

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Robert Vaughan
Executive Director
630.844.2774
rvaughan@dunhamfund.org

(Aurora, Illinois)

Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity completes Dunham-funded home

Old Second volunteers contribute "sweat equity" to the Montgomery habitat project

As the result of a 2007 grant from the Dunham Fund, Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity was able to complete construction of a habitat home in Montgomery in December 2008. The new home will be occupied by single dad, Aubrey Wells, and his four year old daughter, Alanah. After renting a small apartment in East Aurora, Aubrey declared that "it will be quite a blessing to be able to sprawl out in and personalize a home of our own." With Alanah as his sole motivation for investing many Habitat-required hours of "sweat equity" in the home, he is anticipating having a more spacious home and a yard where his daughter can run and play. As a teacher at Aurora Education Center, Aubrey already knows what it means to give back to his community and feels that his partnership with Habitat for Humanity has only increased his desire to help others.

And Aubrey was not without "helping hands" from an area business willing to give back to its community and to Aubrey by volunteering labor hours to his home project. John Guiffre, Habitat Board President and Old Second Bancorp employee, had no trouble convincing the bank's employees to volunteer for insulation and dry wall installation at the Montgomery home. John enlisted employees, Jordan Crain, Chad Fleming, Steve Foster, David Kozuh, Greg Kuda, Chris Lasse, Michelle McKay, Sharon O'Bryan, Janice Rayford, Pat Roe, Chuck Strayer, and Kristen Wagner to work on several very cold Saturday mornings in December. Stewart Beach, Executive Vice-President of Old Second's Wealth Management division and board member of Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity, was there to provide additional manual labor and moral support and to emphasize that it is an integral part of Old Second's corporate mission to provide many employee hours of volunteer service in the bank's home communities. Mr. Beach, Wendy Hirsch and Mike Morcos, members of the Dunham Fund Board of Advisors, were also there to work and to thank the Wells family and the many volunteers who labored on the grant funded project.

Jeff Barrett, Executive Director of Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity, explained that "Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Fox Valley Habitat For Humanity, as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, works in partnership with God and people of all faiths and races to develop communities for people in need by building and renovating houses and creating homeownership opportunities." Fox Valley Habitat has provided more than thirty-five new homes in the Fox Valley region since its inception in 1990. Through volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of the homeowner families. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage

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payments are recycled into a revolving Fund for Humanity that is used to build more houses. “The new owners take great pride in their homes. We have had only one partner family default on their loan in all the years we have been providing affordable housing for Fox Valley residents.”

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About the Dunham Fund . . .

The Dunham Fund is a private foundation established in 2006 to honor the legacy of John C. Dunham, businessman and philanthropist, through grants to Aurora, Illinois area organizations that have the vision and programs to help fulfill Mr. Dunham’s dream of “making the world a more comfortable, safer place for mankind to live and prosper.”

For more information, contact:

Robert Vaughan

Executive Director

8 E. Galena Boulevard, Suite 202, Aurora, IL 60506

630.844.2774

rvaughan@dunhamfund.org



Stewart Beach, Executive Vice-President of Old Second’s Wealth Management division and board member of Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity, helps Old Second volunteer, Kristen Wagner, install insulation in the Montgomery habitat home.