



RV
Care-A-
Vanners

RV Care-A-Vanners Update September 2011

Dear Care-A-Vanners,

Where did the summer go? By this time next month we expect to be gone from Michigan for the winter. Right now, however, we are enjoying some of the scenic beauty of northern lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

This month we have several timely and urgent items.

For those interested in the Alice, Texas, builds, circle September 21 on your calendar. See the special call-in registration procedure elsewhere in this update. Last year the builds were full in the first three minutes. However, several waitlisters did get on the build.

Several affiliates have requested help from Care-A-Vanners for urgent or special projects. See "Special building requests" below.

Affiliates, if you have special projects that Care-A-Vanners might be able to help with, please contact the RV Desk. We are glad to publish your need in this monthly update. Also, if you would like us to add your affiliate to the ongoing build list, just let us know. Please do not attempt to become an ongoing build location via the link for registering your two-week builds, even though there is a box marked "ongoing." There is a very useful guide to filling out that form in the Partner Guidelines for Affiliates. If you do not have the Partner Guidelines, please request a copy from us.

Each month we are asked to help someone with online registration. Often it involves a forgotten password. If this happens to you, click on "Forgot Password" and a new computer-generated one will be e-mailed to you. Due to its length and complexity, we recommend you copy and paste it into the password box and then change it to one more easily remembered.

As always, thank you for all you do to help provide a hand up to those in need of simple, decent, affordable housing.

In Partnership,



Mary (and Tony) Campbell

Need more information about online registration?

The RV Care-A-Vanner Yahoo e-group provides step-by-step instructions for first-time users, plus a place to post other Care-A-Vanner-related questions. To join, send an e-mail with a blank subject line and body to rv-care-a-vanners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. For more details or to [join this group](#), visit us online.

Monthly Care-A-Vanner trivia: Do you know?

Is it worth being on a waitlist for a build? What are my chances of getting on the build? (Answer at bottom of Update)

Continue your support

As the need for volunteers continues to grow, so does the number of opportunities to contribute to Habitat's work. Find a build now on the [Build List](#) and register online, or visit [ongoing building opportunities](#) and contact the affiliate directly for more details.

Special Sign-up Procedure:

Alice, Texas: January 8–29, 2012 and February 26–March 18, 2012

Due to the popularity of these builds, there will be a special sign-up procedure in order to give everyone a fair chance to be on the build. Online registration has been disabled.

Registration by telephone will only be accepted beginning September 21, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. EDT (8:00 a.m. PDT). Phone messages left at the RV desk, by dialing either 229-410-7534 or 1-800-422-4828, Ext. 7534, will be honored in the order they are received.

We will call or e-mail you back to confirm that you are either on the build or on the waitlist. Each rig must call in separately; calls requesting multiple signups will not be honored. E-mail sign-ups will not be accepted.

Special building requests

HFH Almost Heaven of Pendleton County, West Virginia, is in urgent need of your assistance this fall. They currently have four homes that are in the completion stages that need to be finished in time for families to move in before the snow flies in the highlands of West Virginia. Their goal is to have all four families moved into their homes by Thanksgiving. Three of the homes are located in the township of Franklin, which lies along the South Branch of the Potomac River. The fourth home lies high in a mountain meadow above the North Fork Valley, which is the valley next to Franklin. Two of the families are in situations that make it imperative that we get them into their homes as soon as possible. One of the families is currently living in a 1950s trailer without running water or plumbing and only a long extension cord from their parents' home for electricity. This family sold their wood stove earlier this year, thinking that they would be into their new home before cold weather set in.

During the fall months, rural Pendleton County is one of the most beautiful places

in America, with its abundance of Sugar Maple and Oak trees. The Cave Country Campground, where you will stay at only \$16 per night (discount by the week), is situated next to the river. The drive to the worksites will either be about 8 miles along the river or about 15 miles over Snowy Mountain Road. Both drives are breathtaking in all seasons. (Onsite parking may be available for smaller rigs.) All meals will be on your own. We request a commitment of at least one week. There is no fee to participate, but donations are encouraged and accepted. To make a reservation, contact Kristi Miller at 304-358-7642 or kmiller@almosttheavenhabitat.org. Once you have made your reservation, the hosts for your stay and the people who will assist you with planning your trip will be Fred and Karen Laird 304-567-2685 klaird@almosttheavenhabitat.org.

HFH of Greene County, Greensboro, Georgia, has a special build project for Care-A-Vanners. Saturday, September 17; Monday, September 19 and Tuesday, September 20 are the build days. Contact Elaine Mathews at 706-453-1718, Ext. 5, or e-mail volunteer@gchabitat.com.

Routt County Habitat for Humanity of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, has requested 3–5 rigs to assist in building a 200-square-foot add-on room to an existing house. The project begins September 18 and should be completed in about two weeks. If you plan to be in the area and can help for all or part of that time, please contact Jodi Patten directly at 970-871-6101 or routtcohabitat@gmail.com. Due to the short lead time, this build is not listed in the build list. Participants will make their own parking arrangements and discounts may or may not be available.

The Alabama Habitat Association is setting up the first statewide ReStore and regional distribution center in Auburn, Alabama. They have requested 2–3 rigs for a period of 2–4 weeks in September and October to help remodel a 30,000-square-foot former Lowes store as the ReStore Distribution Center and state offices. Work will include painting, minor electrical, interior wall construction and setting up storage units and racks. We will also be establishing permanent RV hookups and sewer drops at the facility.

Onsite parking with electricity and water will be available. For full details, please contact Art Pearce at 334-703-7554 or APearce@alabamahabitat.org.

Disaster relief volunteers needed in Tuscaloosa

Kristin Wright, Disaster Corps Specialist of HFHI in Atlanta is currently deploying Disaster Corps volunteers to Tuscaloosa to assist with their disaster recovery builds. There does not seem to be any affordable housing, which is proving to be a major deterrent. If you are interested and willing to dry camp, contact Bob Johnson at the Tuscaloosa affiliate at bob@habitattuscaloosa.org, or call 205-349-4620 for more information.

Tornado response

The devastation to affiliates, partner families and communities by the recent tornadoes in Alabama and other states is currently being assessed. When communities are ready to schedule builds, we will let you know through this newsletter.

Some of you may already be involved with first-responder organizations such as the Red Cross. If you learn of affiliates that might benefit from RV Care-A-Vanners at the appropriate time, please let us know.

Upcoming builds

We add new builds whenever an affiliate schedules one. We try to update the [build list](#) on Fridays, so you can check over the weekend to see if any new builds have been added. Builds are now sorted by date when the list comes up. You can

sort by state by visiting the link at the top of the list.

Newly added builds

Lucedale, Mississippi. October 2–16, 2011

Laredo, Texas. October 30–November 6, 2011

Athens, Alabama. March 11–25, 2012

Go to the [build list](#) for the complete list of upcoming builds.

Team leaders corner

Even though our build schedule was a little lighter in August (eight builds) than in July (11 builds), your RV Care-A-Vanner desk team has been hard at work. We are adding about 25 new CAVs and two affiliates a month. That is wonderful, but we still need your help. As we add more builds, we need more team leaders. We have most of the winter builds listed on the Internet, and there are a few builds still without leaders. We are posting next summer builds already, so please consider taking your turn at leading a team.

One issue we are having at the desk is getting through your spam filters. E-mail is a vital way for us to communicate with all 5,000 of you in the field. When we call you, we have to use our personal cell phones (all Verizon), making e-mail more cost-effective for us. Please allow the following e-mail addresses through your spam filters:

- Mary C: RV Care-A-Vanner coordinator: macampbell@habitat.org
- Mary V: Team leader coordinator: habitat1@prodigy.net
- Lu: Evaluation coordinator: hfhbuildeval@gmail.com
- Joyce: New Care-A-Vanner coordinator: jayrush@juno.com

I had the opportunity to join in a Build closeout pot luck in Iron Mountain, Michigan this month. Having been invited by the affiliate and the Care-A-Vanner build team, it was a moving experience. It reminded me just how great this CAV program is and how much we all need to thank Mary and Tony Campbell for all they have done to rebuild the CAV program. So next time you see or hear from the Campbells, be sure to say thanks for a job well done.

Speaking of thanks, I want to thank the team leaders for the month of August. You are a big reason I keep seeing great evaluations. Thanks to George and Rosanne Schoemehl; Jay and Brenda Guild; Frank and Diana Peccia; Richard and Shirley Harvey, who stepped in at the last minute to lead Port Townsend; George and Karen Hopper; LeRoy and Janice McNees, who also stepped in at the last minute to lead Marquette; Alan and April Lenning; and finally, Tommie and Sandra Brown. Be sure to thank your team leaders. Their time as team leaders is all volunteer, and they do a heck of a job.

If you would like to lead a build, please contact me at habitat1@prodigy.net, or call me at 920-737-0507.

In Partnership,
Mary Vandeveld

Roster updates

Please make corrections by hand or bold on the latest roster and fax it to 1-229-410-7490. You may also scan and e-mail the roster to rvinfodesk@habitat.org. For minor updates, leaders can report corrections by calling 229-410-7534 or e-mail them to rvinfodesk@habitat.org.

Welcome to our new Care-A-Vanners

David and Jeri Alton, Doug Augustine, Terry and Sue Baughman, Ken and Phoebe Bolin, Dennis and Alta Crawford, Dennis and Christine Davis, Jerry and Barbara Exline Robert and Joan Gonser, Jim and Vera Honea, Wayne Kaiser, Ronald and Marilyn Mead, David Raynor, Gerald and Wanda Rusnak, Steve and Karen Sawyer and Alex and Chris Torrance.

My apologies if I have included a seasoned Care-A-Vanner or if this is a duplication. Habitat for Humanity is grateful for the work that you all do!

Care-A-Vanners nominated

Fellow Care-A-Vanners John and Joyce Williams are among five finalists for the Good Sam Club's RVer of the year. They have logged thousands of volunteer hours with NOMADS (Nomads on a Mission Active in Divine Service), SOWERS (Servants on Wheels Eveready) and the American Red Cross as well as with Habitat. Having been selected Michigan RVer of the year for 2011, they are now in the running for the national award.

Care-A-Vanners who are Good Sam Club members can help select the winner by voting online at www.GoodSamClub.com/vote through October 31. The winner will be announced in *Highways Magazine* in February 2012. Good luck, John and Joyce!

Report Care-A-Vanner hours

To help us keep track of total volunteer hours contributed, please report all hours served at drop-in or ongoing builds to the rvinfodesk@habitat.org.

Donate your RV, trailer, car or boat and help Habitat build homes

Looking for new ways to give? Call Cars for Homes™, Habitat's vehicle donation program, toll-free at 1-877-277-4344 to donate cars, trucks, boats and RVs.

Contact us

For questions, cancellations and concerns, the most efficient way to reach us is by e-mailing rvinfodesk@habitat.org. You can also call 1-800-422-4828, Ext. 7534, or 1-229-410-7534 for assistance.

To help us find you in the database, please include your name (and your spouse's name, if applicable) and ZIP code in all communications.

Because we coordinate from the road, please allow 48 hours for a response. If you cannot reach Mary and need more immediate assistance, please call the Habitat for Humanity International Volunteer Mobilization desk at 1-800-422-4828, Ext. 7530, or 229-410-7530.

Registration, step by step instructions:

Beginning October 15, 2010, there is a new way to register for Care-A-Vanner builds.

Care-A-Vanners may simply choose a build from the build list and register for that build with four clicks of the mouse. The Care-A-Vanner Coordinator will respond by email to confirm assignment to the build.

The [Build List](#) contains much more **detailed information** about the build: project description, parking location, type of work, exact parking cost, and detailed hookup information, distance to job site and team leader's name, as well as the number of spaces available. If a build is full, you can still register online for the waitlist.

A user login and password is created **the first time you register for a build**. Clicking on "Create User ID" leads to a screen asking for your name and email

address (your email address becomes your User ID). An email is immediately sent to that address (to make sure you are you). A link in this email enables you to create a password and security question, (be sure to remember these for future use) then returns you to the registration page for the build you have chosen. This is where you will provide your contact information and rig size/type (we all have to do this – one time only – for the new system, even long-time Care-A-Vanners). Before leaving this screen, experienced Care-A-Vanners can check a box to volunteer as team leader for the build.

There is also a link for the [Emergency Contact Information and Waiver Form](#) which you can type online and print out in advance of the build. Finally, you click on Register (or Register for Waitlist, if the build is full). To register for a second build takes only 4 mouse-clicks!

For **future signups**, just select "Build listing" from <http://www.habitat.org/rv>, log in and sign up for a build with four mouse-clicks. Your contact information will be pre-filled so you can verify it and make any necessary corrections.

Application versus Assignment. You will receive two emails for each build for which you register (only one if registering for the waitlist). Upon registering you will see on the screen "Application Received" and immediately receive an email stating the same (be sure to check your spam folder if you don't see it in your inbox - it will be from webmaster@habitat.org). The RV Care-A-Vanner Coordinator must then review/update your contact information and actually assign you to the build. The second email (which you should receive within 48 hours) confirms this.

Waitlist. If a build is full, click on it as usual, then click on "Register for Waitlist." You will be contacted if there is a cancelation.

Ongoing Builds. The procedure for ongoing builds is unchanged. Use the contact information provided at http://www.habitat.org/rv/ongoing_builds.aspx to get in touch with the affiliate and make your own arrangements.

As always, the RV Care-A-Vanner Coordinator is available for [questions or additional information](#) at rvinfodesk@habitat.org or 1-800-422-4828 ext. 7534 or 229-410-7534 (direct). In addition a Yahoo e-group has been set up for sharing common questions and answers that may be beyond our knowledge (such as problems with specific browsers, unique situations, etc.) To join this e-group send an email with a blank subject and blank body to: rv-care-a-vanners-subscribe@yahogroups.com or go to <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/rv-care-a-vanners> and click Join This Group.

Monthly Care-A-Vanner trivia answer: Do you know?

For those new to the RV Care-A-Vanners Joyce Rush will send you a welcome letter, brochure and other information, if you have questions just email Joyce at jayrush@juno.com. Also, when you register for your first build, your Team Leader will send you detailed information regarding that build and answer any specific questions you may have.