

## Habitat home becomes a reality

By ANN NICCUM

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### **Edwardsville Rotary, Wood River group finish project**

The first ever Habitat for Humanity home is now a reality.

After months of hard work, the Habitat for Humanity Wood River Area Chapter and the Rotary Club of Edwardsville announced the house at 627 Hill Lane is complete.

The two organizations hosted a house dedication on Monday.

They were joined by the numerous members of the community that helped build and support the project.

Habitat for Humanity Wood River Area Chapter Chairman Mark Allison said he was thrilled with the attendance.

"We really appreciate the great support and attendance this evening," Allison said. "It was a joy to work with the Edwardsville Rotary Club. Without them this would not have been possible."

Allison said the Rotary approached Habitat about joining forces to complete a project in Edwardsville as part of a service project.

From there, the process began last October and the construction started this past spring.

During the last few months, Allison said more than 145 individuals worked on the home during the construction.

Allison said Habitat has built homes in Alton, Wood River, Highland, Collinsville and Bond County.

When the Rotary Club asked if they could help build a home in Edwardsville, and not just financially support it, Allison said he was excited.

Habitat for Humanity encourages simple, decent and affordable housing, he said.

"This house is nicer than our normal Habitat homes. The Rotary made some donations to it."

Rotary Vice President and past Community Service Director John Motely said the Rotary Club of Edwardsville has 135 business men and women members who are dedicated to the idea "Service Above Self."

He said many of the members made this house possible.

"Most members were involved physically, financially or some other way."

Motely thanked many of the members including Ann Tosovsky and Tad Armstrong, who helped coordinate the volunteers on the project.

"Thankfully, we were able to be a part of it," Motely said.

Roy and Crystal Middleton and their three children comprise the family chosen for the home.

Habitat Family Selection Chair Patti Anderson said the family was chosen based on need of home, ability to pay and willingness to partner.

Anderson said it is nice to help a family, but tough to only pick one for the home.

She said the Middletons met the requirements.

Habitat for Humanity and Hearts Harvest Fellowship of Bethalto Pastor Terry McKinzie said the opening prayer.

Trinity Lutheran Church Pastor Rev. Gary Galen said the house blessing.

Sponsors of the 627 Hill Lane home included: The Rotary Club of Edwardsville, Habitat for Humanity Wood River Area Chapter, Richards Brick Co., Edwardsville Plumbing and Heating Inc., Alan Koester, Mark's Tree Trimming Service, First American Title Insurance Co., Jon Metheny Architect, Burhmaster Wallpaper & Paint Co., Mr. and Mrs. John Motely, Square D. Corporation, Madison Mutual Insurance Co., B&R Excavating, ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery, Ready-Mix Service Inc., Reach Out -- Meridian Village, Dennis Foret Bonne Terre Construction, Scott Schmidt Excavating Co., The Finishing Touch Home and Office Interiors, Greater Edwardsville Community Foundation, Mark's Maytag Home Appliance Center, Gateway Lawn Service, Edwardsville Electric, Home Nursery, city of Edwardsville, Joseph Meyer and Associates, Vallow Floor Coverings Inc., RP Lumber Inc., Whirlpool Corporation, Graham Correctional Center, Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors, Eberhart Sign & Lighting Co., Modern Wholesale Supply, Marion Richards, R. W. Richards Ameren, Paul Miller, Bob Matthews and L. J. McCoy.

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 more than 25 homes locally.

Currently, Allison said Habitat is constructing homes in Bond County and Alton, and would love to build another home in Edwardsville.

Moreover, he said Habitat would like to have a Chapter in Edwardsville.

For anyone interested, Habitat for Humanity Edwardsville is having a start-up committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 24 at the Madison Mutual Insurance community room.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).

