

HAPPENINGS



PROFILE OF A BELOVED FRIEND AND FOUNDER OF NRV HFH

Roy Claytor (1926-1999) was one of the founders of the New River Valley Habitat for Humanity in 1987. In his professional life he was an educator at Virginia State University, the University of Chicago, Tougaloo College (MS), Jackson State University (MS), Dillard College (LA) and Hampton University (VA). His last job was at Radford Arsenal from 1974-1989. Roy served in the Navy in World War II.

Besides Habitat for Humanity, Roy was active in many other community organization, including New River Community Action and his church, Zion Hill Baptist in Radford. He also served on the Radford City Council.

Roy was an officer of the New River Valley Habitat for Humanity for several years. Those who served on the Board of Directors with him remember his infectious laugh and good disposition and his signal of approval "Yessiree!" His discernment and concern for people is sorely missed.

One of the co-founders of NRV HfH who is still on the Board of Directors, Billy Alexander, said this about Roy: "He was honest-almost too honest. He always found something good to say about people. He was a great person to discuss things with for he was even tempered. He truly enjoyed being around people."

HOUSES BEGIN IN BLACKSBURG

The Board of Directors purchased four lots on Shelor Lane just off of Nellie's Cave Road in Blacksburg on which to build the first houses in Blacksburg by NRV HfH. A group of congregations in Blacksburg was organized, under the name of Blacksburg Interfaith Habitat Group, to build a house on lot #1. A class in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies covenanted to build a house on lot #2. The Virginia Tech chapter of Habitat for Humanity plans to build a house on lot #3. The foundations have been laid for the first two houses. Many volunteers have signed up to work, so the progress should be rapid. Donations of funds are needed to finish paying for the four lots.

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As one of the founding fathers and guiding forces of the New River Valley affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, Roy was a true inspiration in this region.

There never are enough tools available.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A Special Journey ---

A great deal of attention is being given to the journey into the year 2000...what will happen, what it means, etc. Personally, I believe it will be like any other transition to a new year, with little, if any impact on our daily lives.

A journey with great impact, however, received attention recently at the funeral of Roy Claytor. As one of the founding fathers and guiding forces of the New River Valley affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, Roy was a true inspiration in this region.

Folks connected with Habitat since the local affiliate's beginnings in the early 1980's know of Roy's influence on this community. Others who have joined Habitat's cause along the way have felt his positive presence. Thankfully, Roy chose to touch the mission of Habitat during his journey through life on this earth. His life, which itself was an amazing journey, brought blessings, both known and unknown, to many people.

A special journey...yes, Roy Claytor's life surely qualifies. Now he has journeyed to join eternal life with God. Evidence of Roy's belief in the Holy Spirit and in the human spirit is plentiful. Still, we will miss him.

- Doug Bowman, President

Tools Needed

Having the proper tools for a job is most important in doing the job well. NRV HfH's need for building tools is constant. Building in four counties means that building sites can be as many as fifty miles apart, so often several sets of tools are needed. Often there are many volunteers at a site, so several sets of tools are needed. There never are enough tools available.

So, you can help by donating new tools to NRV HfH. The following tools are especially needed at the present time:

- Tool trailer
- Circular saws
- Chop saw (Compound mitre)
- Chain saws
- Belt sanders
- Orbiting sanders
- Roof jacks
- Air compressor (used OK)
- Drywall screw guns
- Any hand tools
- Cash for miscellaneous tool needs

HAMMERS AT WORK

Pearisburg House

The conversion of the old (1869) Methodist Church into a house in Pearisburg is nearing completion. The outside work, except for the yard is essentially done. The drywall, electrical and plumbing work are done. The cabinets and fixtures are installed. Remaining items to be completed are the inside finishing and flooring. The original home owner selected for this house decided to take other housing, so a home owner is currently being sought for this unusual house.



Pulaski House

This house is not a covenant house; it is being financed through regular donations to NRV HfH. The outside work, except for the yard is essentially done. The drywall, electrical and plumbing work are done. The cabinets and fixtures are installed. Remaining items to be completed are the inside finishing and flooring. A home owner is waiting to move into this house.

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BLACKSBURG HOUSES

The Blacksburg Interfaith Habitat Group (BIHG) house foundation has been dug and is expected to be completed by April 1. The house will then be ready for the volunteers and prospective owners to complete by the end of the summer. This house was designed by Architectural Alternatives of Blacksburg.



The foundation of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) sponsored house is now complete. It is expected that the framing and enclosure work will be NRV HfH's first blitz-build project. It is hoped that this student-designed and constructed house will be completed by the end of May.

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WAREHOUSE NEEDED

There are several reasons why NRV HfH needs to have a large warehouse.

- A secure place to store building tools.
- Often building materials can be purchased for less money when bought in bulk.
- Often new building materials are donated before they are needed.
- Donations of used building materials are constant. Since only new materials are used in constructing the houses, a store could be set up to sell the used materials. Several HfH affiliates have generated a sizeable income by such a used-building-materials store.

NRV HfH currently rents a warehouse and has land on which to build a warehouse in Radford; funds are needed to build the warehouse/store.

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New River Valley Habitat for Humanity
P.O. Box 570, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073
540-381-4215

Web page: <http://www.mfhl.org/compages/habitat>
Executive Director: Terri Fitzwater, habitat@usit.net

Construction Coordinator: Tom Underwood; Construction Supervisor: James Anderson
Newsletter Editors: L. David Roper & Terri Fitzwater

Houses Completed

Radford: 8 houses; Pulaski: 7 houses; Christiansburg,: 2 houses

Houses Nearing Completion

Pearisburg: 1 house; Pulaski: 1 house

Houses Started

Blacksburg, Virginia: 2 houses

NRV HfH's area encompasses four counties (Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski) and the city of Radford.

BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND SOUTHEASTERN WORKSHOP



The NRV HfH Executive Director, Terri Fitzwater, and board members (Doug Bowman, Dave Roper, and Joe Paget) recently attended the Southeastern Habitat for Humanity Workshop with the founders of Habitat for Humanity, Linda and Millard Fuller.

New River Valley Habitat for Humanity
P.O. Box 570
Christiansburg, Virginia 24073