

2017 FUMC Involvement with Columbus Habitat Build – September 30, 2017

On Saturday, September 30, the sixth Columbus Habitat for Humanity house located in the New Hope addition was dedicated. Stacey Gronenthal is the owner having put in her “sweat equity” along with her three children. Many sponsors, donors, and volunteers were involved to make this project happen. An attached excerpt from the Columbus Telegram describes the project.

Several members of Columbus First United Methodist Church were involved along the way:

Habitat for Humanity-Columbus Board of Directors:

Jamie Snyder, Executive Director; Chuck Kinnison, Ken Curry, Beth Kurtenbach-current board members

Workers/ Food Prep on July 22, the FUMC Work Day:

Chuck & Nadine Kinnison, Don Fowler, Peg Jeffres, Cathy Davis, Michelle Schindel, Doug Kallesen

Shed Build by GROW Men-UMMen:

Rocky Plettner, Denny Kinkaid, Don Fowler, Rich Rohde, John Plettner, Mary Plettner, Richard Snyder, Chuck Kinnison, Fred Peach, Paul Badje



For more information, see Columbus Telegram article – Oct 3, 2017 – (next page)

Habitat home 'godsend' for local family of four

Gronenthal receives keys to new house at dedication event

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COLUMBUS — Stacey Gronenthal opened one of the presents she received and pulled out a welcome mat that read "Home Sweet Home."

"I love it," she said as the mat was placed near the front door of the new house she is moving into with her three children.

Gronenthal officially got the keys to the home Saturday during a dedication ceremony. She's the sixth person to receive a house through the local Habitat for Humanity chapter.

Tears were shed as the dream of being a homeowner became a reality following months of watching the structure come together.

"It's always been something I wanted to do, but being a single mother of three, the normal payments of a decent house were

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Stacey Gronenthal and her children, from left, Malikai, 6, Jaina, 17, and Avri, 12, stand outside their new home from Habitat for Humanity. The keys were turned over to the family on Saturday.

always way out of the price range that I could ever afford," Gronenthal said.

She works two jobs, including a full-time position at Archer Daniels Midland, to support a family that includes daughters Jaina, 17, and Avri, 12, and son Malikai, 6. It's a struggle at times to make ends meet.

Gronenthal, 37, said being selected for the newest Habitat build was a godsend.

"Everything happens at a certain time for a certain reason and this was our time," she said.

The family has been living in a trailer home Gronenthal bought six years ago, but it needs repairs. The roof leaks

and moisture caused mold to grow in the kitchen.

"It was cheap at the time and a place to call home," she said.

At the urging of a co-worker, Gronenthal applied for a Habitat home. It was something she always wanted to do, but never got around to because of her busy schedule.

The family was approved in early January.

"It was a late Christmas present," Gronenthal said.

Habitat homes are built using volunteer labor, with licensed contractors handling the plumbing, electrical and other work. Homeowners are required to put in about 200 hours of "sweat equity" during the construction process.

The Gronenthal home is a three-bedroom house in the

New Hope Addition along 45th Avenue near 15th Street.

Habitat homes are usually valued around \$85,000 and funded by donations from companies and individuals. Thrivent Financial paid for half of this build.

Homeowners receive a no-interest mortgage and make monthly payments to the chapter to fund future builds.

Gronenthal said the support from the community has been overwhelming. Now that the keys have been turned over, the family is ready to move in.

Her daughters will share a bedroom until Jaina finishes her senior year at Columbus High School and goes to college. Malikai is getting his own room for the first time.

"He's never had a bedroom of his own. He's slept

next to mom since I brought him home from the hospital. I don't know who's going to have more of a separation anxiety, him or me," Gronenthal said.

The new home gives the family a sense of security they didn't have while living in the trailer. The children also have a yard to play in.

"Overall, this is going to be the best thing that's ever happened to us," Gronenthal said.

Applications are being accepted for the Habitat home to be constructed next year. Those who apply must attend one of two orientation sessions offered at 4 p.m. Oct. 8 and 7 p.m. Oct. 9 at Pinnacle Bank's east branch, 210 E. 23rd St.

For more information, call 402-554-4663 or email info@hfhcolumbusne.org.