



Lakes Region
Habitat for Humanity® Happenings

servicing the Lakes Region for over 25 years

Spring 2011

66 State Route 25, #3
Meredith, NH 03253-6332
603-279-4820
www.lrhhabitat.org

President's Message

Welcome Spring! At least I think it's spring! As we begin to embark on yet another Habitat build, I want to tell you a little bit about what we've been doing through the winter months. As with most volunteer organizations, Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity has been struggling with finding people who are interested in being on the board, as well as our various committees. Just like the houses and families that we build, without a solid foundation the likelihood of continued growth is not strong. So it was that the board voted to put our next project, Maple Square in Franklin, on hold for the winter. Instead, we have been "hitting the pavement" in pursuit of getting more help.

It has been a collaborative effort on the part of all of our board members and I am incredibly grateful for dedication and commitment exhibited. We've been out speaking at local Churches, Rotary Clubs, and Men's Breakfasts, as well as many one on one meetings with interested parties. To that end, I am proud to welcome four new board members as well as a new committee member to the LR Habitat for Humanity family. Scott and Beth Vachon, Rob Wichland, Jason Hicks, and Carol Jerry are very talented people who bring a wealth of resources to our organization. You can read more about them in the newsletter or go to our website, www.lrhhabitat.org.

With the added support on board, we can now be about the business of Habitat by building decent, affordable housing in the Lakes Region.....specifically our 31st house on Maple Square in Franklin. This is a home that we will be rehabbing and we continue the search for a partner family for it. We will soon be starting workdays and as always, they will be posted on our website.

In closing, I would like to personally thank all of you who continue to support Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity. It looks as though 2011 is off to a great start and we look forward to continuing the mission started so many years ago.

Regards,

Marilyn Deschenes

Marilyn Deschenes, President

President
Marilyn Deschenes

Treasurer
Benny Popek

Secretary
Arthur Ellis

Board Members
Wayne Hackett
Scott Vachon
Beth Vachon
Jason Hicks
Rob Wichland

Servicing:
Belmont
Center Harbor
Franklin
Gilford
Gilmanton
Laconia
Meredith
Moultonborough
Northfield
Sanbornton
Tilton

15 Maple Square, Franklin NH

We are making progress on the objective to turn this 90 year old, 1400 square foot building into a home for a future Habitat partner family. In the late summer and fall of 2010 Habitat volunteers from New Hampshire and New York State removed an addition that didn't meet building code requirements, covered nearly 25% of the building in vinyl siding and cleaned and primed walls and ceilings inside. Just before winter arrived Habitat Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity (LRHH) volunteers and a professional carpenter managed to roof over the void left by the removal of the addition and button up the building for a winter nap. This spring plans are underway to convert former porch space to an additional bedroom and bath, upgrade the heating system, complete the siding work, install new flooring throughout and complete painting. LRHH invites skilled and unskilled volunteers alike who wish to help us with this rehabilitation project to contact us by leaving either a phone message at 603-279-4820 or by sending an email to info@lrhabitat.org. Reference "Maple Square."

Marilyn Deschenes, President of Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity "is extremely pleased that these highly qualified professionals have agreed to join our Board of Directors. Having Board Members of this caliber helps ensure that our mission to provide low-cost, affordable housing to the Lakes Region will be achieved."

Jason C. Hicks has joined the Board of Directors of the Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity. A native of Texas, Jason Hicks relocated to Meredith in 2009 with his wife and two children. Jason works for Meredith Village Savings Bank as Vice President of Finance and Controller. He oversees the Bank's financial reporting system and annual budget process. He also supervises MVSBS's Finance department and manages the daily responsibilities of the investment portfolio and treasury functions.

A certified public accountant, Jason holds a master's of science in audit and financial accounting, and has more than 10 years of banking experience. He most recently served as Vice President/Finance Manager of Corporate Treasury and Investments at Bank of America Corporation in Charlotte, N.C.

Jason and his family enjoy all the outdoor activities that the Lakes Region offers from fishing and swimming to snow skiing and enjoy calling Meredith home. In addition to working with Habitat, Jason gives back to the community through organizations such as the United Way and as Treasurer of the Center Harbor Congregational Church.

Rob Wichland is co-owner of RE/MAX Bayside and Bayside Rentals located in Meredith, NH. He has been a actively selling Real Estate in the Lakes Region for over 16 years. Rob grew up in New Hampshire and has lived in the Lakes Region area for the past 26 years. Having raised 4 children who have all finished college and are leading successful lives, Rob and his wife, Beth, are really enjoying this beautiful area where we live.

Rob is also involved with Meredith Rotary Club and Great Rotary Fishing Derby and is currently on the board of directors for the Lakes Region Board of Realtors and the Meredith Chamber of Commerce.

Scott Vachon is a native of Gilford, N.H. Scott and his family returned to this area after Scott served six years in the United States Marine Corps. Scott works for Akibia, Inc. as a Senior Network Security Consultant and also runs his own information technology consultancy. Additionally, Scott is a member of the Laconia School Board, currently in his eighth year of service. In that role he has served as the board chairperson twice and is currently the chair of the budget committee.

Scott holds a master's of science in business, with a concentration in project management. He has more than 15 years of information technology and project management experience. He is currently a participant in the 2011 class of Leadership Lakes Region.

Scott and his family enjoy all the outdoor activities that the Lakes Region offers and are happy to call Laconia home. In addition to working with Habitat, Scott also is heavily involved in the Lakes Region Better Together organization.

Beth Vachon has lived in the Lakes Region since 1998 with her husband, Scott, and three children. She is the Assistant Program Director for the Laconia School District's *Project EXTRA!*, which is a non-profit, 21st century, community learning center afterschool enrichment program. Beth oversees the supplemental education services tutoring program and collaborates with grant writing and fund raising activities. Beth has over ten years' experience in afterschool and is currently working on a master's degree in education with a concentration in assessment and measurement.

In addition to her participation on the Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity Board, Beth is active in the community and is currently the Laconia Ward 3 Supervisor of the Checklist. She enjoys volunteering and is a member of the Better Together Mentoring Group, and a board member of the Laconia High School Lacrosse Boosters. In her spare time, Beth enjoys attending her children's sports activities, spending time with her family, reading and working on her 100-plus year old home.

Annual Walkathon

Lakes Region Habitat for Humanity's 19th Annual **Walkathon** will be held on Saturday May 14, 2011. The five-mile route will begin at the United Methodist Church in Gilford, and wind its way up Route 11A, around the scenic Gunstock Hill Road and Morrill Street, returning to the Church. Registration will begin at 8:00 am and will end at noon. If you would like to join us for the picturesque five mile walk, you may download a pledge sheet from www.lrhhabitat.org. We look forward to seeing many of you there and refreshments are generously provided by church members, as well as local supermarkets and restaurants. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Marilyn Deschenes at (603)520-1405.

