

Habitat for Humanity Outreach 2016-17 Annual Report

Submitted by Sandy Simon & Mike Muha (chair)

UUAA has been a very active participant in the “Good News” Habitat for Humanity Huron Valley (HHHV) home projects since 2000 (3 years after the group was started as “The Methodist House”).

Good News is a group of 17 area congregations who pool financial and volunteer resources to build/renovate Habitat for Humanity homes in the Huron Valley area. In 2009 HHHV switched from building new homes to purchasing and rehabilitating foreclosed homes in targeted neighborhoods. This has proved a win-win-win as Habitat puts more tax paying families into more homes, while stabilizing neighborhoods and removing blight.

This UUAA community outreach speaks to all of our Core Values as it addresses housing (no-interest mortgages to families who meet income requirements), racial and gender equality (all races and configurations of families are included), environmental concerns (all houses are energy star rated), UU community building (UUs are always meeting each other while painting together), and very visibly “making a difference in the world”.

Each summer the 17 Good News congregations provide over 1000 volunteer hours to rehab 2 homes purchased by families who have successfully gone through the Habitat for Humanity program of homeowner classes and “sweat equity” volunteer hours.

UUAA remains a major contributor to Good News. We provide over \$7000 of the \$50,000 raised for construction costs and we staff at least 4 work days. UU’s also serve in the Good News leadership – Mike Muha serves as the Good News Treasurer and Sandy Simon chairs the Good News steering committee.

In 2016 we renovated 2 homes on Blossom Avenue in Ypsilanti, now owned by Melodie Tolbert and the Kevin Platte family. In the summer of 2017 we will renovate our 30th and 31st homes on Harvest Lane in Ypsilanti. Our 30th home will be designated “The Whitacre House” in honor of Bob Whitacre, the founder of the Good News Group, who passed away in February, 2017.

Committee Goals:

- We are always trying to offer opportunities to pitch in to more and more UUs!
- Our committee needs additional members to help with organization and sign-ups, so we are starting up efforts to recruit.

Habitat for Humanity Committee-

Mike Muha (chair), Barb Pickett, Fran Lyman, Dorothy Wilson, Sandy Simon

www.uuaa.org/h4h