

January 8, 2008

Dear Group Leader,

It is time to begin planning and preparing for the future. Many of you are aware that Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis (HFHSL) has a goal of "50 by 15"; which means we will be building 50 houses annually by the year 2015. To reach this goal, we will need your continued support.

This year's build will include 27 houses. However, instead of building all 27 homes in one or two groupings, the houses will be constructed in three "phases" with most phases being 8-10 houses each. Each house phase (again, generally 8-10 houses each) will begin their build with a 4 day blitz, working Wednesday through Saturday. Once the blitz is complete then volunteer responsibilities will stretch over 12 Saturdays until the house is finished.

In 2005, HFHSL adopted the concept of "Dollars for Days", with varying sponsor benefits based on giving levels. The "Dollars for Days" concept ties sponsor contributions, ranging from the \$5,000 Brick Sponsorship to the \$100,000 Neighborhood Sponsorship, directly to benefits which include build days. With this in mind, our financial sponsors get "first choice" of build days throughout our schedule. Once they have chosen their build days we infill with our dedicated groups and individual volunteers to keep the build running efficiently.

We invite each of you out to help make our 2008 JeffVanderLou (JVL) build a success! We will begin scheduling build dates on January 18th. There are a couple of different ways to volunteer. Your group can volunteer during pre-build, Saturdays, 7:50am-4pm. Pre-build will begin on Saturday, March 29, 2008 and continue until all Pre-Build work is complete. Or you can submit your request for a Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday build day. We schedule on a "first come, first schedule basis", once our sponsors are scheduled; but days fill up fast so we recommend getting your request in to our offices as soon as possible! Once HFHSL receives the Group Worksheet we begin the scheduling process. You will be sent an email verification once your day is confirmed. **Until you receive this email, your day is not confirmed.**

Again thank you for your continued support and interest in HFHSL. This year may have a new look but it is a look that will help us move closer to our goal of "50 by 15". This year's build will provide both weekday and weekend group and individual opportunities. Remember we schedule on a "first come, first schedule basis", after our financial sponsors have chosen their days, so get your request in early. Your build day is not verified until you receive an email confirmation from our office. I look forward to hearing from you and as always we are available for any questions.

Thank you for helping Habitat to further its mission of eliminating substandard housing in the Saint Louis area!

Sincerely,

Jacinta Witherspoon
Volunteer Coordinator