



CARE-A-VANNER

A publication of the Habitat for
Humanity® RV Care-A-Vanners

From the RV Office...



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the RV Care-A-Vanners is to further the work of Habitat for Humanity International through advocacy and by assisting local Habitat affiliates, who act as hosts, in accelerating and/or supplementing their building programs.

Teams of RVer volunteers have been giving their time and talents to help Habitat affiliates accelerate their building programs for almost two decades now—first as Gypsies, and since 1998 as Care-A-Vanners. The HFHI program has grown from just a few builds organized by Jack and Lois Wolters from their RV, to more than 160 builds per year administered by the Care-A-Vanner office in Americus, Ga. Throughout these years the Care-A-Vanner mission has not changed (see masthead), even though the details of how builds are organized and conducted continues to evolve as the needs of affiliates and RVers change over time. Care-A-Vanners have always approached builds with an attitude of service to the cause of eliminating poverty housing one house at a time. With more than 6,000 individual Care-A-Vanners volunteering with 120-plus affiliates it is inevitable that we will come away from builds with a wide range of personal experiences that form the basis for our expectations about future builds. Unfortunately, sometimes these expectations are inconsistent with the intent and practice of the Care-A-Vanner program and the HFHI mission.

Following is a review of what Care-A-Vanner team members should and should not expect when they participate in a scheduled build.

Sign-ups: Please do not plan to volunteer with an affiliate during a scheduled Care-A-Vanner build unless you are signed up for that build through the Care-A-Vanner office. Showing up without being registered threatens the fairness of the program as there may be others on the waitlist. Only those who volunteer to lead a build may sign up for that build prior to the announced earliest sign-up date and time (hint hint).

Parking: Habitat affiliate guidelines for hosting RV Care-A-Vanners state that the affiliate is responsible for securing a place for the team to park. However, donated or discounted space is becoming increasingly hard to find, and is literally unavailable in hurricane affected areas. Requirements are for ample space with at least minimal electric (i.e., enough to charge batteries), a water source (may string hoses to a faucet) and a dump source (not necessarily on site). Public restroom/shower facilities may not be available. Sometimes Care-A-Vanners from the vicinity are enlisted to help educate new hosting affiliates about what constitutes suitable parking. If

you have specific parking needs please discuss with the Care-A-Vanner office before signing up for a build.

Amenities: It is not the intention of Care-A-Vanners to utilize resources of the hosting affiliate that would otherwise go toward building houses. We request that the affiliate host a welcome gathering for the primary purposes of meeting affiliate staff and partner families, completing paperwork, and receiving directions to the work site and an orientation to the affiliate's practices. The majority of affiliates schedule a Sunday evening meal, often a potluck, but this is strictly their choice. There may be no food (or the team may choose to provide it), or the welcome may even be done the first morning at the build site. At the end of the build, a few affiliates have a farewell gathering and some present the team with T-shirts and/or small mementos, but this should not be expected. Individual Care-A-Vanners often leave monetary donations for the affiliate, but gifts to homeowners are discouraged as they tend to create a distinction among the affiliate's partner families.

Lunches donated by civic groups and churches are similarly *requested*. By seeking this support the affiliate gains local awareness of their building program; however, especially in very poor communities and those whose resources are stretched by disasters, lunch donations may not be possible. In these cases team members are on their own; affiliates are not expected to use their funds to buy lunches for the Care-A-Vanners.

Snacks are not requested and should not be expected, although many affiliates do provide at least morning coffee and some provide snacks at break time. On the other hand, ample drinking water on site is a must, but not necessarily bottled—this alternative can be wasteful and expensive. If a cooler is provided, bring your own cup to conserve resources and prevent litter.

Work Site: One of the great advantages of hosting a Care-A-Vanner team, aside from increased community awareness, is that we go in at the current stage of construction and greatly accelerate the completion of the house. We do not require a new foundation to work on—in fact, some of the best experiences are getting to finish a house and attend the dedication. There are no men's or women's tasks; within our physical abili-

(Continued on page 4)

Sign Up Immediately

Salem, N.J.	May 7-27
\$\$ Thibodaux, La. (OHD)	May 21-June 3
Elk Park, N.C.	May 28-June 10
\$\$ Slidell, La.	May 28-June 10
\$\$ Pagosa Springs, Colo.	June 4-17
Saginaw, Mich. (BB)	June 8-25
\$ Tuscaloosa, Ala.	June 11-17
? Austin, Minn.	June 11-24
\$ Benton Harbor, Mich.	June 11-24
\$\$\$ Osburn, Idaho	June 11-24
\$\$ Thibodaux, La. (OHD)	June 11-24
\$ Sioux Falls, S.D.	June 12-25
Cambridge, Minn.	June 18-July 1
\$\$ Cottage Grove, Ore.	June 18-July 1
\$\$\$ Mankato, Minn.	June 18-July 1
Pease, Minn.	June 18-July 1
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.	June 18-July 1
\$\$ Slidell, La.	June 18-July 1
Washington, Iowa	June 18-July 2
\$\$ Thibodaux, La. (OHD)	July 2-15
? Calgary, Alberta, Canada	July 3-16
\$ Benton Harbor, Mich.	July 9-22
Brookings, S.D.	July 9-22
\$ Cripple Creek, Colo.	July 9-22
\$\$ Iron Mountain, Mich.	July 9-22
\$\$ Slidell, La.	July 9-22
Stanford, Ky.	July 9-22
Morehead, Ky.	July 23-Aug. 5
\$\$ Thibodaux, La. (OHD)	July 23-Aug. 5
\$ Benton Harbor, Mich.	Aug. 13-26
\$\$ Iron Mountain, Mich.	Aug. 13-26
\$\$\$ Santa Fe, N.M.	Aug. 13-26
\$\$ Thibodaux, La. (OHD)	Aug. 13-26
\$\$\$ Green Bay, Wis.	Aug. 13-27
Muncie, Ind.	Aug. 21-Sept. 2
\$\$ Thibodaux, La. (OHD)	Sept. 3-16
Winona, Minn.	Sept. 10-23
\$ Huntsville, Ala. (BB)	Sept. 10-30
\$\$ Florence, Mass.	Sept. 17-30
New Bern, N.C.	Sept. 17-30

BUILD PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

REGISTRATION

- On sign-up day register only by speaking with the HFHI RV office staff:
(800) 422-4828, Ext. 2446.
- Voicemail and e-mail registration requests on sign-up days are not accepted or acknowledged.
- You may register only for your own RV.
- Do not attend** a Care-A-Vanner build unless you have been confirmed on that build by the HFHI RV office.
- Builds already filled are not listed on the schedule.

WAITLIST Once a build is filled, callers are added to the waitlist. When someone cancels, every effort is made to contact the next person on the list. If, after being placed on a waitlist, you are no longer interested in the build, please let us know so we can remove your name from the list.

CANCELLATION

If you must cancel from a build team, please notify the RV coordinator, who will obtain a replacement from the waitlist.

RV Desk hours: Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

Build Schedule Legend

(BB) Blitz Build	\$	\$ 5 or less nightly parking fee.
(MG) March Gladness	\$\$	\$10 or less nightly parking fee.
(OHD) Operation Home Delivery	\$\$\$	More than \$10 nightly parking fee.
(WBA) Women Build America	?	Parking fee to be determined.

Special Opportunities



Hurricane Rebuilding Update

Key West, Fla., affiliate needs volunteers for Wilma cleanup and rebuilding. Contact Amanda at (305) 872-4456 or e-mail info@habikeys.org.

Slidell, La., is no longer an ongoing build location. They have scheduled 10 Care-A-Vanner builds for the rest of 2006. Full hookups are \$50 per week. See the Build Schedule for dates and details.

St. Bernard Parish project is looking for a Care-A-Vanner couple to replace Danny and Martha Hoodka as administrative assistants. Contact the Care-A-Vanner office for more information.

Thibodaux, La., has scheduled two-week Care-A-Vanner builds every three weeks for the rest of 2006. Full hookups are \$8 per night.

Special Opportunities:

Alachua HFH in Gainesville, Fla., needs help completing seven houses by Oct. 31, to fulfill conditions of a grant. Parking is available. Contact Lynn Parris, construction director, at (352) 378-4663 or e-mail lparris@alachuahabitat.org

Heartland HFH (formerly Kaw Valley) in the Kansas City area needs house leaders and crew leaders to assist site supervisors from April through September. They are asking for a commitment of four to six weeks. Contact the Care-A-Vanner office if you are interested.

Kitsap County HFH mini-blitz build Tues., June 6 to Sat., June 10, in Port Orchard, Wash. Contact Barb Gabriel at (360) 479-3558 or e-mail volunteercoor@kitsaphabitat.org.

**Sign up for these builds starting
at 10 a.m. (ET) on May 18, 2006**

Charlottesville, Va.	July 10-23
\$\$ Slidell, La.	July 30-Aug. 12
? Provo, Utah	Aug. 6-19
Charlottesville, Va.	Aug. 14-27
\$\$ Slidell, La.	Aug. 20-Sept. 2
\$ Marquette, Mich.	Sept. 10-23
\$\$ Slidell, La.	Sept. 10-23
? Carlisle, Pa.	Sept. 17-23
Knoxville, Iowa	Sept. 17-23
Lyons, Kan.	Sept. 17-30
Oneonta, N.Y.	Sept. 17-30
Waterloo, Ont., Canada	Sept. 17-30
\$\$ Thibodaux, La. (OHD)	Sept. 24-Oct. 7
\$\$\$ Mankato, Minn.	Sept. 25-Oct. 7
Jackson, Wyo.	Sept. 25-Oct. 8
\$\$\$ Santa Fe, N.M.	Oct. 1-14
\$\$ Slidell, La.	Oct. 1-14

**Sign up for these builds starting
at 10 a.m. (ET) on May 24, 2006**

Ft. Myers, Fla.	Oct. 1-15
? Carlisle, Pa.	Oct. 8-21
Lenoir, N.C.	Oct. 8-21
Taos, N.M.	Oct. 8-21
Elk Park, N.C.	Oct. 9-22
Guyton, Ga.	Oct. 15-28
\$\$ Thibodaux, La. (OHD)	Oct. 15-28
Vero Beach, Fla.	Oct. 15-28
Ft Myers, Fla.	Oct. 15-29
Salem, N.J.	Oct. 15-Nov. 4
Siler City, N.C.	Oct. 16-29
\$\$ Slidell, La.	Oct. 22-Nov. 4
\$\$ Thibodaux, La.	Oct. 22-Nov. 4
Albany, Ga.	Oct. 29-Nov. 11
Bunnell, Fla.	Nov. 5-18
Dade City, Fla.	Nov. 5-18
\$\$ Thibodaux, La. (OHD)	Nov. 5-18
Vero Beach, Fla.	Nov. 5-18

ONGOING BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

Contact affiliates directly. Please report hours worked to the HFHI RV coordinator. Scheduled build teams take precedence over drop-in RV volunteers.

- Battle Creek Area HFH, Battle Creek, Mich.** Contact Jeanne Kroinemeyer at (269) 966-2502 or volcoordinatorhabitatbc@ctsmail.net.
- East Pasco HFH, Dade City, Fla.** Contact John Finnerty or Matt Hillen at (352) 567-1444 or epascohh@earthlink.net.
- Greater Green Bay HFH, Green Bay, Wis.** Contact Alex Tran at (920) 639-5355 or atran@greenbayhabitat.org.
- Greater Richmond HFH, Richmond, Ind.** Contact Mindy Reece at (765) 962-5986 or mindymae@verizon.net.
- HFH Baldwin County, Foley, Ala.** Contact Pam Gideon at (251) 943-2387 or habitatvolunteer@gulftel.com.
- HFH of Gallatin Valley, Belgrade, Mont.** Contact Jennifer Frank at (406) 388-8225 or jfrank@habitatbozeman.org.
- HFH of Indian Wells Valley, Ridgecrest, Calif.** Contact Barbara Manning at (760) 384-2137 or res7627d@verizon.net.
- HFH of Kitsap County, Port Orchard, Wash.** Contact Barb Gabriel at (360) 479-3853 or volunteercoor@kitsaphabitat.org.
- HFH of Russell County, Phenix City, Ala.** Contact George Martin at (334) 297-2174 or habitat_russellcounty@earthlink.net.
- HFH of Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa, Ala.** Contact Cary Corley at (205) 349-4620, Ext. 4 or 9, or ccorley@hfhtuscaloosa.org.
- HFH of Valencia County, Belen, N.M.** Contact Rachel Nicol at (505) 864-3033 or rnicol@habitatvalencia.org.
- Highland County HFH, Sebring/Avon Park, Fla.** Contact Penne Manar at (863) 453-9695 or pennem@strato.net.
- Hilton Head/Bluffton Regional HFH, Bluffton, S.C.** Contact Lois Wilkinson at (843) 757-5864 or hfhvunteers@aol.com.
- Koinonia Farms, Americus, Ga.,** the birthplace of Habitat for Humanity. Make minor repairs for low-income homeowners in Sumter County; also need project manager for chapel and volunteer living quarter renovation. Contact Kathleen Monts or Sarah Prendergast at (229) 924-0391 or sandy@koinoniapartners.org.
- Mesilla Valley HFH, Las Cruces, N.M.** September through May. Contact Don Stover at (505) 525-0475, (505) 993-0263 or mvhfh@zianet.com.
- Milledgeville/Baldwin County HFH, Milledgeville, Ga.** Contact Wesley Nunn at (478) 453-9617 or habitatforhumanity@alltel.net.
- Rio Grande HFH, McAllen, Texas.** Contact Dale McNallen at (956) 686-7455 or rmcallen@rgv.rr.com.
- Rockbridge Area HFH, Lexington, Va.** Contact Dan Walz at (540) 463-3770 or habitat@rockbridge.net.
- Rocky Mount Area HFH, Rocky Mount, N.C.** Contact Reid McAuley (252) 972-1994, (252) 908-0407 (c) or habitat@rockymountnc.com.
- Santa Fe HFH, Santa Fe, N.M.** Contact Maggie Monroe-Cassel at (505) 986-5880 or maggie@santafehabitat.org.
- Sea Island Habitat for Humanity, Johns Island, S.C.** Contact Dawn Balsam at (843) 768-0998, Ext. 109, or volunteer@seaislandhabitat.org.
- Sisters HFH, Sisters, Ore.** Contact Marie Clasen at (541) 549-1193 or sistershab@coinet.com.
- STO HFH, Mission, S.D.** Contact Doris Cardwell at (605) 856-2665 or stohfh@gwtc.net.
- Taos HFH, Taos, N.M.** Contact Donna Olen at (505) 758-7827 or hfht@taosnet.com.
- Wiregrass HFH, Dothan, Ala.** Contact Liz Tiller at (334) 792-8453 or etiller@wiregrasshabitat.org.

RV Care-A-Vanners HopeBuilder Donors

Al and Janet Awtrey — Stan and Pat Berndt — Virginia Berridge — Don Brumbaugh — Russell and Carol Burbank — Gary and Sandy Dode — Al and Charlotte Halber — Greg and Karen Harbage — Jack and Colette Holm — Bob and Mary Ireland — Wayne and Dee Krause — Jim Lilja — Gus and Cathy Mendez — Jud Mygatt — Vivian Peters — Eckles and Vera Phillips — Lou and Rosa Pratt — Rich and Vera Pringle — Earl and Ruth Ruiter — Jay and Joyce Rush — Ron and Suzanne Schillffarth — J.J. and Peggy Williams — Joe and Terri Wirtz

These Care-A-Vanners donate monthly to HopeBuilders, HFHI's automatic monthly withdrawal program. To support the Care-A-Vanner's work through HopeBuilders, enroll online via the Care-A-Vanner Web site, www.habitat.org/rv, or contact the RV coordinator.

RV CARE-A-VANNER NAME

BADGES are available from Too Crazy Ladies at (575) 525-0141. Badges with a pin attachment are \$6; magnet attaching badges are \$8. Shipping is \$1.50 to mail one or two badges to the same address.

Donations and Memorials

Ray & Shelby Benfield — Roger Borup — Brent & Shirly Cronebach — Sharon & Christopher Dobbs — Donna & Frank Griswold — Family Motor Coach Association — FMCA Chapter: HFH — Alexander & Charlotte Halber — Helen Hayes — Ann Hill — Holiday Rambler — HR-Fla. State Council — HR Happy Holiday Hoosiers — Dennis & Brenda Matt — Tom & Mary Mosher — Polycon, Inc. — Candence & Glen Smith — Glen & Janet Stewart — Bernie & Audrey Ussery — Curtis & Jean Wilkison — Gary Stevens & Nan Wilson

In memory of Joe Burdette — Carol Smith

In memory of Care-A-Vanner
Al Morrell



Welcome New Team Leaders

The following Care-A-Vanners are first-time team leaders in the first four months of 2006: Paul & Emmy Banwart, Jim & Gayona McDonald, By and Lin Miller, Bill Oates, David & Mary Vandeveld. For information about becoming a team leader, contact the RV coordinator at (800) 422-4828, Ext. 2446. Construction expertise not necessary.

Team Leaders' Corner

As the number of builds scheduled by affiliates increases, we have an urgent need for more and better trained team leaders. Often Care-A-Vanners are reluctant to take on the responsibility without training. To rectify that situation we have initiated an assistant team leader program. Assistants learn what the team leader job entails by working closely with experienced leaders. Team leaders may ask an individual or couple on their team to assist, or team members may volunteer for this position through their team leaders. There is no prerequisite to be an assistant team leader—only a willingness to grow and learn new ways to advance the Habitat mission.

APPLAUSE to:

Frank and Elaine Anderson, Fred and Pauline Camp, Bill and Donna Cain, Joe and Judy Dotson, George Pomeroy and Larry and Micky Racer who have spent time volunteering in the Care-A-Vanner office between January and May. The program wouldn't run without volunteers.



(Continued from page 1)

ties we do what we are skilled at or are willing to learn.

Although it doesn't always work as it should, the clearly stated policy is that an affiliate must provide an on-site construction supervisor to supply work assignments, arrange for timely delivery of materials and instruct team members in local building methods and practices. Sometimes knowledgeable Care-A-Vanners find themselves drawn into a supervisory position, but this is not the norm or a desired situation; it gives the affiliate the impression that all teams bring their own construction expertise. It is also not part of the team leaders' job to supervise construction, but to be a liaison with the local supervisor.

We are there to serve the Habitat mission through the affiliate; although we may offer suggestions when solicited, we must respect the decisions of the local supervisor and staff. Nail guns are discouraged by HFHI at volunteer work sites because they are extremely dangerous, so please do not pressure the affiliate to allow the use of nail guns by team members.

The affiliate is expected to plan enough meaningful work for everyone, even if we are working alongside local volunteers. If work is temporarily unavailable at the build site, help may be needed at the ReStore or in the office—every job is equally important. The host also must provide on-site restroom facilities, an adequate first-aid kit and sufficient safe tools to accomplish the tasks assigned. Please be sensitive to the rule that pets are not permitted on the work site. They may, however, be left in your vehicle, or more commonly, at the campground.

The bottom line on expectations can be expressed by the adage "Blessed are they who are flexible, for they shall never get bent out of shape." We should leave our egos at the curb. The most important aspect of our volunteering is not how much work we get done—speed and efficiency are not necessary paramount on Habitat work sites. Our true accomplishments are measured by our affect on those around us—the partner families, the community, our fellow volunteers—when we unselfishly put God's love into action.

Linda Walden—HFHI RV coordinator

The Care-A-Vanner Web site www.habitat.org/rv contains useful information about hurricane rebuilding, ongoing builds and special volunteer opportunities. In addition, it provides online access to the Care-A-Vanner newsletter, which can be downloaded or viewed online.



If you wish to access the newsletter online in lieu of receiving the paper newsletter, e-mail rvinfodesk@habitat.org. The Care-a-Vanner monthly e-mail update will notify you when each new issue is available for online viewing.

RV CARE-A-VANNER is published quarterly—winter, spring, summer and fall—by the RV Care-A-Vanner staff, Global Village department, Habitat for Humanity International, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709-3498.

Participation in Care-A-Vanner building projects is open to all RVers, with no restrictions on type of recreational vehicle. The number of RVers participating in each building project is limited, and all participants must register in advance with the RV Care-A-Vanner office.

For information about RV Care-A-Vanners, call (800) 422-4828 or (229) 924-6935, both Ext. 2446; e-mail rvinfodesk@habitat.org; or visit www.habitat.org/rv.