

Habitat for Humanity begins local chapter

By June Russell
Emerald Reporter

Springfield resident Bill Pursceny and his two children, are expected to break ground on their new three-bedroom home within the month.

The homebuilding project is being sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, a 15-year-old international organization devoted to eliminating poverty housing.

This is the first local housing construction project under the direction of Habitat for Humanity. The agency presented its plans at an open house Friday.

Pursceny and his children, 11-year-old Angela and 13-year-old Nicolas, currently rent a house in Cedar Flats. Pursceny, a lumber-puller at Weyerhaeuser Company, said the family is excited about their new home.

"It kind of stunned me," he said. "My kids like that they each get their own bedroom."

"I've been trying for the last couple of years to get another house, but a three-bedroom rents for \$500 to \$700 a month, if not more," he said.

Pursceny will be responsible for the mortgage payments, taxes and insurance totaling approximately \$300 a month, said George Pasek, president of the board of directors for the organization. Habitat works with no profit and no interest, Pasek said. The mortgage payments are used to help fund the next home.

Habitat for Humanity, Pasek said, is not aimed at providing housing for the homeless, but for low-income families. Following the guidelines established by the organization, families must show need, financial stability and the willingness to enter into a partnership to help Habitat aid other families in need.

"There are three criteria in selecting a family," said Pasek. "The first is a demonstrated need. We've inspected their house, and it's a shack. Secondly, they had to demonstrate financial stability and the ability to pay the taxes and mortgage and insurance."

"Third, they are willing to enter into a partnership," Pasek said. "Not only do we expect that Bill will spend 500 hours on building his own home, but that he will work on other homes or committees. Another thing we expect is that he forms a homeowners association with the future families, to help with mutual support."

"We had 65 applicants," Pasek said. "Of those, a certain percent don't meet the criteria. Of those that do meet the criteria, we automatically keep their application and enter it into the next selection."

The local chapter of Habitat has options on three other lots in the Eugene-Springfield area, Pasek said.

Groundbreaking at the lot at

5097 G St. is expected to start within the month. Some \$5,500 in donations from individuals, churches and other organizations enabled the organization to purchase the lot. Fundraisers are being planned to raise the remainder of the estimated \$25,000 in cash or donations of materials needed to build the home.

Building the home is going to require all the help they can get, said Habitat board member Gerry Keener, and anyone who wants to help is encouraged to volunteer. The real savings, Keener said, is in the use of all-volunteer labor.

For more information on becoming involved, phone 741-1707.



Photo by Andre Raniere
Bill Pursceny (second from left) and his children Nicolas and Angela will be the first local family to receive a new home from Habitat for Humanity.

Send early. Stay late.



Beat out the competition this Valentine's Day with some terrific strategy. Just call your FTD® Florist and send the FTD Flower Basket Bouquet. And to be sure your Valentine gets one, send it a day or two early. And she may ask you to stay late.



*Registered trademark of FTD. ©1991 FTD.

THE ULTIMATE INDOOR TANNING MACHINE

Fast
Convenient
Relaxing
Affordable

SunShower
on campus
405 2323 • 874 E 12th
Upstairs by Kumba's