



Due to COVID, there were only 5 board members and 2 guests at the abbreviated annual retreat. Pictured here are Ellie Arguimbau, Norm Holtz, Clint Kunze (guest), John Boy Delaney, Tami Atkins, and Bob Whitman.

Photo by Judy Blalack

A Message From Our New President

Hello Silver Valley residents and all those who are reading our newsletter. We at the Fuller Center for Housing hope you enjoyed a wonderful Easter weekend and are also enjoying this spring weather now that the winds have subsided.

As you may know we were formerly the Silver Valley Habitat for Humanity. We now have fewer restrictions to do the work that is sorely needed.

We would like to offer the opportunity and privilege of helping to provide adequate housing for those people who are not as fortunate as most of ourselves. This work of love is a very rewarding experience and we are more than happy to provide more information to all interested people.

For more information, please call Judy Blalack at 208-682-3240 as she has a wealth of knowledge concerning the Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing.

We are hoping that 2021 will be a great year for our valley and much more can be accomplished with the help of our talented and caring citizens. God bless you and yours.

Bob Whitman, President



He Has Risen!



After the discussion at the board retreat about our property we have available for construction, I drove Bob Whitman, Norm Holtz, and John Delaney to see what we have in Sunny Slopes, Polaris, and Mullan. Instead of getting a photo of the fellows measuring the foundation on one of the lots in Sunny Slopes, my focus was on maps and house plans. But, John Boy did get a shot of the visitors above.

The Board Retreat

There was much discussion during the retreat on where to focus our efforts this year. Clint Kunze shared the dates when the youth groups will be arriving at Shoshone Mt. Retreat to help with projects in the Silver Valley.

In addition to Greater Blessings projects, SVFCH hopes to recruit volunteers to finish the home started years ago on Sunny Slopes. If feasible, we would be able to sell it to new low-income homeowners who need a 2-bedroom home. Hopefully, COVID will be under control enough to invite the RVers to help as they did in past years.

We do have two Greater Blessings projects lined up in Wallace and can get started when the snow is gone, etc.

For information and applications for homeownership and Greater Blessings help go to www.svfch.org.



This is Donna Marquez's leaking roof. We hope to start fixing it soon after the snow melts and it dries out.

Photo by Judy

We are continuing the report of our very first home with the Lane family in this issue—see inside. ☺

MAKE A DIFFERENCE VOLUNTEER DAY IS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thirty-some volunteers “made a difference” to the Lane family of the Silver Valley in North Idaho. Because of the October 22 “MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY” this low-income family of five, Lisa & Robert and their three children, will have a house to call home by the Holidays. They are presently living in a 23 foot travel trailer on the building site. Their old home, which started as a chicken coop some years ago, was torn down to build the new one.

The new house had the basic framing of foundation, exterior and interior walls, and roof installed. The wiring, plumbing and heating were nearly complete, but it looked like the work would not be finished by the Holidays.

The Lane's house was at the point where things were moving rather slow due to the opening of hunting season. Our area with an average unemployment rate of 20% the last 3 years has been depressed since the Bunker Hill Smelter and mines closed down eliminating 2,000 jobs in the Silver



Valley. Many families depend on elk, deer and bear to fill their freezer. Gladys Trecker, a friend of the Lane family, saw the situation. The article in the USA WEEKEND about the “MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY” coming up the next weekend inspired her to act. She worked with the SVHfH Board and the various committees to get the ball rolling for a blitz-type work day to “make a difference.” She and the committee called over 150 people to get the team in place.

First it was necessary to complete more of the electrical system so it could pass inspection before being covered up.. Dan Reardon from Crown Electric spent many evenings after hours to have it ready. Joe Jenicek donated his labor and backhoe to dig the power trench so Washington Water Power could connect the electricity. The inspectors came Friday so all was set for Saturday's work party.



Because of Gladys' efforts, over thirty volunteers were involved for the October 22 event. They started early with the building supervisor, Jim Shadle, saying the opening prayer.

Volunteer electrician, Dan Reardon, and heating expert, Jeff Crawford, worked just ahead of other volunteers with staple guns who were putting in the insulation. They were followed by the volunteer sheetrockers who installed most of the ceilings and the upstairs walls. Steve Bourgard and his crew came in to hang siding on one outside wall. At noon a team of ladies, The Catholic Daughters, from the local St. Rita's Catholic Church brought up sandwiches, salads, beverages, etc., for everyone's lunch.

The workers who signed in are Gladys Trecker, Bob Trecker, Jim Shadle, Jeff Crawford, Nadyne Heglund, Steuart Russell, Bob Lane, Lisa Lane, Ernie Hansen, Bill Bunton, Tom Stanghill, Nancy A Hardy, Dale Rohwer, Moe Pellissier, Joyce Pellissier, Steve Bourgard, Mike Smiley, Carl Kellar, Martin



Stark, Dorothy Klein, Barbara Miller, Ed Miller, Dan Reardon, Robert Lane, David Lane, Frank Gitter and Harold Anderson. Others dropped by for short periods.

The weather was beautiful, the fellowship was wonderful, and the Lane's are much encouraged about getting into their home by the Holidays, thanks to the MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY incentive.



[Editor's note: Sadly the weather and clay soil did not allow the house to be finished until spring.]



Electrician, Dan Reardon, walks past the windows sold to us at an incredible discount and installed free by Shoshone Glass and doors donated by Kellogg Lumber Co.



Nancy Hardy and Gladys Trecker don their masks before installing insulation during "Make a Difference Day"

[Editor's note: This article is a composite of notes taken by Gladys Trecker, Betty Belisle, and Norma Seaton. All the pictures are Bill Bunton's. Had we been here, Verne & I would have enjoyed being a part of this special day. It was great to see how much was accomplished during our absence
Judy]

WE HAD NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR OUR EFFORTS IN MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Wow! Hope you all had a chance to see the articles April 22 & 23 in the Shoshone-News Press and the North Idaho Sunday, USA WEEKEND about our *MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY* efforts.

Although we were not selected to receive any cash prizes, we were one of the two groups in Idaho who were awarded certificates for our entries.

Gladys Trecker inspired our volunteers to enter the contest and after coordinating others to contact approximately 150 people, more than 30 showed up to help.



HOME DEDICATION

By Lois Shadle

"I'm standing here wondering if it is all real," Lisa Lane homemaker and mother of three lovely children said, as she looked at the Silver Valley Habitat for Humanity home in Kingston, Saturday, May 20. Her husband, Bob, was busy putting up a canopy over the refreshment table—working right up to the last minute before they would be handed the keys to their brand new home. Then just as the ceremony started, he left on a cardiac arrest call serving as a volunteer EMT.

Norma Seaton, president of the local affiliate, opened the dedication with a few words of thanks and encouragement to both the builders and the new owners after which, Lois Shadle, vice president, introduced the SVHfH Board of Directors and the Advisory Council. Father George King and Sr. Petronilla Lieser, who were instrumental in starting our local affiliate in 1992, traveled from Orofino for the occasion. Fr. King led the dedication ceremony, presented Lisa with a Bible, and blessed the new home. Amy Fink sang *Bless this House*, and several of the crowd had a tear of happiness in their eye by this time. Following the presentation of the key to the new homeowners, those attending were led on a tour of the new house.

Bob, Lisa and their three children, Robert, David and Elizabeth assisted in every phase of building their home. They dug, hammered, painted, sawed, climbed and crawled under.



Construction Supervisor, Verne Blalack, congratulates Lisa and her family and gives special recognition to Steve Bourgard and his crew for their help with the roof and siding.

As the old house they lived in was demolished to make way for the new home, they moved into a small camp trailer on the site last spring. When cold weather came and pipes froze, Lisa's mother, Dorothy Klein, opened her home to them so they could be warm during the cold winter months.

The Lane's mortgage payments will be about \$175 a month. The payment will include the property taxes. They will carry their own insurance.


Habitat works with low income families to build decent housing that would otherwise be unaffordable. Habitat's reliance upon volunteer labor and donated materials significantly lowers costs for the new home owners. They charge no interest and make no profit on the homes.

Everyone works very hard to build a house, and its dedication is always an emotional occasion for both the family and the Habitat Volunteers. Come join us on our next project and be up-lifted with us.

We thank these businesses for supporting our newsletter.

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Our hopes rise for a great year with the crocus and rising temperatures.

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We are honored to receive these memorials.

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

*From Alana Reynolds
 In Memory of Alan Buckley*

*From Judy & Verne Blalack
 In Memory of Beverly Kamstra*

Greater Blessings Fund

Judy & Verne Blalack, Diana Burbridge, Andrew Dawson, Josephine Davis, and Christina & Josh Mace



Following our excursion up the Valley to look at SVFCH property and some completed projects, the group (John Boy, Bob, Judy & Norm) had a nice lunch at Brooks where the staff wear masks and the tables are spaced apart.

Calendar of Events

Apr 13—Board & Committee meetings, **6 PM**, Mountain View Congregational Church, Kellogg

May 9—Mother’s Day

Jun 20—Father’s Day

Jun 21—Ride the Wall, Snake Pit, Enaville, Kingston

We are hoping to be able to hold our annual “Ride the Wall” on the longest day of the year, June 21, as usual. We will post it on the web and here and try to get the word to everyone as soon as possible. Put it on your calendar. 😊



With three of our usual helpers gone, we felt fortunate to have Patti Houchin and Penny Michael assist with the March mailing. Above are John Boy, Patti, Verne, Judy, and Ellie.
Photo by Penny Michael

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 338, Smeltonville, ID 83868 ☐☐208-682-3240

Again we are featuring the Lane Family in this issue.

As you can tell from the accounts of our early homes, it really takes a community effort for non-profits like SVFCH to function. Just doing a little of the Wish List at the right will truly help. Please offer your help with any board member, President Bob Whitman, Vice President John Boy Delaney, Secretary Ellie Arguimbau, Treasurer Tami Atkins, Directors: John Hopper, Kathy McPeak, Norm Holtz, and Duane Little. Or call me, Judy Blalack at 208-682-3240.

We need the donation of a “Fix-It-Upper” or a generous discounted sale so a low-income family can afford a no-interest mortgage. Such a donation or discount counts on your taxes. Call Duane Little at 208-786-7572 or Tami Atkins at 208 512-1997 if you have such property.

A renovated home may not generate the excitement of erecting a first wall on a new home, but generally it is more economically to prepare them for a family—thus making our efforts include more homes & families housed.

We do have property for a new home. We would like to be able to do both. If we can afford the materials, fees, etc., with your help, we can.

A volunteer construction supervisor could be someone retired from the building scene but cannot put in the physical labor, or someone like Verne at our first site, the Lane home. He studied the building code book and a “how to” book every night and told the Care-A-Vanners what to do the next day.



WISH LIST

For Construction: Construction Supervisors, Material Procurers, Go-Fers, and Onsite Volunteer Workers

Hospitality Coordinator—For Refreshments when crews are working; liaison with out of town volunteers for lodging, food, and entertainment guidance (our great outdoors, 6th Street Melodrama, Old Mission, etc.)

Volunteer Coordinator

Media

Newsletter Assistants—help with layout, write interviews and articles, take photos

Web designer

Facebook designer

Newspress Corespondents—letters to the editor; photos of events

Committee Members—Family Selection; Finance; Family Partnership; Family Sponsor; Construction; Church Relations; PR; Fund Raising; Site Selection

Board Members—Some from Wallace, Silverton, Mullan, Smeltonville, Cataldo, and Kingston

We would like to reach Christie Derbyshire. It will be to her advantage. Please let Tami Atkins know how to reach her at 208-512-1997.