

2015-2016 Annual Report

Habitat for Humanity “Good News Group”

Summer of 2015 marked the 16th year that UUAA joined in partnership with 16 other area congregations to support the “Good News” Habitat for Humanity Huron Valley (HHHV) home renovation projects. In 2009, HHHV switched from building new homes to purchasing and rehabilitating foreclosed homes in targeted neighborhoods. This has proved a win-win-win as Habitat puts more tax paying families into more homes, while stabilizing neighborhoods and removing blight.

Each summer the Good News congregations provide a large part of the funding and over 1000 volunteer hours to rehab two homes, which are then purchased by low income area families who have successfully gone through the Habitat for Humanity program of homeowner classes and “sweat equity” volunteer hours.

UUAA had our usual wonderful response for the summer of 2015. We filled our volunteer expectations -- about 65 different volunteers took part; we took on extra volunteer days; we provided lunches on our work days; we exceeded our fundraising goal, contributing \$8200. Many of us got to work alongside Lola Joiner, one of the homeowners who is happily settled in her new home and grateful for everyone’s contributions – She gives special thanks to Allison Paine, who came back after the official build season to do some landscaping with donated plants.

The summer of 2016 is coming up and another two home renovations are planned to begin on June 3, 2016 with a completion date of August 27, 2016. We are proud to know that the Good News Group has helped 27 families (including over 60 children) move into their own well-constructed, energy star rated Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor homes. And, we have provided UUAA with a very effective hands-on social justice outreach project that lets people from our Congregation come together to work, learn, and have fun while doing good in our community.

Habitat for Humanity Committee:

Barb Pickett (chair), Mike Muha, Fran Lyman, Michelle Lovasz, Angela Peters, Dorothy Wilson [and Sandy Simon, chair of the Good News Steering Committee]

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