



September 2009

Volume 17

Number 9

### The Valley's Most Successful Affordable Low Income Home Builder

In 1993, Judy and I joined others in the movement to form Silver Valley Habitat for Humanity, Inc. [Now the **Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing** (SVH)] At that time, I didn't believe it would work but believed it was worth trying. I was familiar with disappointing results of government built housing—those projects which too often resulted in deteriorating conditions by families who had been given something for nothing.

Millard and Linda Fuller's HfH movement enlisted volunteers to *help* low income families build their own homes and required the families to pay for them. It was hoped that after helping build their homes that they would be bonded to and maintain them.

Many founding members of SVH dreamed that *all* the selected families:

- 1) Would maintain their homes;
- 2) Would be able to maintain their mortgage payments;
- 3) Would later give some of their time and money helping other families build their homes.

Sixteen years later the results are:

- 1) All the houses appear to be in good shape, but a few of the yards are deplorable;
- 2) We may have to foreclose on one family; two others are a few months behind in their payments; eight are ahead of their scheduled payments; and four have paid off their homes early.
- 3) Most of the families support us with some time yearly.
- 4) But, so far, few are supporting us financially in addition to making their house payments.

Our homeowners seem to be turning out to be somewhat average home owners, which is disappointing to some of the dreams of the founding members.

- ❖ Financially the Silver Valley now has taxes being paid on over a million dollars (\$1,000,000) worth of homes because of us.
- ❖ Education wise, most of the children have done and are doing well in school—some in the top of their high school classes and some have graduated from college.
- ❖ Job wise, employers have more stable workers and with the confidence gained in the process of building their own homes, some community leaders have been produced.

So for me—the skeptic—I think we have been surprisingly successful. If you believe that homeownership is important to our community, please give your financial support *and* some volunteer time to the most successful affordable low income housing builder in the Silver Valley.

Thankfully Yours,

Verne Blalack



Shoshone Base Camp Youth learns how to hammer while building the back steps at the Lake site.

*Photo by Mike Humphrey*

### The Greater Blessing Program

Mankind's basic needs are food and shelter. In addition to that—to really live—he needs hope. Hope for something to look forward to. Sadly, most of mankind can't seem to be content with what they have. They want more. The more can be almost anything: companionship, wealth, fame, etc. Perhaps it isn't the more we need so much as the getting of it.

For the Fuller Center for Housing, the "more" is a successful *Greater Blessings Program*. This program is what the Two-Mile Ministry used to do and some of what the Shoshone Base Camp Youth do while here in the summer—small home repairing for the needy. The Two-Mile Ministry was a great local volunteer organization that finally dissolved for lack of volunteers.

Why then do we think we may be successful? We intend to set aside 5% of our income for such projects, hoping that if we furnish money for a few small Greater Blessing repair projects every year that some locals will volunteer to do them. Homeowners will "pay forward" the cost of the repairs as they can afford it without interest to our Greater Blessings account to help with the next project. *If you want to donate specifically to this account, please indicate it on your check.*

We obviously need help since our construction crew is already shorthanded. So if you or a group of you can help on these small projects—fantastic! Get some of your friends together; organize a work party from an organization; use it as an opportunity for church outreach.

Those needing help will need to ask through our construction committee to see the feasibility of the project.

So, if you know of some small repair project that needs to be done for a needy party, let us know. **Also, if you are willing to help with such a project, let us know. (Perhaps this will help fulfill the "more" you need in your life.)**

*"... But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*  
**John 3:21**

## Pinehurst Days



While spending a couple of days visiting with the Blalacks, Verna & Wally Baker (former Care-A-Vanners) help Judy & Verne set up for Pinehurst Days.

*Photo by Mike Humphrey*



Janice DeVoe & Judy Blalack are ready to sell tickets for the “Little Shop” raffle. Kathy McPherson also helped at the booth—she took the photo.

A popular activity for kids (& parents) was painting on rocks. We did a little fund raising at \$2.50 per child.



Verna Baker & Haley Gosline enjoyed painting their rocks between selling “Little Shop” Raffle tickets on Friday. Their efforts encouraged others on Saturday. *Photos by Judy*

An Artistic  
Dad  
(& Cute Tot)



A Delighted  
Miss



Our new grant writer, Christina Derbyshire, brings her girls to the rock painting table.

Three  
Sweet  
Sisters



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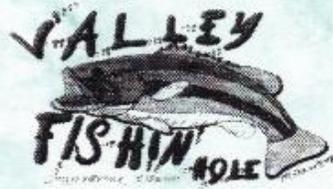
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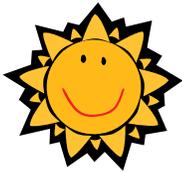
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**Coming Events**

Sept 15—**Committees:** Construction; Partnership; PR &  
Fundraising, 6 PM, Mountain View  
Congregational Church, Kellogg  
Sept 15—**Board,** 7 PM, Mountain View Congregational  
Church, Kellogg  
**Sept 19—12<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk-A-Thon, Kellogg Middle  
School, Registration @ 9 AM**

**We are honored to receive this memorial.**

*From Verne & Judy Blalack  
In Memory of Ted Kerns*



Travis Carney loads lumber donated by Kellogg Lumber Company into the back of "Old Blue", Verne's pickup.



Holding passes to the Northern Pacific RR Museum, Judy Blalack poses with Mary Vipperman, Joyce Pellissier, and Diane Van Broeke. The family passes will be prizes in our Walk-A-Thon and Christmas raffle.

**Learning Experiences With Youth**



Someone is excited about learning to frame.

Another is learning about pulling wires.



Others learn how to install trim around windows.



*Photos by Mike Humphrey*



We thank everyone involved in our Dena Mora Rest Stop Fund Raiser. There will be coverage of the event in the next newsletter.

**Here's Help for Habitat . . .**

- ❖ I'd like to join the "300 Club" and pledge at least \$10 per month for one year. Please note 300 on your check.
- ❖ Here is my pledge for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for one year.
- ❖ Here is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- ❖ I have a house and/or land to donate.
- ❖ I can make a no-interest loan for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please call about working out the details.
- ❖ I can provide construction materials either discounted or at no cost.
- ❖ I would like to help with construction and/or committee work. Please call me to help or send a volunteer form.

I do not wish to be on your mailing list.  
 I do not wish a receipt or thank-you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Inc. ♦ P.O. Box 874, Kellogg, ID 83837 ♦ 786-6013



Gary Pruiksmas from Crown Electric installs the circuit panel at the Lake home.

*Photo by Judy*



Jim Taylor, of Taylor Made, (center) teaches the Shoshone Base Camp Youth how to install roofing and siding.

*Photo by Mike Humphrey*



We were delighted to welcome an unexpected youth group after the Shoshone Base Camp closed. These are the PLC Youth from Puyallup, WA, who were told elsewhere they were too young to work.

*Photo by Mike Humphrey*



## Slip on your most comfortable shoes and Come join us for our 12th Annual Walk-A-Thon

**Saturday, September 19, 2009**

We have been blessed with “door prizes” for all ages from our generous community.

**See the registration form inside.**

*Please collect the \$ from your sponsors and bring with you—we will give you a thank you to give back to them as proof of your participation.*

### **Needed—Volunteers**

Volunteer Coordinator; PR/Fund-Raising Co-Chair; Newsletter Asst. Editor; Gleaner; Committee Members  
Call 786-6013 to help.

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