



Catch^{the} Building Spirit
NEWSLETTER
 Catholics Building Together!
 CATHOLICS AND PRESBYTERIANS BUILDING TOGETHER

The Origins of Catch the Building Spirit

If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.—Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 10

On reaching any milestone it is often good to look back at where you have been to fully appreciate your accomplishments. And so it is with Catch The Building Spirit's tenth house built with the help of our Presbyterian friends.

The seeds of our effort were planted in the "Housing Now" movement of 1989. Several members of Catch the Building Spirit educated themselves on the need for affordable housing and participated in the march on Washington D.C. Most of this

activity was an outgrowth of the Archdiocese's Social Action Office.

The inspiration for actually tackling a house came from Xavier Monasterio, a member of St. Charles, who was moved by the homelessness he saw in Mexico. Xavier brought his idea to take action locally to a quarterly Community Affairs meeting of the Social Action Office (probably in 1991). A committee of like-minded individuals fleshed out the idea, formed mission statements and bylaws, and started fund-raising and recruiting.

Seventeen Catholic parishes came together to fund and build the first house. It was a rehab on Hoch Street in partnership with the St. Mary's Development Corporation, which was completed in 1993. A steep learning curve with this project led us to seek a more hands-on partner. Dayton Habitat was the obvious choice and over the years they have proven to be a big part of any success we have had.

Our second house was a new

See **Origins**, page 5

House Dedication Celebrated

For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.—Hebrews 3:4

It was another beautiful day for the dedication of Erin Bell's house at 3207 Forest Grove Avenue on Saturday, September 13, 2003. There was a good crowd ready to hear Fr. Manning bless the house that Erin and her daughter would be moving into.

The house leaders led by John Ewers and Frank Gorman from Habitat thanked God for the success of the house build. They thanked all the volunteers and those that provided financial support and made it possible to build the house for Erin Bell and her daughter Alana. Erin Bell also



See **Dedication**, page 6

Erin Bell and daughter Alana

Dan Patterson Speaks at House Dedication

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.—Isaiah 58:11

The dedication of Erin Bell's house on 3207 Forest Grove Avenue was a time for celebration. Not only because another house for a deserving family was completed, but because Catch the Building Spirit/Catholic, in partnership with our Presbyterian friends and Dayton Habitat, was celebrating its tenth year of building quality houses for people in need. We all thanked God and the many people that made the successful completion of the house possible. Erin Bell also thanked everyone that helped to build her beautiful house.

The success of the house build could not happen without the dedication of our donors, volunteers and our in-kind donors. Dan Patterson of Korrekt Plumbing Company expresses best why people get involved. Here is his story in his own words.

I'm Dan Patterson, second-generation manager of Korrekt Plumbing. We've been in the plumbing business in Dayton over 50 years, since 1950. I appreciate the opportunity to be here and to be a part of this dedication today. This morning I'm here not only representing the 33 employees of



People gather to celebrate the dedication of the new house.

Korrekt Plumbing, but also on behalf of the many other companies and individuals supporting Habitat for Humanity with "in-kind" support. Actually, in-kind support means that John Ewers calls on the phone and says, "Dan, we're doing another house again this year," and I say, "OK, John, let me know when the foundation is up." It's been a wonderful experience, and I've appreciated learning to know John and building a friendship.

We have been involved with Dayton Ohio Habitat since the early years. We have appreciated the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with people like John and Frank and many others who have helped guide Habitat through the years.

As I told our employees at our annual Profit Sharing meeting last year, being a part of Korrekt Plumbing is more than just doing work, getting paid and pleasing customers. It's also a place where each of them can feel like they are a part of community support.

As most businesses, we have more opportunities to give support than we can ever do, but giving back to the community, or more specifically expressing our faith, recognizing what God has first done for us through Christ, is a part of who we are.

Over lunch, John and I talked about my sharing this morning and about the reasons why we continue to partner with Habitat. As I thought about that question, I concluded that my desire is two fold: 1) To honor Christ in doing plumbing and 2) To allow others to see Korrekt Plumbing



Dan Patterson of Korrekt Plumbing addresses those gathered at the house dedication.

in a light that might not always be so evident. In business, faith and work mix like no other place. Decisions aren't always easy—appreciation and encouragement and thank you sometimes go unsaid.

Today, in this celebration and dedication, those of us in that "in-kind" category want to say that we value the work you do and want to encourage and thank the many, many volunteers who make houses like this possible.

Two things in my life have recently given me a good perspective on my life. One is reading Rick Warren's book The Purpose Driven Life in which it begins with four of the most powerful words, "It's not about me." God has a plan way beyond what I can imagine. Lord, help me find it! Second, words from my wife's sixth grade teacher, Bob Anderson, a man full of wisdom and encouragement. His words were, "It's not unlike God to prepare us for 15 years for 5 minutes work." Lord, help me to be ready.

John, call me again next year.

Thank You and Congratulations to Our Supporters

For more information about Catch the Building Spirit or to make a contribution or volunteer your time, please call the Catholic Social Action Office at 224-3026 or the Presbyterian House Build at Dayton Habitat for Humanity at 586-0860.

If for some reason your name was inadvertently missed, we apologize. Please notify the Social Action Office at 224-3026 so a correction can be made. Thank you.

* IMO denotes In Memory of and IHO denotes In Honor of.

Business Sponsors

A-Abel Exterminating
Becker Electric
Bryan Habegger
Carr Supply
Central Electric
City of Dayton
Dave Krichbaum
Dow Corning
Ernst Concrete
Frank Detmer & Sons
H Jergens Excavation
Hillpoint Mechanical
Hunter Douglas
Knollwood Nursery
Korreck Plumbing
Larson Doors
LeFarge Corp
Marshall Home Remodeling
Nu-Tone
Pickrel Bros. Inc.
Queen City Drywall
Sawdust Construction
Square D
Vectren
Whirlpool Corp.
Yale Industries, Inc.

Presbyterian Church Sponsors

Central Presbyterian Church
College Hill Presbyterian Church
Corinth Presbyterian Church
Fairmont Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church
Heritage Presbyterian Church
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Southminster Presbyterian Church
Trinity United Church of Christ
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Participating Catholic Churches and Organizations

St. Adalbert Parish
St. Albert the Great Parish
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Ascension Parish
St. Brigid Parish
Catholic Social Action Office
St. Charles Parish
St. Christopher Parish
Corpus Christi Parish
Emmanuel Parish
St. Francis of Assisi Parish
St. Helen Parish
St. Henry Parish
Holy Angels Parish
Holy Trinity Parish

Immaculate Conception Parish
Incarnation Parish
St. Joseph Parish
St. Leonard Faith Community
Lincoln Park Catholic Community
St. Luke Parish
Marianist Community
Our Lady of Mercy Parish
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Queen of Apostles Parish
Queen of Martyrs Parish
St. Peter Parish
Precious Blood Parish
St. Rita Parish
Society Precious Blood

Prayer Leaders

Rev. David Douthett
Rev. Mr. Richard Janowiecki
Rev. David Jongewaard
Gloria Leigh
Rev. Mr. Ralph O'Brien
Rev. Robert Smith
Mary Wlodarski

Meal Providers

Krispy Kreme
Kroger
Meijer

Contributors & Volunteers

Howard Ackerman
Michael & Susan Adkins
Ryan & Nora Ake
Elaine Allison
Mark Allison
Rev. Angelo Anthony
Ben Anthony
Mark Anthony
Eugene Arnold
Thomas & Kathleen Arquilla
Abby Bacon
Shelia Badger
Anna Balduf
Michael Bartlett
Michael & Christine Bartz
Valerie Bassett
Michael Battaglia
Larry & Noel Bauer
Ernst Baumgartner
Henry & Sarah Baust
Jim Bayer
Oliver Beardmore
Phil & Lisa Becker
Hans & Irmgard Behringer
Randy Bellinger
Steve Belliveau

John Belt
Paul & Michele Bendik
Frank Bendrick
Stephen & Linda Bermick
Cindy Bertleff
Bill Beyer
John & Susan Bieber
Don & Lois Bigler
Nicholas Bisaha
Ted & Irita Black
Richard & Giambone Blackstone
Eddy & Elizabeth Blankenship
Robert & Lisa Blommel
Rod Bluhm
Chris Bohmer Stewart
William & Mary Borger
Arlene Bottenfield
Karen Bowden
Lynn Bowling
Harry & Barbara Bradbury
Mark & Cheryl Bradley
Daniel & Jeri Lynn Braunlin
Ethel Braunlin
Betty Brecht
Tyler Breene
John & Julia Brill
Virginia Brockman
Cheryl Brockwer
Thomas & Lynn Broderick
Greg & Sonya Brooks
Darlene Brookshire
Betty Brown
Donna Brown
Nadine Broz
Cathy Brunner
Frances Bruns
Dianne Brush
Lee Buch
Barry Buckingham
Keith & Carol Bussey
Gary & Teresa Buttelerwerth
Marvin & Carol Cahill
Joe Camillus
Emily Camm
Matt Camm
Peter Camm
Michael & Nancy Carner
Yvonne Carranza
James & Lucille Carroll
Wanda Carton
Michael & Dianne Chanatry
Jerry Charles
David & Andrea Chockey
Dick Ciesa
Fred Clark
Gertrude Clemens
Karen Clute
Brent Cobb
David & Helena Cook
Mike Corbett

Amy Corrado
Jerry & Mary Cozart
Nick Crnkovich
Maureen Crossman
Joseph & Mary Jo Csizma
Michael Daley
Gerry & Susan Daly
Jon & Deb Danner
Rosemary Dannin
Stacey Dean
Jack Deckler
John-Paul Deddens
Dave Deger
Harry & Anita Delaney
Walter & Bea Delph
Frank Dendnell
James & Jean Desch
Martin, Terese & Patrick Desimio
Joyce Detzel
Wietze Devries
Peter & Paula DiSalvo
Barbara Dierkers
Geraldine Dietrich
Larry & Maria Diloreto
Matthew Dolan
Joseph & Elizabeth Donovan
David Douthett
David, Kate & Benton Dosky
Don Drake
Mike Drake
Bill & Amy Draugelis
R.E. Duffin
Patick & Catherine Duffy
Roger & Rebecca Duffy
Laura Duncan
Bob Eakins
Ron Earhart
Bill & Gail Earman
Phyllis Edsall
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Eifert
Ken & Karen Eizenga
Julia Ellert
John & Chris Ellis
Gary & Becky Engelhard
Kenneth & Kathleen Enneking
Elwood Ensor
Janet Erhart
Chuck Etienne
Roger & Pauline Everman
Carl Evers
John & Paula Ewers
Michael & Deanna Ewers
Mary Ellen Fargey
Kevin & Katherine Fennwald
Elizabeth Ferryman
Jenny Fiden
Gerry Fish
Drew, Dustin & Naomi Fisher
Dwayne Fisher
Paul & Katherine Fleitz

Thank You and Congratulations to Our Supporters

Norm & Lucette Fogel
Lois Foley-Hunter
David Forrai
William & Margie Forsthoefel
Robie & Jane Fortener
Albert & Nancy Fratini
Lindsay Freels
Rose Freson
Freund, Freeze & Arnold
Tom & Eric Frey
Karen Freyvogel
Linda Fung
Marianne Garcher
Martin & Connie Gardoqui
Gregory & Joyce Garrett
Paul & Sarah Garrigan
Charles Gausling, SM
Marge Gentis
William & Katherine Gerdes
Fred & Mary Sue Gilbert
Clarence Giuliani
Matthew & Carol Gottschall
Erick Goubeaux
Walt & Alma Grady
Jeff & Susan Graham
Thomas & Mary Ellen Graham
Ryan & Tyler Greene
Douglas & Angela Grillo
Charles & Susan Gross
Patricia Gruber
William & Marilyn Grunenwald
Julia Guilbert
Chris & Hannah Gulliford
Joseph & Mary Gural
Richard & Barbara Haas
James & Frances Hageman
Brian & Kathryn Hagerty
Jacob Hall
Jeff, Joanne & Stacy Hall
Mary Hallinan
Robert Hallisy
Gary Hamilton
James & Lisa Harlan
Christopher & Mary Harrison
Brian Harrold
Brandon & Carrie Hartley
Nancy Harvey
Brian Hausfeld
Eric Hausfeld
John Haviland
Greg & Kathy Hawk
Michael & Lisa Hayes
Terry & Kathy Heizer
George & Helen Hemker
Tammy Hemmerle
Brian Henties
Joseph & Caroline Herlihy
Thomas Herringer
Thomas Hesse
Janet Hickey
F Jack & Birdie Hilbing
Marietta & Alice Hilt
Jo Hinker
Neal Hinker
Ronald & Jacquelyn Hittle
Christine Hnatt
Tricia Hoffa
Kelly & Lauren Hoffman
Susie Hogue
Leo & Jeanne Holihan

Charles & Kathlyn Hollopeter
David & Michelle Homan
Howard & Kathleen Honious
Joseph & Prudence Hopkins
Mark Hornbostel
Todd, Diane & Pat Householder
Bill Houze
Charles & Martha Hoying
Vern Humbert
Mark & Catherine Hume
David & Dan Hundt
Dwight & Jim Hunter
Rick & Susie Iacobucci
Elizabeth Ireland
Ellen Ireland
Bill Ireton
Eileen Jackson
Thomas & Healy Jackson
Brian Janess
John & Dolores Janning
Richard & Mary Ann Janowiecki
Jacob & Bonnie Jansheski
Steve & Marie Jenkins
Roger Jette
William Jividen
Bibiana Johnson
Bert Jones
Philip Kallenberg
Kathleen Kammer
J. Eugene & Irene Kangas
David Kanyuch
Wilma Karl
Connie Kearns
David Keenan
Mel Kelley
Peggy Kemp
Patti Kemper
Elizabeth Kendig
Jill Keyes
Carl Kienzle
Robert Kiesel
Bob & Rita Kinderman
Jean King
Chuck Kinter
Jim Knox
Mary Koehler
Ronald Koesters
Gene & Ruth Koop
Sue Koverman
Marianne Kramer
William & Marguerite Krein
Dave & Sue Krichbaum
Joyce Krueger
John & Carolyn Krug
Charles & Carolyn Kruse
Joe Kubrak
John & Denise Kuenzer
Peter & Marjorie Kuntz
Joe Lambricht
Harold & Patricia Lammert
Chuck Landreville
Gerald Lang
Judy LaRue
EW & Edlud Lauderback
G Wm & Jacqueline Lawless
Harold Leahy
Dick Lehman
Dick & Barb Leibold
Gloria Leigh
Jim Levy

Dwight Lewis
David & Elaine Lewis
Gregory & Melissa Logan
Frank Loiacono
Steve & Pam Lubbers
Kurt Ludwig
Brian Lunne
Lou Lunne
Robert & Loretto Luppino
Kevin Lyons
Dick Macaulay
Amy MacClennan
Joyce Mackintosh
Timothy & Cheryl Magoto
William & Sheryl Magro
Eileen Maloney
Patrick Maloney
Rev James Manning
John Mantei
David & Wilma Mantle
Chuck Marshall
Craig & Catherine Marshall
Elisa Mattera
Joel Maurer
Erin Mauro
Annette May
Mark & Monica Mays
Robert & Louisa McCann
Felix McGinnis
Audrey McGowin
Jim & Carolyn McIntire
Jeff & Maureen McKinney
Suzanne McMahon
Mike & Marie McManus
Roy Mead
Mary Lou Meers
Sara Sue Mercuri
Christopher Merkle
Mark Merryman
Lois Mescher
Gregory Meyer
Jeff Michael
Kerri Miles
Bill, Barbara & Laura Miller
Nick Miller
Mary Miltenberger
Dr. John Minardi
Raymond & Janice Mitchell
Jim Molnar
Xavier & Genevieve Monasterio
George Monington
Joseph Moriarty
Gerard & Joan Mullen
Sandra Nearing
James & Frances Nees
Izola Neilson
Eleanor Newcome
Kathleen Newton
Charles & Maggie Nickel
Kent Nickel
Dale Nieberding
Jake & Annie Nofsinger
Daniel & Carolyn Norris
Jerry & Nancy Nowak
Oakwood Rotary
Ralph O'Bleness
Raymond & Leona O'Connor
Dan O'Donnell
John & Mia O'Malley
Edward & Kathleen O'Neil

Jim O'Neil
Optimist Club of Dayton, Inc.
Diane Ostendorf
John & Martha Osterday
Mr & Mrs H. J. Osterfeld
Virginia Panfile
Janice Pean
Julie Penno
Keith Petrequin
Kelly, Kori & Kim Phillips
Nancy Pietrantonio
Will & Roseann Place
Mary Kuhn Preotle
Shary Price
Jeffrey Priem
Angelo Rainieri
David & Carol Ramey
Mike Rammel
Glenn Ramos
Robert Ramsey
Ted & Alice Randall
James & Ellen Ratti
John Reeber
Roland & Carolyn Reed
Joseph & Nancy Reichert
Robert Reichert
Kevin Remhof
Roy & Phyllis Renie
Todd & Paula Rieck
Nick Riegle
Jill Ann Riess
Mary Louise Riley
Michael & Nancy Roderer
Brad Roediger
Steven & Deborah Rogers
James & Sheryl Ross
Rich Rowland
Judy Roysdon
Erminio & Angeline Ruffolo
Chris Rupp
Jesse Salazar
Jeffrey & Lisa Salzman
Brian & Kelly Samborsky
Debra Sanderman
Tim Sarafolean
Ed Saul
John & Rita Schaefer
Bernie Schiml
Joan Schiml
Louise & Deborah Schirack
Maureen Schlangen
John & Erin Schmitz
Hugo & Joan Schnabel
Eric & Jenifer Schneider
Richard & Marsha Schneider
William & Sharon Schneider
Jim & Mary Ann Schoen
Norman & Kathleen Schrein
John Schulte
Ed & Betty Schwinn
Patricia Ann Scott
Marvin Selby
Jonathan & Kristin Selvaraj
Paul & Mila Serve
Matt Shampton
Jerry Shell
Charles Shivelli
John & Martha Lou Siegrist
Brian & Sharon Sill
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sipniewski

Thank You and Congratulations to Our Supporters

Hugh Skees
Pamela Slightam
Catherine Smith
Rob Smith
Rob & Nancy Smith
Bob Smithson
Roger Snyder
James & Bonita Spears
Daniel & Nancy Spencer
Ronald & Nancy Spieles
Frank Spolrich
Paul & Theresa Staffan
Don Stafford
David & Patricia Steck
Carol Steinke
Anna Stewart
Tom & Joan Stoppelman
Dan & Phyllis Strayer
Andy Stroble
Pete Stroble
Charles & Diane Stroud

Bill Stueve
Grant Stumpf
James & Rosalie Sturtevant
Charles & Ginny Suarez
Robert & Helen Swab
Systech Environmental Corp.
Susan Szabad
Richard & Catherine Talda
Kate Taylor
John & Jean Tegtmeier
David & Paula Termuhlen
Randy Terry
Scott & Margie Theibert
James & Sylvia Tillar
William & Mary Jane Topp
William & Regina Towne
Armand & June Tremblay
Dwight & Mary Helen Tuuri
Jane Uhlenhake
Jeff & Sarah Umbreit
Charlotte Untergerger

Sr. Patricia Vales, SC
Jill Vallone
John & Virginia Vandenbosch
Peggy Vandeursen
Theodorus & Michaela Veenhuis
Laima Vermillion
Anna Vislosky
Rick Vogel
Ronald & Andrea Volkerding
Ron & Christine Volosin
Philip & Elaine Vorherr
Carol & Jeff Wade
Don Waker
Jeff Walker
Timothy & Karen Walker
Cassie Wall
Lorraine Wall
Marty Walling
Gerry Wardlaw
Jim & Jean Webster
Larry & Emily Weghorst

Karl Weingart
Patrick & Marilynn Welsh
Robert Werner
Brad Westover
David & Mary Wharton
Robert & Jean Whitaker
Craig White
Peter White
Joanne Wible
Devries Wietze
Rick Willis
Betsy Wilson
Ronald & Sherry Wimmers
Joe Wittmann
Tom & Carolyn Wittmann
Mary Wlodarski
Robert & Joann Wolf
Dennis Wolters
Irene Wourms
Debbie Wright

Catch the Holiday Spirit!

Got enough drill bits? Stocked up on flannel shirts? Instead of letting them agonize over the right shade of red tie this holiday season, ask your loved ones to make a contribution in your name to a cause you care about—Catch the Building Spirit. You can also make tax-deductible donations yourself; we welcome gifts in any amount! Just mail us a check and the names and addresses of your intended gift recipients, and we will send them a note acknowledging your generosity. We'll also send you a copy for your records. Make checks payable to "Catch the Building Spirit" and mail them to the Catholic Social Action Office, 266 Bainbridge Street, Dayton OH 45402. We've even drafted a handy letter for you to leave where your loved ones will find it.

Please note: Presbyterians don't feel left out! Just make your checks out to Dayton Habitat for Humanity, Attn: Presbyterian House Build and mail your contribution to DOHH, P.O. Box 494, Dayton OH 45409.

Dear Santa,

I really love the wool socks from last year. And you know I always enjoy getting new gadgets to play with. But this year, I feel like I've got everything I need. Instead, can you send my gift to people who need it more than me? Just make the check payable to "Catch the Building Spirit" and mail it to Catholic Social Action Office, 266 Bainbridge Street, Dayton OH 45402.

Origins, continued from page 1.

construction on Roosevelt Street with the third house built just behind it a year later on Miami Chapel. These were true "Spirit" builds as we teamed up with the Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches to construct two great houses.

The Lutherans moved on to build a house on their own in 1996. We

have continued our successful partnership with our Presbyterian and Habitat friends to complete our tenth house this year. And we are just getting warmed up!

The last ten years have been a success because of the generosity of our donors and our dedicated volunteers. We are thankful and

grateful for their support.

Next year, we have been asked to build another two-story house in West Carrollton. It appears that our volunteers are experts at building two-story houses. I hope that you will all join us in building another house for a deserving low-income family.

Recipe for Humanity

from the Habitat for Humanity Cookbook Partners in the Kitchen

This favorite recipe is enjoyed by all who participate and especially by this partner family.

- Take a family in need, knowing you'll help someone who wants to succeed.
- Mix that up with volunteers young and old, a pinch that adds all kinds of soul.
- Make sure you have people of all races, for without that this recipe would be tasteless.
- Then you add donations, tears of joy, togetherness, property, tools, faith and pride.
- Make sure you have all these ingredients right by your side.
- Add pounds and pounds of love, patience and a big smile.
- Then you stir it up and let it sit for a while.
- The most important ingredient, which is really first as well as last, is thanks to the Lord for the future as well as the past.
- Stir slowly to make sure it's all blended.
- Don't give up until the project is ended.

*Crystal Shepherd, Central HFH Partner Family
Cleveland Ohio*

Catch The Building Spirit Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

	Year Ended September 30, 2003	Fifteen Months Ended September 30, 2002
Cash Receipts		
Contributions	28,926	32,158
Investment income	706	577
Total cash receipts	<u>29,632</u>	<u>32,735</u>
Cash Disbursements		
Program services:		
Grants paid to Dayton Ohio Habitat For Humanity	<u>26,735</u>	<u>20,000</u>
General administrative and fund raising:		
Professional fees	3,210	1,616
Insurance	948	1,275
Printing, newsletter	453	1,290
Postage, copying, office supplies	1,190	1,130
	<u>5801</u>	<u>5,311</u>
Total cash disbursements	<u>32,536</u>	<u>25,311</u>
Increase In Cash And Cash Equivalents	-2,904	7,424
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	<u>29,381</u>	<u>21,957</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents At End Of Period	<u><u>26,477</u></u>	<u><u>29,381</u></u>

Dedication, continued from page 1.

thanked everyone that helped to build her home.

Dan Patterson of Korrekt Plumbing gave a moving testimonial. He best expressed why so many of our volunteers continue to come back year after year. We appreciate Dan and all the other in-kind donors that continue to support us. They are a much-needed component of our financial support. God willing, we look forward to working with them again next year.

We wish the Erin Bell family well and hope they enjoy their new home.



Erin and Alana Bell's new home



Installing the beam to lay the deck.



Putting up the roof trusses.



Putting up the siding.



Frank Gorman addresses the crowd.



Pastor Robert Jones and Fr. James Manning at house dedication.



John Ewers speaks at dedication.

*Happy 10th Anniversary,
Catch the Building Spirit!*



Catch the Building Spirit celebrates ten years.

Housing Affordability Gap Continues to Widen

According to a report released by the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), in conjunction with the National Low Income Housing Coalition, low-income workers in the State of Ohio must earn more than twice the federal minimum wage or @11.87 per hour, if they are to afford rent for the average two-bedroom apartment. The report, entitled *Out of Reach 2003: America's Housing Wage Climbs*, takes a detailed and much needed look at the ever-growing disparity between rental housing costs and the minimum wage.

“*Out of Reach* shows all too well that the affordable housing crisis in this state continues to worsen,” said Bill Faith, Executive Director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. “As the economy tries to rebound from a slump not seen since the early 1990s, the gap between what people can afford to pay and the real costs of housing continues to widen at an unprecedented pace. Since 1997, the housing wage (the amount one must earn per hour for a 40-hour work week if they are to afford the average rent for a two-

bedroom apartment) for the State of Ohio has jumped by more than 25 percentage points. To put this into context, the housing wage is nearly two-and-a-half times the minimum wage.”

Faith continued, “The housing situation for people with incomes at the lower end of the spectrum in Ohio is even worse than it was last year. The bottom line is that people just don't earn enough to be able to afford even modest rental housing,” said Faith. “It is unconscionable that people in this state who work full time still cannot afford a decent place to live. It is time to make the affordable housing crisis a priority in the State of Ohio and solve this problem once and for all. The state took a significant step in the right direction earlier this year when it secured permanent and dedicated funding for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, but more could be done to narrow the housing affordability gap. Ensuring that all the money generated by an increase in the county recordation fee goes to affordable housing efforts is one concrete step the state could take to narrow this gap,” says Faith.

—*Breaking Ground*, the monthly newsletter of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. Report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.