

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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Family pays forward after tragedy

By Scott Rodgers, Editor, The North Augusta Star



During a time when many families were celebrating the Christmas holiday, Mark and Lori Rogers had to live through a nightmare.

Their home, on 117 Swathmore Ave. in Belvedere, was lost to a fire on Dec. 22. Since then, Mark, Lori and their four children – Pax, (11); Sydney, (8); Eden, (4); and Benjamin, (3); have moved on as best they could. They now have a new home, near Exit 1 off Interstate 20, and are adjusting to life

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Reported by Mike Bone



Since last month's report, significant construction progress has been made including installation of interior doors, trim and casing, completion of all interior and exterior painting, installation of kitchen flooring and most of the kitchen cabinets as well as tile and vanities in both bathrooms. Final lot grading was also completed along with the cement driveway. Final electric work is in process with plumbing schedule for the next two weeks. Minor finishing items such as interior door hardware and hanging closet doors and shelves are in process. Major items to go are HVAC installation, carpeting, landscaping and final inspection.

If you are interested in being considered as a potential HFHNA House Number 17 Partner Family, you may complete an application online at www.HFHNA.org

Call (803) 613-0305 for an application

Our Vision

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

after tragedy.

On May 1, another major step was taken in the healing process. The Rogers family decided to donate the land and what was left of their home to Habitat for Humanity of North Augusta. Beverly Grading and Clearing donated their time and efforts at a much reduced cost to tear down the home.

“We just felt like it was the right thing to do,” Mark said. “It was going to cost us too much to rebuild it, and we would have lost money trying to rebuild. So, we went ahead and purchased a different property. We knew we weren’t going to make any money selling the house or the land. So we donated it to Habitat, so they can rebuild and give another family a chance to start fresh here.”

Lori said the process has “definitely helped” with healing. While recounting some memories, she paused seeing the remnants of the family Christmas tree.

“I don’t like to remember the house like this,” she said. “I don’t like to remember it as a burnt out, charred mess. I like to remember it for the memories of the good things we had – bringing our kids home from the hospital, having them take their first steps and I want to remember that. I don’t want to remember this. It’s good to be able to put this behind us.”

Mark said it still wasn’t easy to move forward, but the outpouring of support made it possible.

“We’ve been trying to pay it forward since this whole thing started,” he said. “The whole community came out and supported us, and picked us up with everything we would ever need.”

Lori said if it weren’t for the community’s support, they wouldn’t be able to donate to Habitat.

Mike Bone, construction coordinator with Habitat for Humanity of North Augusta, said it is increasingly hard for Habitat to find land to build on.

“It’s especially hard when we are trying to save every penny we can to put into building houses,” he said. “When an opportunity like this comes up, with a family that is so generous even in their own tragedy, it’s really special. After this is all cleared out we’ll decide where to build next. If we build here next, we’ll start later this year. We’ll probably end up building a three-bedroom house for a deserving family.”

Bone said Habitat is always open for applications. To fill one out, and to review the qualifications, visit www.hfhna.org.

Legrand Flake Scholarship

By Mike Deger



Jacqueline Phillips receives grant certificate from Mike Deger

The purpose of the Legrand Flake Scholarship is to recognize an outstanding graduating area high school student who has demonstrated their community spirit through volunteerism. In addition to community service, the award considers financial need and academics. The scholarship honors Legrand Flake who is a retired North Augusta businessman who has selflessly volunteered countless hours of his own time and efforts to his community. Mr. Flake had been the Construction Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of North Augusta for several years and a volunteer since its inception more than 16 years ago and continues as a volunteer even today. He has contributed to the construction of all 16 homes built by HFHNA over the years and we hope to see his continued assistance on house number 17 this fall.

The scholarship winner may select any course of study at an accredited college, university or vocational school within the US. This year’s recipient is Jacqueline A. Phillips from North Augusta High School. Jacqueline’s future plans include furthering her education at the University of South Carolina in the fall. While a student at North Augusta High, Jacqueline participated in many extracurricular and volunteer activities and is the recipient of several awards including but not limited to the Universal Hope Non-Profit organization’s achievement award, the Distinguished Young Women of South Carolina award and First Place in FBLA State Community Service Project. Congratulations to Jacqueline and we wish her the best as she pursues his future goals

PHOTO GALLERY



Demolition of the Swathmore property



Donors, Mark and Lori Rogers, look on



Interior doors being hung



Interior trim begins



Construction of the front porch

Property donated by Mike Pereyo, although HFHNA has no plan to build on the site because it is to remote from North Augusta and our primary service area, it will be readied for sale to generate much needed funds for Habitat for Humanity of North Augusta allowing us to continue our ministry.



Mike Bone clearing of the Pereyo property



John Carr and other volunteer



Ft. Gordon Troopers help clear the property

Support Habitat for Humanity

By supporting Habitat for Humanity-North Augusta, you will have helped by making a significant difference in the lives of Habitat families, not only in your community, but also around the world. On behalf of these individuals, we sincerely thank you for your contribution.

If you would like to become a Habitat for Humanity of North Augusta Sponsor contact Don Evans for more information:

Habitat for Humanity – North Augusta

Don Evans, Development Director

P.O. Box 8121

North Augusta, SC 29861-8121

Phone: 803-613-0305

Web Site: <http://hfhna.org/>

Click [here](#) for more information on donating
<http://hfhna.org/donate/>



HFHNA is an all volunteer organization. All housing projects are completed with the help of community volunteers and donor contribution of construction supplies and other needed goods and services.

Habitat for Humanity North Augusta Board of Directors:

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Upcoming Events

HFHNA Board meeting

7:00 July 7, 2015

SPONSORS



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NORTH AUGUSTA
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[Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC](#)



The Estate of Kathryn H. Murphy

Ron Kaiser