

The Prez Says

September/ October 2015

The latest news and commentary

A Labor of Love

A few months back during a marketing meeting, first VP and soon-to-be President Frank Lewis pointed out that the house model we use during new homeowner orientation was a bit out of date. That is to say that it looked nothing like the houses we're currently building. We thought about using pictures of a house but decided what was really needed was a new model.

Chris Carter, a construction volunteer, had built our first model house, and since I worked with Chris on the crew, I was tasked with asking Chris to build a new model. Knowing the time required to build a new model, I wasn't sure Chris would want to take on this task but the first words out of Chris' mouth were, "I'll need the plans, sure."

Well over fifty hours of labor later, Chris presented the Board with his new model, built to scale and with amazing detail. The exterior includes a removable roof with individually detailed shingles, individual siding pieces and both the front and rear decks complete with stairs and spindles. When the roof is removed, one can see all of the rooms, the kitchen cabinets and appliances, and even the details of the bathrooms. It will certainly help our families visualize their new home. Thanks Chris and thanks Trish for letting us steal your guy for a few more hours!



Chris Carter – carpenter, electrician, model maker extraordinaire and bon vivant about town. Thanks Chris!

I Tell Ya, I Don't Get No Respect!

Dottie Madden heads up the Family Selection Committee and she's got one tough, some would say thankless, job. We complain, "Dottie, we need more approved families to fill our houses" (something entirely out of her control) when we don't have a back log of approved families and conversely, when we have a bunch of families approved for houses, the construction crew complains, "You're killing us. Do you have any idea what's involved in building **that** many houses?!" She can't win.

I sometimes sit in meetings while we lovingly tease Dottie, watch her reaction and expect her to break into a Rodney Dangerfield impersonation, throw her head back and proclaim, "I tell ya, I don't get no respect!" For those of you who know Dottie, it would be quite funny.

Thanks Dottie and the FSC crew. You got us ten approved families on deck. Great job!

Construction

So yes, the FSC's success means some *agita* for the construction crew. Ten families in waiting is a lot but the crew is up to the challenge. The Pump House Road build in Westminster is in its final stages and is scheduled for closing at the end of November. Meanwhile, our Butler School Road nine-house subdivision is well on its way. Two houses have been "dried in" with roof, windows and doors installed and one of these houses has roughed in electrical and plumbing complete and will soon be inspected by the city. Insulation and dry wall will follow. Meanwhile, across the street, the footings have been poured for two houses and the foundations should be built shortly - that's four houses under various stages of construction all at once. If you can swing a hammer and want to help, call me. Go Construction!

Georgetown HFH

Finally, while we in the Golden Corner got a ton of rain a few weeks back, some didn't fare so well. Our brothers and sisters from the Georgetown, SC HFH were impacted by swollen rivers and high tides and had severe damage to nine Habitat homes. One house may be a total loss as it was almost entirely under water. The Georgetown staff is working long hours with outside organizations and slowly, very slowly, they are making progress. The families lost almost everything and are in temporary shelter. Insurance, for the most part, will not cover the damage and loss and FEMA will only cover a small portion of rebuilding.

It's a tough time for the Georgetown affiliate and the Habitat families who lost their homes. Count your blessings and please keep them in your prayers.

Be Safe,

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