

02/19/2008

Benefit for Habitat set

By ANN NICCUM , The Edwardsville Intelligencer

Eat out for a good cause on Thursday.

Culver's Restaurant will donate 10 percent of its total sales on Feb. 21 to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Area Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Acting Vice-Chair and Public Relations Chair Trish Cheatham said this is the chapter's first event.

"We are very excited about our very first fund-raiser since the start up of our chapter," Cheatham said. "Kelly Cobb, owner of Culver's, has generously offered to give our chapter 10 percent of all sales during this time. Culver's will also be allowing us to take donations at that time as well, so we will have Habitat Bird Houses in which people can place any donations they might like to make."

Cheatham said 100 percent of the money raised at the fund-raiser will be put towards building the next Habitat home in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area.

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Area Chapter of Habitat for Humanity is new and in the process of becoming established.

About 30 area residents are involved in the Chapter.

The idea to start a Habitat for Humanity chapter here bloomed last year after the Edwardsville Rotary Club completed the first Habitat house in Edwardsville as a service project in conjunction with the Habitat for Humanity Wood River Chapter.

Now, the new chapter is trying to help Habitat take root.

Acting Secretary of the group Diane Schwind said the group is not official until it is formally accepted by the Lewis and Clark affiliate.

Habitat houses are built with volunteer labor and donations of money and materials.

The homes are simple and decent and built with the help of the homeowner (partner) families.

Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no-interest loans and the homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build more Habitat houses.

But to build a house the Chapter will need money.

The chapter needs \$40,000 to start the next house.

That is why fund-raisers like the one this week at Culver's are important.

Cheatham said she hopes the community will come out and support Habitat on Thursday.

"We are really excited about this upcoming event and hope to have a great turnout. So far the community has really rallied around the startup of this chapter and it is very exciting. We hope that people come out and eat some great food to support a great cause," Cheatham said.

She added, "We are a non-profit group where all members (including board members) are volunteers. So, literally every penny counts. We need to have at least \$40,000 before we can break ground on our new home and we are hoping to raise those funds as quickly as possible."

Cheatham said Habitat already has a spot picked out for the second Habitat home.

"Another lot on Hill Lane in Edwardsville has been generously donated to our chapter, and now we just need to make the realization of this next home a reality," she said.

Habitat has built 175,000 homes and provided shelter for 900,000 people worldwide since 1976.

The Lewis and Clark Habitat for Humanity Chapter has constructed over 25 homes locally.

To learn more about Habitat for Humanity, visit www.habitat.org.

Donations can be mailed to Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Habitat for Humanity at P.O. Box 355, Edwardsville, Ill. 62025.

For more information about the new Edwardsville Chapter or to donate, please call Cheatham at 692-7692 or e-mail her at flair4design@sbcglobal.net.

©Edwardsville Intelligencer 2008