



May 2020 be a fantastic year for everyone!

Construction Update

Construction on the house we purchased in Smeltonville continues with removing insulation so the black mold can be eliminated; re-insulating; replacing windows; fixing the water system; etc. It will be awhile before it is ready.

If you would like to help with this, please call Tami at 208-512-1997 to volunteer.

Please remember if you are looking for employment or are a student looking for scholarships, helping with non-profits looks good on your resumes. Be sure to have your hours verified on site.



Fuller Center Board Members enjoyed a nice variety of dishes at their annual Christmas potluck. Shown above are Verne Blalack, guest Norm Little, Duane Little, John Boy Delaney, Tami Atkins, Tammy Spears, Gwyneth Faye, Norm Holtz, and Ellie Arquimbau.

Photo by Judy

Time to Retire

I have tried to retire several times, but this time it is imperative. I simply cannot keep up with duties at home and with this organization. Verne and I have been full time volunteers since March of 1993 and served on the steering committee before we became affiliated with Habitat for Humanity. I started producing this monthly newsletter in August 1993 and we were officially welcomed as a Habitat affiliate in October.

Verne accepted the duty of being a construction supervisor—reading all the regulations at night before advising the volunteers on how to continue the next day.

We succeeded! The families applied, were accepted and supported by the family selection and family partnership committees, earning their sweat equity before buying their homes with a no interest loan. Our first families have paid off their homes—becoming integral parts of our valley's social and tax structure.

Children have matured, doing well in a safe environment. We had a valedictorian and other scholars who have continued earning college degrees. I am so delighted to have been able to help.

However, now comes the time to refocus on our own situation. We are trying to downsize our 45 years collection of living in our Cataldo home. We expect to move to a smaller space this year since Verne is fighting dementia and I cannot keep up with the house & yard.

So we will be leaving the Board of Directors in May after my 80th birthday. I will mentor those willing to accept any of the various hats I have worn during these 27 years. I hope to be able to continue with the newsletter but would like to have a volunteer accept that role as well.

Sincerely, Judy Blalack

* * *

A message from The Fuller Center for Housing International's president:

All of us here wish you and yours a happy, prosperous New Year! May the good Lord continue to shower His blessings on The Fuller Center and all who so faithfully support this ministry.

In faith,
David Snell
President & Co-Founder
The Fuller Center for Housing

* * *

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees: But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:24-25

John Hopper Gives a Quarter of a Century

By Brian R. Lee

A quarter of a century ago heavy equipment operator John Hopper made a decision to volunteer some time for Fuller Center in the Silver Valley. And, he has since become a major part of this significant charitable organization.

When he started helping out in 1994, it was known as Habitat for Humanity. It just seemed natural to offer his assistance because he owns an excavating company and was already clearing land, digging footings, preparing foundations and digging trenches for water and sewer lines. When he learned he could extend that same work to help people who couldn't otherwise afford their own housing, he was all in.

"I saw where they needed help," Hopper said of Fuller Center. "They're always short on volunteers."

A hand on a shovel soon led to other duties. Once he saw the good that was being done, he has since expanded his services to include filling a term on the board of directors on more than one occasion.

"I like working with all the people associated with it," he said.

He said he has made many new friends, from the board members to the bicyclists who turn out to support that annual event known as Ride The Wall. As various fund-raising events are held each year, he keeps making more new friends.

"I don't usually know any of them when they come" to ride in the bicycle tour, Hopper said, "but I sure know them when they leave."

There is so much to gain from volunteering for Fuller Center, he noted. He likes being part of the construction work and seeing homes become available for folks who need them. He said he also enjoys seeing the joy and gratitude of the new home owners as they see a dream become a reality when they move in.

As a licensed realtor, he said he knows how difficult it can be for some people to qualify for a mortgage to purchase a house. And as the value and prices of properties in the Silver Valley have risen recently, that only becomes more difficult. It is not only more difficult for low-income people to purchase a house, but also is increasingly more difficult for an organization dependent on donations to buy property for volunteers to fix up for habitation.

Hopper uses his realty credentials to help Fuller Center purchase property to build or renovate a house. He was involved just recently in making an offer on a house in Smeltonville and completing the sale. He will next become involved in any excavation work that might be needed on that property as other volunteers do other construction necessary.

"I just want to help people," Hopper said.



John Hopper uncovers pipes with his trackhoe at our 2005 site on C St. in Pinehurst. We partnered with Lutherhaven and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans on this build. Thrivent financed the foundation and walls. The walls were erected at Lutherhaven, and youth there painted the outsides. When the walls were delivered, they fit together within one inch!



John uses his equipment to move Krista Kirby's new home into place.

Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing's Impact on the Silver Valley

Low Income Family Home Construction (1/4 to 1/2 median income)

- ❖ 22 homes completed—families now paying taxes and becoming an integral part of our communities
- ❖ Footings poured for another home at Sunny Slopes.

Greater Blessings Program

- ❖ Have completed 43 repairs; have 1 to complete--doing small home repairs for those in need. Homeowners to repay our expenses when they can.
[Most have repaid in full. ☺]

ReNew Program

- ❖ Starting work on a home in Smeltonville for our next homeowner.

Providing opportunities for visitors to discover our area—thus becoming our ambassadors elsewhere.

- ❖ Hoping to host RV Builders next June—we still hear and receive donations from our first helpers in 1994 and from others since then! ☺ Many RVers return.
- ❖ “*Ride the Wall*” attracts many riders from N. ID, Wash., & some other states.
- ❖ Youth Servant Adventurers from Shoshone Mountain Retreat come every year.
- ❖ Fuller Center Bicycle Adventurers stop on their rides across the US. They worked on 6 projects when here in 2019. Returning in 2020.

Education *** We provide instruction! ***

- ❖ We spend parts of 7 or 8 weeks each summer working with youth from the Shoshone Mt. Retreat on our construction sites. [Since we now are doing “Greater Blessings Projects” we have more sites.]
- ❖ We have hosted various schools, NIC, & U of I groups.
- ❖ We work with “Community Service” people needing to put in their hours.
- ❖ We are willing to train volunteers who come to the work site.
- ❖ We train our families how to become good homeowners—legal issues; repair; & especially in budgeting.

Publicity

- ❖ We try to keep the public informed through our monthly “*Silver Bulletin*”—mailing about 1300, handing out over 300 and emailing almost 300.
- ❖ We have a web site www.svfch.org
- ❖ The News Press holds interviews and publishes notices.

❖ *We thank these businesses for supporting our newsletter.*

Wishing Everyone
A Very Happy New Year
for All of 2020

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Thank You, December Donors

Your gifts are like nice hugs.

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Grace Evangelical Free Church Missions, Edith Helfer, Norm Holtz, Ilene Huber, Jackie Kannegaard, Tina Knoll, Jacques & Jan Lemieux, Pat Lunsford, Daniel McGee, Paulette Ross, Jim & Norma Seaton, Silver Valley Tire, Gary Stanley, Marie Visintainer, Winnie Williams, Bob & Laura Williamson, John & Laurie Wilson, Necia Wright

Greater Blessings Fund

Ellie Arguimbau, Kay Baker, Judy & Verne Blalack, Debra Bornitz, Diana Burbridge, Scherry Colhoff, Melody Darg, Andrew Dawson, John Delaney, Denise Durham,

Jessica Hayes, Kevin Hutching, Darnell Kriedeman, Christina & Josh Mace, Kathleen McCabe, Daina Oliver, Amethyst Pelham, Teresa Wenzel, Joan Zanetti



It was a cold day outside for our December mailing workshop but fun stories and fellowship warmed us up. Pictured here are Janice DeVoe, Norm Holtz, Verne Blalack, Ellie Arguimbau, Tammy Spears, Jill Jackson, Carol Young, Gwyneth Faye, Dominic Mitchell, John Boy Delaney, Heidi Mitchell, and Patti Houchin.

Come join us on the 1st Tuesdays of the month—

9 AM, St. Rita's Parish Hall, 25 Kellogg Ave., Kellogg.

Call Judy 208-682-3240 for more info.

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.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return to Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Inc. P.O. Box 338, Smeltonville, ID 83868 ☐ 786-6013

Coming Events

Jan 14—Board and Committee Meetings, 6 PM, Mountain View Congregational Church, 525 W. Cameron, Kellogg

Board Elections

[Editor's note: Our Treasurer Tami left early for her vacation. So if your gift is not here, it will be listed in February's Silver Bulletin.]

We are honored to receive these memorials.

From Jim and Kay Calkins

In memory of Bud and Patti Montgomery

And of Dave Frampton

From Marianna Groth

In memory of Rena Murphy

From Robert Helmick

In memory of Dan and Rena Murphy

From Verne and Judy Blalack

In memory of Dorothy Miller

From Marbie Higbee

In Memory of Glenn Higbee

And of Bud Montgomery

From Doug and Aleta Pottenger

In Memory of Denver Thomas Loupe and

Ferne Kemp Loupe

And of Johnny Wood

And of Baby Cameron



We thank Hecla Lucky Friday for their support every year.





Together with Norm Holtz, I finally caught Mayor Mac Pooler for a photo at the “Building Blocks” presentation sponsored by the EPA for the Kellogg Community. Mac has supported our organization for years, serving as the welcoming speaker at our annual Walk-A-Thon and helping with the use of the Scout House when the Bikers stay.



I, Judy, was fortunate to be able to deliver funds from the Canyon Ladies Pinochle Club to food banks held in churches in Pinehurst, Smeltonville, and Osburn as well as 2nd Harvest in Kellogg. Funds were also taken to Harrison.

Above, Mike Siedschlag, food bank coordinator, Pastor Nick and Janet Hoffman of the Grace Evangelical Free Church accept their donation. This church has elected to sponsor our efforts as their local outreach ministry. ☺

The Canyon Ladies Pinochle Club was started in the 1930’s by 4 ladies from the Canyon/Rose Lake area with the purpose to quilt, make craft items, etc., to sell and use the money to aid needy children.

Today our members come from Kellogg, Cataldo, Medimont, Coeur d’Alene, and even Spokane. We meet every other Thursday each month for cards and friendship. With our yearly dues plus meeting fees, we feel blessed to be able to aid organizations like the food banks, backpack program, donating supplies to elementary schools, and helping the Fuller Center.



WISH LIST

Committee Members (especially for family selection and family partnership)

Board Members from Cataldo, Wallace, & Mullan

Newsletter Assistant

Construction Volunteers and onsite Supervisors

PR Chair

Data Entry Volunteer

Grant Writer Volunteer

Call Judy at 208-682-3240 to volunteer.

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