



Steady supervisor

Volunteer Norb Carey has served since '86

By Bill Guthrie

A Habitat volunteer since 1986, Norb Carey has helped build more than 305 Habitat homes in Louisville, often working three days a week. Now in his 80's, he still supervises his framing construction crew every week.

I visited Norb and his crew at their work site. As I approached, I heard hammers pounding. Then I saw a dozen men working on floor joists. Norb was right in the middle of them.



Norb Carey

Norb praises his workers for their dedication. They credit him with guiding them through the construction plans. In the past, Norb worked alongside his crew. Now he mostly supervises and teaches crew members how to do each task just right. Team members call Norb a good teacher, especially when working with younger, inexperienced workers from area high schools.

At lunch, the crew sat in a circle eating, chatting and laughing. Asked about Norb, Terry Rueff spoke up: "He's opinionated." Everyone laughed, including Norb. They say Norb's opinions focus on telling his crew how best to do their specific framing tasks. To sweeten lunch, Norb shared a homemade nut cake that he baked. He also regularly bakes and brings tasty oatmeal raisin cookies.

Norb's crew members range in age from 17 to 80, from experienced builders to beginners. They include retirees who have built their own

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Giving back



'They were there for me' Kary Goff said that early in his life he didn't think he would live to be 30. He's thankful for the opportunity to purchase a Habitat house. Today he serves others by ministering to youth. (Photo by David Winfrey)

Blessing of Habitat home inspires man to serve others

By David Winfrey

Kary Goff says building a Habitat house not only provided a place to live, but also a pathway back to God.

Goff, a homeowner since 2002, admits the odds were against him when he first explored Habitat.

Debt from a formerly reckless lifestyle caused Habitat to reject his first application. Afterward, his wife filed for divorce and he moved back into his mother's home.

"I could sit there and look back and say, I don't think I deserve a house, the way I was living my life," he said recently.

But the sight of his children sleeping in cots on his bedroom floor was among the reasons he contacted Habitat again.

"Everybody wants a better life for their kids," he noted. "My motivation was to have something for my kids. It hurt me seeing them like that."

After lowering his debt, he reapplied and was accepted to purchase a Habitat house. But he said that isn't the only support he got from Habitat.

"I had a lot of people there for me when I was going through the program. Even when I was stressed out going through my divorce or custody battle ... there was always somebody there to help lift me back up. I hate to say it, but I kinda' cried on their shoulders. They were there for me."

As Goff started working the 400 sweat equity hours that Habitat requires of partner families, he met Kevin Stallard, a minister who also was earning hours.

Goff had not been to church for some time, a result of bitterness from losing three siblings who all died before age 30. "I felt like I wasn't going to live to be 30," he said. Because he had no pastor, Goff

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Homeowner responds to Habitat blessing by trying to help others

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invited Stallard to lead the ground blessings and house dedication ceremonies for his new home.

Stallard invited Goff to visit St. James Missionary Baptist Church. There, Goff rekindled his Christian faith.

Today, he considers his Habitat house among his many blessings from God. And he says those blessings motivate him to reach out to others. "I feel like I need to give something back."

As a result, each Sunday afternoon he travels with Victory in Jesus Ministries to the Jefferson County Youth Detention Center to tell kids that their past mistakes don't have to define their future.

He's blunt about his past mistakes, including a six-month jail sentence for domestic violence. "I tell them, 'I'm y'all, and you're me,'" he said. "I know how the streets are and the pressures, how the environment can eat you alive if you let it."

He stresses the importance of making good choices regardless of past mistakes. "I just try to testify as an example, saying, 'I pulled myself out of it. You can pull yourself out.'"

Goff said his Habitat house has been a foundational support as he rebuilt his



Support for other successes Kary Goff credits his Habitat House for helping have other successes in life. "I don't think I would have accomplished a lot of things. I might not have stayed here." (Photo By David Winfrey)

life.

Without a Habitat house, "I don't think I would have accomplished a lot of things. I might not have stayed here," he said.

"Just to have that structure and that

stability in your life to know you have a home is wonderful," he added, admitting he has trouble putting Habitat's impact into words. "It's kind of like the wind. You can't see it, but you feel it. It means the world, it really does."

Long-term volunteer Carey not afraid of a little rain, or lack of power, when working

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homes, men from a local halfway house, and high schoolers doing community service. Some team members have worked together for five years or more.

A volunteer from a local halfway house praised the working environment Norb has created. "These folks are really good to work with." Another younger crew member told me that Norb knows how to run a job site and explains tasks patiently and clearly.

Norb also meets and talks with new homeowners as they fulfill their "sweat equity" construction hours. Many are "exceptional workers," he adds.

Norb's approach is straightforward: "I tell the crew what to do, and they do it. My job is to keep everybody busy." As a supervisor, he assigns jobs according to each worker's abilities so that no one gets hurt. He's also the chief "go-fer" guy, supplying his crew with whatever materials they need.

Habitat Construction Supervisor Joy Henry recalls this story that illustrates Norb's work ethic: "Years ago, we used

to build walls on-site for each house. We were doing that job one day, working off a generator, when it began raining hard. When the power went off because of the rain, we watched Norb walk out to his truck and knew we were in trouble when he returned with a handsaw. He was determined that we would get the job done."

Norb also remembers that day, especially the volunteers from the USS Kentucky, a submarine crew from a Georgia base who helped build numerous Habitat homes over several years.

The founder and owner of an insulation contracting company, Norb built his own home and then others. After retiring, he joined Habitat "ready to work, to pay back for my good life" by building affordable houses. And he's still working. "I can't stop."

Adds Sharri Zink, construction center resource coordinator: "When we need help with any construction problem, we go to Norb. ... Norb and his crew never complain. They just do the job asked of them."



305 Houses and counting Volunteer Norb Carey, a volunteer since 1986, serves as a framing crew chief. "My job is to keep everybody busy." (Photo by Bill Sheets)

One day in the life of staff member illustrates Habitat's impact

Building Houses is what we do but changing lives is why we do it. Janel Temple, Habitat's director of outreach and family services, offers the following great example of this idea in action:

"Today was a full day. Rikka Weathers and a group of her close friends filled the air with sweet gospel music at Rikka's ground blessing on Madison St. A design conference brought tears to the family's eyes, as the process of choosing flooring and countertop finishes brings closer the reality of this long held dream. And I held a pre-sweat equity orientation with James and Shannon Duke. While we don't normally show families specific lots at the orientation, because of timing, the family's current living conditions, the family's support system, and Category 3 issues, we let James and Shannon review the Portland lots.

"When they saw the list of lots they knew immediately, without visiting them, which lot they wanted. They live on Lytle now, and Habitat holds a lot on 18th and Lytle, directly behind the Portland Promise Center.

"I write this having just returned from the Portland Promise Center's celebratory

event. The center has been a presence in Portland 19 years; tonight they took the opportunity to honor Jim Tennill, who was instrumental in building the Promise Center's facilities and getting the Promise Center where it is today. Jim was also instrumental in gathering the Methodist house sponsorships for many of the houses Habitat built with Portland residents on Lytle, Baird, 18th, and the surrounding blocks.

"James Duke spoke at the event. He told the story of an extremely difficult childhood, of teen and young adult years scarred by addiction. He spoke of the Promise Center's role in saving his life, helping him get treatment for his addictions, helping him find a job with benefits, providing a church home for him and his family, and helping them take care of medical bills so they could qualify for Habitat. He ended his speech by announcing that today they had chosen a lot for their Habitat home right behind the Promise Center—a home where his children can walk through the backyard to the Promise Center, where they can be close to their community and their church family. With over 300 people in the room, there was not a dry eye in the place.



Five Good Minutes w/

Rob Locke

"I don't believe that God makes parking places for us when we promise to go to church the coming Sunday, or that the events of our lives are either punishment or reward for our behavior. But I do believe in miracles—the miracle of community, of neighbors helping neighbors with a cup of sugar, a welcome smile, or a path out of addiction. I do believe that the God that exists in all of us together is greater than the spirit each of us contains alone. That is the promise of the Promise Center.

"There were many Habitat homeowners at the Promise Center's event tonight. Rosezeta and Damien Williams, and their two growing sons. Their oldest son was 3 when Rosezeta built her house. Linda Lewis was there, as was Valerie Brice, who, characteristically stayed in the kitchen, doing service in the background. Eurana Horton, of course, and her 3 beautiful children. Others I did not get the chance to greet.

"I am humbled by the great love and care the people of the Promise Center community have for one another. As I said goodbye and thank you to James Duke he said, 'God is shining through us.' I could only reply, 'Amen.'"

Rob Locke is executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville.

Eat, drink and build Habitat house with July 20 pub visit

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville will receive the proceeds from the Monday Night Fundraiser at three Louisville Irish Pubs on July 20.

Tell your friends, family and co-workers and join us at Flanagan's or O'Shea's in the Highlands or Brendan's in St. Matthews.

The leadership and staff of these establishments have raised thousands of

dollars for local causes and charities with similar fundraising events. They have a goal for the evening also: to raise enough money to sponsor a Habitat house and to help build it.

Make their goal a reality by visiting on July 20. The event runs from 11 a.m. through midnight, so come for lunch, dinner or both.

Save the date! Oct. 24: Hammers, Hardhats & Hope

Join Habitat for Humanity on October 24 for a special fundraising event.

Hammers, Hardhats & Hope will be held at the Galt House Grand Ballroom. The dress is "Construction Chic." You will "build your own" dinner, dance to the music of This, That & the Other, participate in live and silent auctions as well as test your skills with construction games.

For more information, contact Jane White, development director at jane.white@louisvillehabitat.org or 502.637.6265 ext. 30.



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Does Habitat have your email address? If not, please send us an email at info@louisvillehabitat.org.

With our new contact management software, we will use emails more often to communicate with volunteers, Habitat homeowners and other friends of Habitat.

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Special thanks to The UPS Foundation for the gift of eTapestry contact management software.



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***Building Community,
One Block At A Time.***

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Habitat breaks virtual ground to network volunteers, families, donors

Between the 2x4's and concrete at a Habitat construction site are smiles and friendship. Next to the windows and shingles is pride and joy. Mingled among the cabinetry and carpet is a willingness to join hands in an effort to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Helping a family create their new home is a transformational process.



Angela Huffman

A crucial element to this process is something that can't be bought in a hardware store, constructed, painted or poured. But it is present during each build, from groundbreaking to the dedication and beyond. Without it,

a house never becomes a home and the impact Habitat makes in the lives of all involved would disappear.

What is it? It is the *community* created between partner families, volunteers, corporate donors and staff. We are pleased to announce that our fabulous Habitat community has a new online home where we can share the smiles, pride, friendships and neighborliness that is felt in every Habitat experience!

The virtual doors to our new online home opened June 1. To get there, click on the "Community" link located on the main page of the Habitat website, www.LouisvilleHabitat.org.

From there, you'll be directed to our very own social network where you can start a blog about your build, post photos from your site, announce upcoming events, ask questions, watch Habitat videos and get to know the smiling faces that make up our incredible organization. Plus, each build can have its own group where you can share photos, make announcements and post notices of the progress your group is experiencing.

We also have launched a Facebook fan page, MySpace portal, Flickr group and LinkedIn group for those of you active on those social networking sites. Links to all of these groups can be found by clicking on the "Community" link from the main



Habitat participants can join the networking site by clicking the "Online Community" link at LouisvilleHabitat.org or directly at LouisvilleHabitat.ning.com.

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville web site, or you can go directly to our online community: LouisvilleHabitat.ning.com. Join the conversation and add your voice to our new online neighborhood as we extend our connection to each other and enhance our growing organization.

Angela Huffman is leader of the social media team of Habitat's communication and technology committee.