



VISION

"Transforming lives through simple, decent and affordable housing"

A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SAN ANTONIO PUBLICATION • ISSUE 25 • AUGUST 2005

Remembering Faith Lytle—A Life of Service



Faith Lytle

Faith Lytle put Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio on the map. With Faith's help, HFHSA has always shown a special distinction from other Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the United States. We started construction of the first Habitat for Humanity house in the United States on a small parcel of land on Hidalgo Street on San Antonio's near west side in 1976. We have grown to become one of the top ten largest producing Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the country, having built almost 430 homes in partnership with families in need. None of this would have been possible without the determination and vision of a very special woman.

Faith Lytle founded Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio in her kitchen with a group of committed friends in 1976. This newsletter and HFHSA's 2005 affiliate title are dedicated to her memory as a tribute to her life and the tremendous work she accomplished. Faith passed away on April 29, 2005, after a recurrence of breast cancer. She was 82. Her husband, Bill Lytle, four children and other members of her family were at her side.

Faith's journey began on March 13,

1923 in Maplewood, N.J. where she spent her childhood. After graduating from Tusculum College in Greenville, Tenn. she attended Princeton Seminary where her friend, Bill Lytle was in his second year. Bill and Faith had met in Greenville, Tenn. the week she graduated from college. Married in 1947, she and Bill began their long and fruitful lives together as national missionaries in the Reserve and Corona, N.M. ranching communities until 1962. They spent another 11 years in rural mission church work in the mountain area around the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Ark. where Bill was a faculty member. For the past 32 years, they made San Antonio their home. Bill was pastor of the downtown Madison Square Presbyterian Church from 1973 to 1991.

"Faith truly considered every family a part of her life..."

They spent most summers at Chautauqua Lake, NY, which was one of Faith's favorite places. She and her family enjoyed many other vacation trips across the country – one of the most notable trips was to Koinoinia Farms in Americus, Ga. in 1970. It was at Koinoinia that Faith and Bill met Millard Fuller and witnessed the dream of Clarence Jordan and Millard Fuller to build housing cooperatively with families in need.

Faith's greatest love was her family. She and Bill had four children and nine

grandchildren. Other passions included the arts, her pets, her English heritage, social issues and her spiritual journey. It was Faith's great interest in social issues and the people around her that really sparked her founding of Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio. A great letter writer, she kept in touch with Millard Fuller and told him of the great need for affordable housing in San Antonio and asked him how to start a housing program here.

With Millard's guidance she followed Habitat for Humanity's principles of building simple and decent houses, selling the houses at zero percent interest and no profit to a family in need willing to contribute a minimum of 300 hours of their own sweat equity. With her dedication, great persistence and love for the families, houses were built with families in need year after year. Faith kindled the original base of supporters by writing countless thank you letters and keeping people involved in the good work.

Faith served on both the local and international Habitat for Humanity board of directors throughout the years. However, her first love was for the Habitat families. Whenever you would see Faith at a Habitat event – she would have a huge smile on her face while talking to one of the Habitat families.

Faith truly considered every family a part of her life and prayed for all of God's blessings to be bestowed upon them. The mission of Habitat for Humanity is about putting one's faith into action. Nobody did this better than Faith. She will remain an inspiration to us all. We miss her dearly.



Bill and Faith Lytle

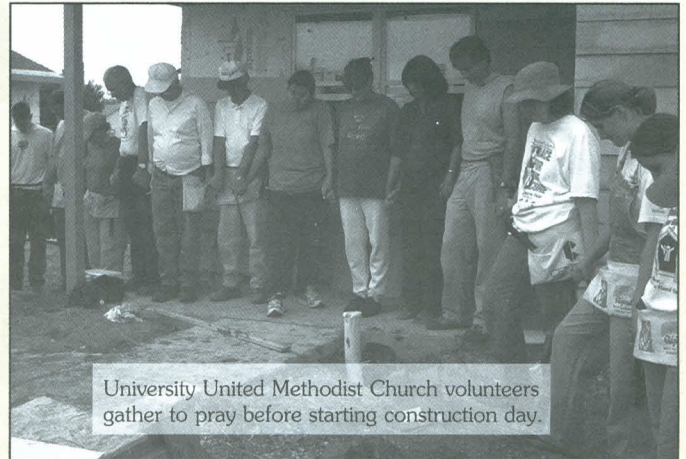
We Are Building on Faith

Each September, Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio celebrates our partnerships with San Antonio's faith community during **Building on Faith Week**. This year's theme, "Making All Things New," is especially appropriate as we embark on building the first eight faith-sponsored houses in our new Palo Alto subdivision this fall. Special events and celebrations are planned for the week of September 11-18 to offer praise and thanksgiving to God, to pray for those inadequately housed, and to urge new faith partners to take a leap of faith and build homes with families in need of shelter.

Your congregation can participate in a variety of ways:

- Include HFHSA in daily prayers
- Use HFHSA construction hard hats to collect a special offering during Building on Faith Week (100% of this offering helps build more homes)
- Include Habitat's "Litany for Shelter" in a service
- Use Habitat's Building on Faith Sunday School lessons either Sept. 11 or Sept. 18
- Have a mission moment for HFHSA
- Include Habitat homeowner testimonials in congregational bulletin

For more information or to order materials for your congregation, please contact Jennifer Gonzalez at (210) 223-5203.



University United Methodist Church volunteers gather to pray before starting construction day.

Building on Faith Week Events

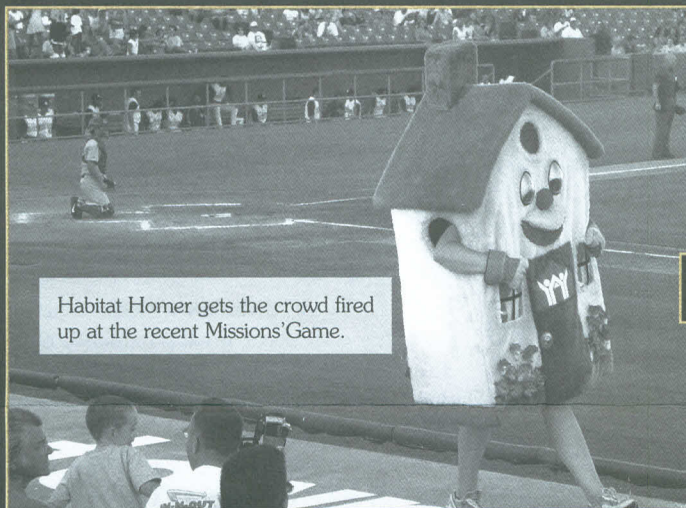
Sunday, September 11 – Habitat Prayer Vigil

Tuesday, September 13 – Faith in Action Team (FIAT) meeting. Noon – 1:00 pm. San Pedro Presbyterian Church, 14900 San Pedro Ave. Join us as we celebrate 11 years of "Building on Faith."

Friday, September 16 – Hab-i-tour. 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Witness the results of building houses as an expression of God's love and learn how your congregation can join this ministry.

Saturday, September 17 – Building on Faith Prayer Service. 7:45 am. Palo Alto build site.

For more information on events, please contact Jennifer Gonzalez at (210) 223-5203.



Habitat Homer gets the crowd fired up at the recent Missions' Game.

Annual Missions Game

Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio held its' annual volunteer appreciation event on July 12, 2005 at the Nelson W. Wolff stadium. Volunteers, HFHSA staff, and board members enjoyed watching a baseball game between the San Antonio Missions and the Arkansas Travelers. Thank you to all that attended the ballgame!

Habitat Home Centers

A special thank you to all of you who have donated products to the Home Centers this year. Your donations of building products and the fact that we have found a lot of particularly good bargains on closeout merchandise enables us to offer some great deals. A huge thank you again goes out to all our donors and customers who continue to support us in this vital fundraising effort.

The stores have recently brought in eight truckloads of raw unfinished cabinets that are perfect for those garage and storage room applications. They are not the same quality as our prefinished oak cabinets, but the low price is far more competitive than their counterparts in the large retailers. This is a one time opportunity so

don't miss out! We also continue to offer the best laminate flooring deal in town. There are many flooring dealers who offer low priced laminate, but the quality of our laminate (8.3mm, water resistant green-core, easy snap-lock installation) makes ours a far better deal. Additionally our light fixture inventory is at an all-time high.

Please remember we have two locations now: 5482 Walzem and our original store at 311 Probandt. If you have home improvement leftovers, new or used, or know someone who does then please call us at 223-3647 or 599-7109. As usual all donations are tax deductible and all proceeds from sales benefit Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio.

