



Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing

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Jim & Norma Seaton

Christmas Party/Pot Luck Dinner!!!

**It's the Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing
Christmas Party Pot Luck Dinner.**

All the Habitat & Fuller Center families, all volunteers,
and willbe volunteers (that includes you!),
please come join us.

When: December 16th, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.

Where: Mountain View Congregational Church
525 W. Cameron Ave, Kellogg.

It's a day to celebrate Christmas with family and friends!

We will furnish the drinks, plates & utensils.

You furnish a favorite dish, dessert, or rolls.

See you there!

THE 300 CLUB

The 300 Club has always been our financial backbone. It was Norma Seaton's idea (God Bless her). This was back in 1993, before we ever had a newsletter. Judy's first newsletter came out in August of 1993 with the opportunity to join the 300 Club, as it has ever since. Norma figured if we could get 300 people to give \$120 a year (\$10 a month) we could build one house every year. (Yes – we did build homes that inexpensively in the early years.) Since 1993, we have averaged a home every year and we couldn't have done it without our loyal 300 Club members. Of course, we also have and need fundraisers such as *Ride the Wall*, *Dena Mora*, grants, etc., but our steady income is from our 300 Clubbers. It amazes me each time I open those envelopes, returned from the monthly newsletter, containing ten dollars. We have 300 Club members that have been with us since before we were affiliated in October of 1993! We've always felt like giving 300 Club members personal recognition, but have never wanted to put anyone's donation as more special than another's. We need them all, both large and small. In fact, many, if not most, of our 300 Club members have no homes, or homes that are not worth as much as our home owners' homes—even though we keep our homeowner homes small, simple and inexpensive as possible. It's amazing that people who have little, give to low income families who will, because of that gift of time or money, end up financially better off than the giver. **Even though Americans are materialistic they are still givers, and we should always keep that in mind when evaluating our culture.**

With the cost of our new homes being twice what they were in the beginning, at the last Board retreat, I *entreated* more of our Board members to join the 300 Club, and most of them that could afford it, did join. They believe in this cause enough to put in their money, as well as their even more valuable time. Now I am asking that each of you readers consider joining the 300 Club. Especially appropriate would be if more of your home owners and buyers would join. The average value of your homes, we have helped you build, has increased twofold. Your assets are increasing monthly as you pay off your homes, and your payments are less than your rent used to be (which was an expense not an investment). Check to see what rent would cost you now if you didn't have a home. I know many of you donate your time every year supporting our fundraisers. None-the-less, we can use your financial support, too.

See you on the building site (and/or see your check in the mail?)

Verne Blalack
Treasurer,
Construction Supervisor,
Volunteer,
And
DONOR



Becky Stein updates the mailing list before running off the labels for the newsletter.



At the Silver Valley Arts & Craft Fair, Mike Humphrey & Capri Ball sell raffle tickets on the painting by Laney donated by Barbara Canterbury and our "Basket of Plenty" full of contributions from business and individuals.

Great News!

We were delighted to hear from RV Builders Shirley & Richard Harvey, and Bernie & Audrey Ussery. They will be joining us again in June to work with the RV Builders.



Helpers, Carissa Gohl and Penny Welsh, shovel fill into a trench to cover the pipes at the Kriedeman site.

Hope for Haiti

Written by David Snell, President, The Fuller Center for Housing
Submitted On November 01, 2010.

I just got back from Haiti, and it was quite a trip. The Fuller Center for Housing has been on the ground there since last spring and we're starting to see some progress, despite the wide range of challenges that work in Haiti present. We've built 10 houses, six in Leogane and four in Saint Ard. The number looks a little modest until you realize that these are among the only permanent, affordable houses that have been built there since the earthquake.



A finished Fuller Center home in Haiti

There is some temporary housing getting built, but not much of that either. We decided early on that we wouldn't go that route, primarily because too often temporary housing ends up becoming a permanent slum. We've seen temporary housing outlive itself by many years in places like Armenia, Peru and even here on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

I wanted to learn first-hand what it will take for us to ramp up the construction, and we are well poised to do that. The biggest challenge everyone there faces is land. Many, probably most, of the people living in tents today were in rented houses before the quake, which limits our ability to rebuild on the old house site. We don't want to build for a landlord with no control over the rents that could be charged. The good news is that we now have land with clear title in Leogane where we'll be able to build 30 to 50 houses, and the first two houses are going up.

I also visited our partners in Grand Goave, the Cooperative Baptists Fellowship and Conscience International, who are building a very innovative house using rubble encased in wire mesh. This is a system that not only creates a solid home, but helps recycle the mountains of rubble left from the quake. Once the house is erected it's stuccoed inside and out, so the finished product looks just like any other home.



Children stand in front of a home being built with recycled earthquake rubble.

We also have a new site at a place called Balan that is very interesting. We'll be building there with our Salvadoran partners *Homes from the Heart*. You can't find Balan on the map, but it's east of Port-au-Prince just outside of Ganthier on the shore of a saltwater lake called *Étang Saumâtre*. The people there are goatherds and live in daub and wattle houses with thatch roofs. They suffered few immediate effects from the earthquake, but have seen a large number of quake refugees move in creating severe overcrowding of the existing housing stock. The Jesuits have built a primary and secondary school there and are working on a water project that will bring spring water to taps throughout the village. They've also built a guest house that can be used for volunteer housing. You'll be hearing a lot more about Balan as our work in Haiti progresses.

There is great urgency in this. Estimates are that over a million people are living in tent camps, where conditions are pretty grim. The camps are everywhere and will surely become breeding grounds for disease and unrest as time goes by. There is a camp behind the Notre Dame facility in Leogane where I stayed. I was up on the roof one evening overlooking the camp. It was dark and silent except for the kids who were giggling and playing, oblivious to the dire conditions life had put them into. But there is little hope for these kids if they have to spend their childhood in a refugee camp, and their laughter will turn to despair as time goes on.

Despite the overwhelming need and the huge challenges I remain hopeful about Haiti. It is a country in need of the many friends from around the world who have come to its aid. But we need to build the momentum there and do all that we can to help get families into simple, decent homes.

[See The Fuller Center's Web site www.fullercenter.org about volunteering there or elsewhere on a build.]

We thank these businesses for supporting our newsletter.

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Coming Events

Dec 16- Christmas Party/Potluck Dinner, 6:00 P.M.
Mt. View Congregational Church
525 W. Cameron Ave, Kellogg.
Dec 25 -Christmas
Jan 1 - Happy New Year!!!

We are honored to receive these memorials.

*From Verne and Judy Blalack
In Memory of Bob Mellis
And of Lee Stoddard*

*From Pat & Ray Sales
In Memory of Lee Stoddard*

Greater Blessings

We thank Dorothy Walbridge for her donation, and the Sales and Blalacks for designating their contributions to the Greater Blessings Program.



Hermia Crosby, R'Gean Lillibrige, Lois Boje, Chris Rust, Carolyn MacPhee, Janice DeVoe, and Lois White work on mailing the November newsletters. Not shown is Verne Blalack. We were short handed since several of our regular crew were helping with the election. *Photo by Judy*

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO

By Barb Fisher

It's been a while since we have changed our name to the Fuller Center, but I've been surprised to learn that some people don't know that we have changed name, and some know, but don't know what we do. So if you meet someone who is puzzled about what the Fuller Center means, explain to them that we provide *affordable, simple, decent* housing.

Recently our work "crew" has been busy with "Greater Blessings" projects. "Greater Blessings" helps homeowners with extremely limited income, who cannot afford to make repairs on their homes. Donations to "Greater Blessings" provide funds for future projects.

The "Crew" has built a ramp in Osburn for a lady who can't walk; a bathroom in Wallace; got a complete overhaul; a sink and sewer connection were repaired in Pinehurst; a corner of a house was raised in Terror Gulch; assisted a family up Pine Creek who had a house fire; assisted a church remodel their rest room; and installed a shed door in Mullan to stop pilfering.

Besides the "Greater Blessings," Verne noted that the Kriedeman home in Sunny Slopes has begun so that is on the list of "to-do" things for the work "Crew." Also, work is "cut out" for us before next spring even comes as there will be painting of some trailer homes in the Blue Anchor RV Park when the weather warms. Since this is the time of year that you might be thinking about Christmas gifts and making a list, why not include a gift for Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing. It is nice to remember your friends with donations in their names.

Here's Help for SVFCH . . .

- ❖ I'd like to join the "300 Club" and pledge at least \$10 per month for one year. Please note 300 on your check.
- ❖ Here is my pledge for \$ _____ per month for one year.
- ❖ Here is my gift of \$ _____.
- ❖ I have a house and/or land to donate.
- ❖ I can make a no-interest loan for \$ _____. Please call about working out the details.
- ❖ I can provide construction materials either discounted or at no cost.
- ❖ I would like to help with construction and/or committee work. Please call me to help or send a volunteer form.

I do not wish to be on your mailing list.
 I do not wish a receipt or thank-you.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return to Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Inc. ♦ P.O. Box 874, Kellogg, ID 83837 ♦ 786-6013



Dale Jacobs uses 2 Hyster to settle a very long load of lumber donated by Kellogg Lumber Co. onto Verne's ¾-ton pickup, "Old Blue".
Photo by Judy



Verne figured it weighed about 1500 pounds and was uneasy with so much sticking out the back, so he crept home at 30 mph.
Photo by Judy

You are invited to our annual
Christmas Party/Pot Luck Dinner
December 16th, 2010.
See inside for details!



Darnell Kriedeman & Verne Blalack shovel in the trenches at the Kriedeman site.
Photo by Carolyn MacPhee

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