

Habitat effort building in Edwardsville

By [Larry Ingram](#)

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The Habitat for Humanity momentum is building in Edwardsville, with a continuing effort to build another house later this year.



After forming a new Edwardsville chapter in December, the group has already raised about a third of the funds necessary to complete a second house in a span of two years.

[LARRY INGRAM](#) PHOTO The Edwardsville Habitat for Humanity group celebrates a ribbon cutting event for the new Edwardsville chapter held at the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce Wednesday in Edwardsville.

The new chapter has had a series of successes, with continued volunteer and community involvement and donations pouring into the effort to build new homes with the not-for-profit organization. Already, the group has raised \$18,000 toward building a second house on Hill Lane in Edwardsville.

Diane Schwind, secretary of the new chapter, said she and others have noticed the excitement behind the community effort.

"There has been such an outpouring of people who wanted to get involved and help," she said. "It seems like every time we turn around and have a need, somebody 'jumps out of the woodwork' to help us. The community involvement has been phenomenal. Since we started this, it has been a joy to be a part of it."

The first house built by through the efforts of the Rotary Club of Edwardsville, and the Wood River Area Habitat for Humanity chapter.

The group dedicated the home in October. The new chapter received its official sanction by Habitat for Humanity in February.

Trish Cheatham, public relations chairwoman, said the chapter is on its way to raise the

funds needed to build the home.

"Once we get \$40,000, we can break ground," Cheatham said. "We need 65,000 to build the entire house."

Schwind said the chapter has already receive a number of donation offers, including furniture and materials.

"I have a list of people who want to help an arm long," she said.

Harry Windland, treasurer for the chapter, said donations have come from foundations and individuals.

"We've also received donations from people outside the area," he said. "We've also had some great offers of 'in kind' service from businesses. Many of them are the same people who helped us on the first house."

Windland said new chapter has accomplished a lot in a short amount of time.

"But we still have a long way to go," he said.

Windland said at the current pace, the group hopes to break ground on the house by mid-summer.

While funds are being raised, the family nurture committee will interview families to live in the new house.

Jane McKinney, chairwoman for the family nurture committee, interviews families and assists them after they move in.

"We serve as a support for the family," she said. "Last year a couple of (volunteers) went to the Wood River chapter to familiarize ourselves with how the chapter functions."

After the new Edwardsville chapter board was formed, McKinney decided to continue to serve on the family nurture committee.

"We try to help the family as much as possible," she said. "We stay in contact with the family and meet with them once a month."

The committee works with the family with activities like forming a budget.

"We also help them with taking care of the house," she said.

The group is planning a benefit golf tournament to raise funds for the effort, which is scheduled for July 28.

The chapter would like to raise the \$65,000 needed to build the house by May, and finish it by October.