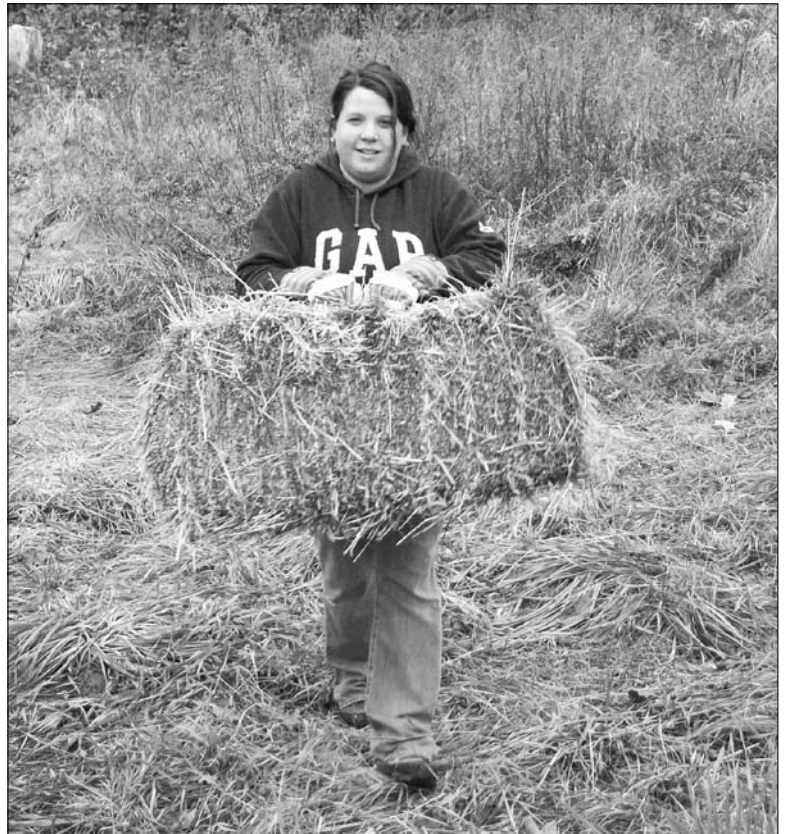


A New Habitat Site In Northampton

By Betty Von Klemperer

The City of Northampton has given Pioneer Valley Habitat land enough for five Habitat units. The site is a rough field at the end of Garfield Avenue in the Florence section of the city, less than a mile from the center of Florence and not much farther from the Smith Vocational High School. It is gently hilly and edged on two sides with woods. Work on it is already under way: trees encroaching on the field are coming down, and the construction of the first two units is planned to begin this winter. The wall dividing the home will run along the property line, creating two single-family homes instead of a condominium. Continuing the partnership from Westhampton Road, construction at Garfield will be carried out with help from the students at Smith Voke. Habitat has chosen a partner family for the first home, Kelly Bowler and her children, and is now in the process of choosing one for the second.

Kelly earns her sweat equity helping to install a silt fence at her new homesite on Garfield Avenue



New Partner Family Keeps Up Old Ties

By Betty Von Klemperer

For many Americans moving means settling in a different state, adapting to a different community—even a different climate. For Kelly Bowler and her two children, chosen as a partner family for the new Habitat site on Garfield Avenue in Florence, it will mean keeping up old ties. Kelly grew up in Florence, and her parents still live there. She graduated from Northampton High School like her siblings, who have stayed in the area. She hopes that a nephew of hers will be part of a team from Smith Voke assigned to the Garfield site.

Yes, she faces quite a wait for a house of her own, having

turned down Habitat sites in Amherst and Turners Falls. But on Garfield Avenue she'll be near family and friends and also the Walter Salvo House, where she has worked for 6 years. Currently in Northampton, Kelly is confident that her children, Carlito, 6, and Dezalyna, 2, are young enough to acquire a new circle of friends when they move.

Fortunately, of the 250 hours of work Kelly must contribute toward her new house, 50 can be spent on other Habitat projects. She has therefore already worked at the Stanley Street site and has experienced a range of tasks, from hanging sheet rock to roofing. No—she's not in the least bit scared of heights. And her Habitat mentor, Jim Harvey, is "really great."

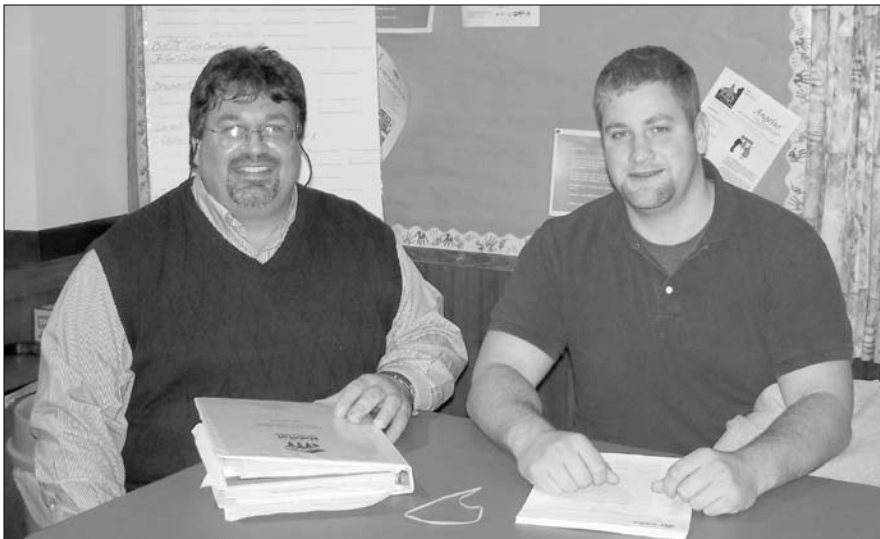
PVH Welcomes New Board Members

By Doris McLeod

Joe Bova (left) and Tyler Johnson have been welcomed as new members of the PVH Board of Directors. Joe Bova has been a CPA with Bova, Harrington, and Associates in Northampton since 1984 and has agreed to become Assistant Treasurer for PVH. He lives in Hadley and has three college-age children. A person of both talent and commitment, he has led a band for high school youth at the College Church in Northampton for the past ten years.

Tyler Johnson is a student representative from UMass. He is a junior, majoring in geology and Vice President of the UMass Habitat Campus Chapter. In addition to working on the local Habitat construction sites, he traveled to Albany, Georgia, on a spring break trip last year and plans to go to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, next spring.

In addition to Joe and Tyler, Sarah Darling re-joins the Board as interim Treasurer. Richard Morse begins his second term.



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Hike for Humanity

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Hike for Humanity!

With about 32 hikers representing PVH, we had a very successful joint fundraiser with Springfield Habitat, and raised \$1600! Special thanks to Kathy Perry, partner family and organizer of the hike.

NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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Care-A-Vanners Return to the Valley

By Patricia Weed

It has become an autumn ritual! A group of Care-A-Vanners blows into town every September, ready to help Pioneer Valley Habitat with one of its projects. What do we know about these itinerant builders? Some of the couples have sold their “immobile homes” and live in their RV year round; others, bachelors or couples, leave their home for a time and join a caravan of enthusiastic, ready-to-work adventurers who want to help others. They hail from all over the country, places as far as South Dakota, Florida, and Georgia, and as close as Hadley.

Their 2008 assignment for PVH was work on 18 Stanley Street in Amherst, the future home of Ashlee Cancio-Bello and her son Ernie. We can now tell Newsletter readers that MJ and the rest of the PVH crew spent a sleepless night or two prior to the RV arrival, with the uncertainty of work looming before them. Cynthia Wade and Bob Page organized the two weeks on the Care-A-Vanners’ end, with help from four partner churches in the area and various businesses and people who donated food. Kathy Perry, whose home was the first one completed on Stanley St., offered the use of her facilities and graciously prepared coffee for the Care-A-Vanners. This neighborly generosity is contagious. One evening Care-A-Vanner Bill Kleinegger treated his fellow RV buffs to a dinner he cooked, with home made bread and chocolate cake!

At the end of their stay, several caravans headed north to enjoy the fall foliage. We salute them and send warm thanks for their kindness and for the wonderful push ahead they gave our construction program!



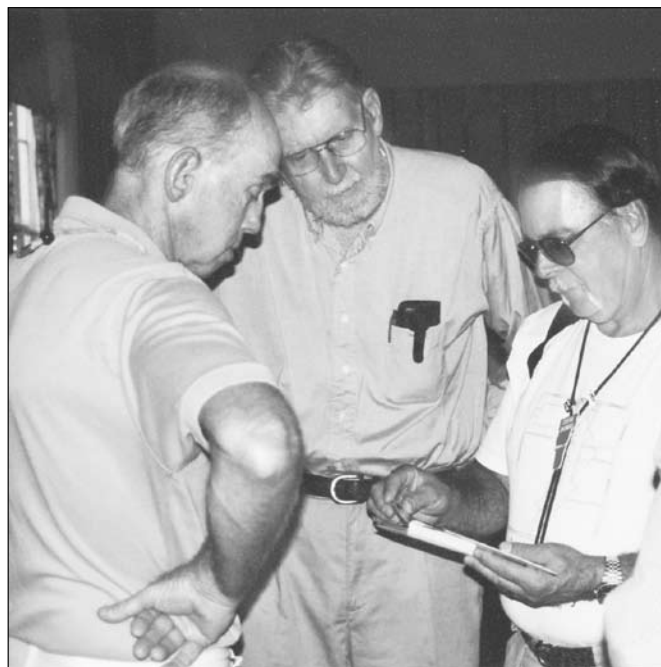
Care-A-Vanners Marty Genska and Rob Silver

Habitat Mourns Loss of Dave Engman

By Leo Sartori

The Habitat community lost a valuable member of our building crew and a good friend with the recent passing of Dave Engman. Dave succumbed to complications from ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) on November 2, at the age of 75.

An engineer by training, Dave designed and built his own house in Warwick and oversaw the construction of Habitat houses in Orange, Greenfield, and Northampton. Marge Lie-neck, who worked with Dave on the Orange house, reminisced about the unique experience of that project. Habitat had begun the construction of a house on the Hampshire College campus; one floor



Dave Engman (middle) with Bill Noel (left) and RV Care-A-Vanner (2004)

had been completed. When the Orange site was acquired, it was decided to move the completed section of the Hampshire house to Orange and use it as the bottom of a two-family home. The move had to proceed up two steep hills and under some overhead wires that seemed perilously low. Marge was terrified that some disaster loomed. But Dave was unfazed and the entire project was executed without a hitch.

Everyone who knew him agrees that Dave was a charming person as well as a skilled engineer. He will be sorely missed, but his

spirit will remain forever embedded in Habitat homes in Orange and Greenfield.



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Amherst Artisans Craft Fair

Saturday, December 6th
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Amherst College Alumni House

to benefit Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity

Amherst Students Pull All-Nighter at Stanley Street

By Patricia Weed

On the morning of Friday, October 3, the RV Care-A-Vanners put in their last hours of volunteer labor. They weren't alone, however. On this morning a group of Amherst College students turned up. They joined in with the Care-A-Vanners' good humor, carpentry skills and amazing work rhythm as they finished up odds and ends. The group played host to a visit from local news station Channel 40 early in the day, and at noon, a farewell cookout marked the end of the Care-A-Vanners visit and the beginning of an all-day, all night feat.

The Amherst undergraduates began their day by painting, waiting patiently for building and Energy Star in-

spectors to come and give the go-ahead to start drywall. At a quarter after 5 that evening, just before the group had completely run out of other work, the final inspection happened. It was now time to begin sheet rocking walls and ceilings! Site supervisors prepped the students with the opening lessons of drywall 101. Slowly, ceiling panels began to go up on the first floor, to be followed later by walls. The energetic Amherst community had committed to work until the next day, and they carried out their pledge. The students kept going in 3 hour shifts, pulling a wall board all-nighter. What an accomplishment, a huge leap forward made by all these people working to build a home with Habitat Partner Family Ashlee Cancio-Bello and her son!