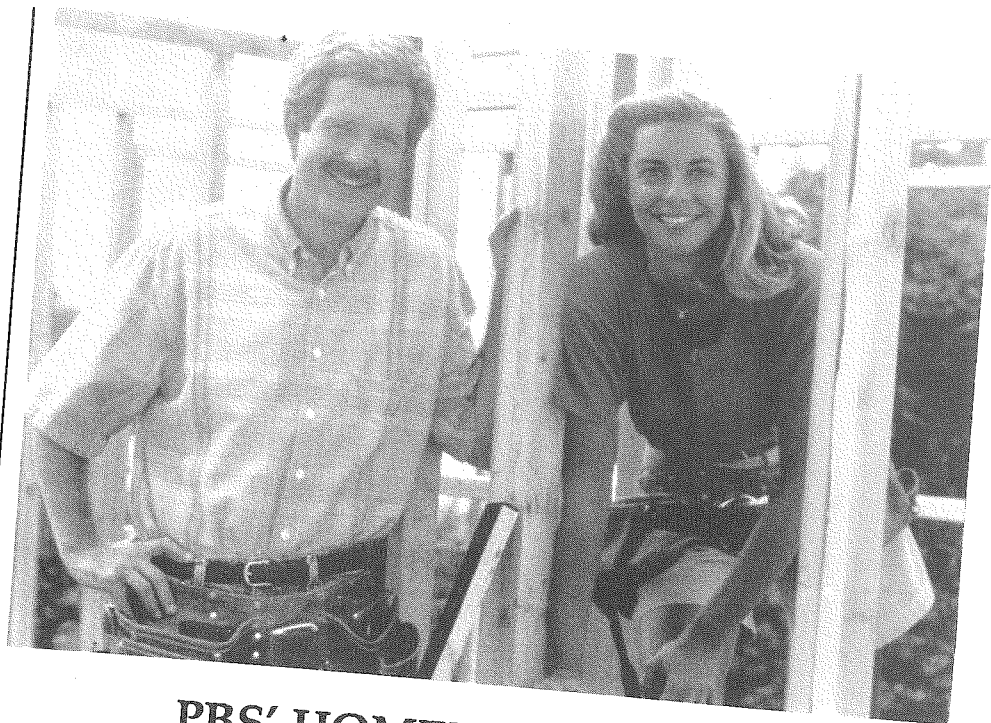
## Schneiderman's Reaches Out to 40 Families

In the autumn of 1989, Schneiderman's Furniture Stores celebrated their 40th Anniversary in a very special way - by offering a roomful of new furniture to the next 40 Minnesota Habitat for Humanity homeowners.

Thea Lewis was the first Habitat homeowner to benefit from Schneiderman's commitment to Habitat when she selected a brand new living room suite. Since then, Larry and Nadine Wade, James and Rosalind Dillard, Ben Lee and Mai Vang, Denise and Clifton Phifer and Velvet Callender have all received their Schneiderman's furniture. In addition, a new Habitat family in Duluth has chosen its new furniture from Schneiderman's.

Thirty-four more homeowners will each receive a new room of furniture - either a living room, dining room or bedroom set - from Schneiderman's. With all the homes under construction in the Twin Cities, and new Habitat Affiliates starting up throughout Minnesota, that number will be reduced quite quickly during the coming months.

The total value of this donation is approximately \$40,000. Schneiderman's Furniture is a Minnesota company with Twin Cities stores located in Minnetonka, Lakeville, and Roseville.



## PBS' HOMETIME Features Newton Avenue Project

HOMETIME, the television program distributed by PBS that presents do-it-yourself home rehab and repair projects, is showcasing and participating in the renovation of the TCHFH project at 1519 Newton Avenue North. The program's focus and TCHFH's philosophy make them ideal partners.

HOMETIME hosts, Dean Johnson and Jo Ann Liebeler, are not only serving as narrators for the project, but also as on-site Habitat volunteers. Each phase of the project is being filmed - from replacing the exterior siding to the kitchen renovation. Other TCHFH projects will also receive mention on the final program.

Filming and editing will culminate in a two-hour television special to be aired in December 1990. The Newton Avenue home will be presented to the viewing public as an example of TCHFH working toward its mission. HOMETIME's Eden Prairie-based production team says the weekly show (seen on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. on KTCA - Channel 2) is watched by more than four million viewers.

HOMETIME host Dean Johnson and producer Matt Dolph devised the idea for featuring a Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity project. "We really like what Habitat for Humanity does, and we have done segments on the Jimmy Carter Work Project in Milwaukee and Charlotte in the past", Dolph said. "And while it was really special to do those segments, we wanted to feature an entire Habitat project from start to finish".

In addition to showcasing the project at 1519 Newton Avenue North, the producers of HOMETIME are working with many of their suppliers to secure donations of building materials for this project. The North Side Chapter, and Site Supervisor Tony Beckstrom, are working closely with the HOMETIME crew. In addition, several area churches have committed volunteer and financial resources to this project.

The date and time for the airing of the two-hour HOMETIME/Habitat special have not yet been specified. A notice will be sent to TCHFH friends and supporters when the date and time are selected.

### Contributors for this issue of Habitat Herald:

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## Upcoming Events

**October 20**

Dedication of 623 Elwood &  
712 Elwood Homes, North Mpls.  
12:00 Noon

**November 13**

Volunteer Orientation  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Martin Luther King Center  
270 Kent Street, St. Paul

**January 10**

Volunteer Orientation  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Affiliate Offices

**February 12**

Volunteer Orientation  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Martin Luther King Center  
270 Kent Street, St. Paul



Your tax-deductible contribution should be made payable to:

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity (TCHFH)  
2720 East 22nd Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

- \$25       \$100       Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$50       \$250

All contributors receive "Habitat Herald" issued quarterly.

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## Habitat Baby Boom

More than Housing happened at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity during the summer of 1990. On June 30, Stephen Seidel (TCHFH Executive Director) and his wife, Deborah Keenan welcomed Cordelia Jean into the world. For the next few weeks after Cordelia's arrival, a bleary-eyed but blissful boss directed our building efforts!

Soon after they were chosen as homeowners, Denise and Clifton Phifer

also rejoiced over their new son, Clifton Jr., born on July 14. The Phifers and their three children moved into their TCHFH home at 2641 - 17th Avenue South in September.

On July 29, Ashly Gaozong Vang was born to Tou Vang, Yer Yang and their three children. The Vangs have been working hard renovating their future home at 3444 Fifth Avenue South. They will move in during November.

## Happenings Around Habitat

Financial Coordinator **Debby Lindbom** has left our office to attend graduate school in Oregon. **Rena Martin** has taken on the responsibilities of this coordinator position.

Volunteer Coordinators **Amy Lawrence** and **Becky Nelson** have moved on to other pursuits. **Linda Murtfeldt**, an active volunteer with Presbyterian Church of the Apostles in Burnsville, is the new Volunteer Coordinator.

Interns **Carrie Ehrle** and **Diane Peterson**, whose help with site selection and construction support has been invaluable, have completed their internships with TCHFH.

**Karen Kessel**, providing vital administrative assistance for the past eight months, returned to full-time classes at the University of Minnesota. **Victoria Fritz**, who provided summer office support has resumed her studies at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. **Miriam Rader** has arrived in the Twin Cities from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she was a volunteer office manager with the Pittsburgh Habitat Affiliate. She is now providing similar help to the TCHFH.

Good luck and thank you to those moving on! Welcome to all the new arrivals!



Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity  
2720 East 22nd Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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