

Habitat house almost finished

Dedication ceremony scheduled on Feb. 26

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The Habitat home in Edwardsville is close to completion.

Last September, the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Area Chapter of Habitat for Humanity broke ground on its first home on M Street.

The Chapter's Public Relations and Vice Chair Trish Cheatham said the home is almost finished.

"We are nearing completion on the M Street house with a scheduled dedication date of Feb. 26 – one year to the date from when our Chapter was officially sanctioned," Cheatham said.

Cheatham said the home will be filled by a family of five from Edwardsville – a mom, dad and three children.

Local residents started the chapter after the Edwardsville Rotary Club, in conjunction with the Habitat for Humanity Wood River Chapter, constructed the first ever habitat house in Edwardsville as part of a service project in 2007.

Cheatham said the community has made the second habitat home a reality and the third habitat home in the area conceivable.

"Due to the incredible generosity of our community and the businesses who gave us materials and skilled labor for free, we have enough money left in the bank to break ground on our next house," Cheatham said. "We expect to do so in May, pending finding a suitable building lot. We are hoping someone in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area might generously donate a lot to our Chapter."

Cheatham said the Chapter hopes to built in Glen Carbon in the future, but that is dependent on the lot.

"We are hoping someone in Glen Carbon might be interested in donating a lot," Cheatham said.

Cheatham said the city of Edwardsville donated the M Street lot.

For each house, the Chapter needs \$45,000 to break ground and \$65,000 total to complete the home.

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

The homes are simple and decent and finished 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.

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

The Lewis and Clark Habitat for Humanity Chapter, which consists of six Chapters including Alton, Collinsville, Bond County, Highland, Wood River and Edwardsville/Glen Carbon, has constructed more than 25 homes locally.

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

For more information about the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Habitat for Humanity Chapter, contact Cheatham at 692-7692 or e-mail her at trish@prthinktank.com. Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 355, Edwardsville, IL, 62025.