

NAZARETH NEWS

ISSUE NO. 1

Winter 1997

DORM PROJECT COMPLETED

By Rodney Dick

The new dormitory project is complete! Thank you to all who supported this much needed project through financial contributions, volunteering your time and energy, and prayers. The project was completed in December before the staff departed to spend Christmas with our families. The new dormitory and restrooms were ready for the first volunteers to use it who arrived on January 5 from Colgate University, Butler/IUPUI of Indianapolis, and Fordham University.

We are very grateful for the new addition to the Farm, and most importantly believe that it will provide safe and clean place for volunteers to call home for a week for years to come. Over the next few weeks, miscellaneous finish work will be completed, and finally metal frame bunks which are being donated by Colgate University are expected to arrive in early June.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some individuals and groups without whom this project would not have been a success. Thanks go to Amy Hudacko, who was instrumental in making the blitz build on October 10-14 such a success, as well as all of you who came to help that weekend. Over 30 volunteers from the local community as well as friends of the Farm from throughout the United States also



Blitz builders pose in front of the almost completed exterior on day four.

made the weekend one which will never be forgotten. Thanks to Terry Flaherty for installing the heating system. Thanks to the Daughters of Charity for a \$7,000 grant for the project and John and Barbara Healy for your very generous donation of \$5,000 in memory of Annie and Mike Healy.

In addition, the following youth groups were instrumental in raising a significant amount of money for the project: Church of St. Pius X of Indianapolis, St. Benedict-St. Ann-Sacred Heart of Terre Haute, IN, Notre Dame High School of Elmira, NY, and Archbishop Moeller High School of Cincinnati, Ohio. Special thanks go to St. Joseph's Parish of Mendham, NJ, St. Catherine of Sienna Parish of Buffalo, NY, and the Bargain Cellar for your generous donations.

We do not have space to list everyone who made the project possible; however, please know that your generosity is greatly appreciated! I also would like to thank my fellow staff members for all of their long hours and commitment to make the project a success.

Nazareth Farm is blessed to have so many wonderful supporters who believe in our mission. Thank you again! Please join us for the dedication of the new dormitory scheduled for Saturday May 3, 1997 at 11:00 A.M. Bishop Bernard Schmitt of our Diocese will be present to bless the new building and the mission of Nazareth Farm.



Volunteers nail shingles and snap lines on the third day of the blitz build.

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2/97

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

by Megan Kennedy

I spent much of this fall enjoying the colorful beauty of the area, learning some about construction (okay, a lot about construction), and making new friends in the area. I have been most amazed by the incredible generosity, hospitality, and friendship shown to me by my new West Virginia friends.

There is one friend who stands out in my mind as a blessing to me. In October, I took work groups out to Miss Davis' house which sits on a beautiful piece of property. (Now you see how all three of my fall endeavors fit together).

Miss Davis' water pump was housed in a root cellar with a second story building attached to it. The roof on the building as well as the second story roof and walls were rotten, causing leaks to her pump. We tore down the building to the block, constructed new trusses, and put on a new roof. In addition, we insulated the attic of the building and replaced a ceiling in her attached porch.

While the work at Miss Davis' was enjoyable, my favorite moments of the week occurred around her kitchen counter. After lunch, we would sip Sanka from her orange mugs and exchange our stories. She listened intently and made you feel like you were talking with a life-long friend.

Miss Davis' sense of hospitality had a strong impact on the volunteers who visited. Every morning, she would invite us in and make special efforts to show us the location of her bathroom. She emphasized that we should not ask to use it. "Just make yourself home," she would say each day. Of course I would ask each day, just to see her shake her head and explain that I needed to make myself at home. We would both laugh then she would give me a hug and say "Go on".

Miss Davis is a woman I have come to admire for her generous spirit, her sense of humor, and her kindness. On our last day at the site, she said she would have to come up with a new project to ensure our return. In fact, she has offered to teach me to quilt, (if only she knew my poor sewing skills).

☺☺☺☺ **MUCHAS GRACIAS** ☺☺☺☺

This issue we thank several groups whose recent contributions have been extremely helpful. After sending groups this past summer, three high schools have sent in donations. Parkersburg Catholic in Parkersburg, WV; Archbishop Moeller in Cincinnati; and Cathedral High School in Indianapolis all deserve muchas gracias for carrying service beyond their volunteer weeks.

Thanks go out to St. James Church in Johnson City, NY; the Church of St. Walter in Rosell, IL; as well as the CV and MN Hofmann Foundation. For tithing to the Farm, we thank St. Louis de Montfort Church in Fishers, IN; St. Anthony of Padua in Cortland, NY; and Our Lady of Presentation in Lee's Summit, MO. We also thank Kathy Webber from St. Paul's Catholic Church in Canton, OH for organizing a large collection of tools for the Farm along with clothes and toys for the Bargain Cellar.

WISH LIST

Thanks to all who responded to our request for help with funding the Christmas Party and the completion of the dormitory. As you can see by the pictures in this issue, both projects were a success. If you are able, please help the Farm to meet these current needs:

- ◆ a 486 IBM computer (we have a 386 nearing meltdown)
- ◆ a woodshop dust collection system
- ◆ 5 circular saws

NAZARETH FARM DELIVERS CHRISTMAS CHEER



WHO'S ON FIRST?

The Farm staff has kept as busy as ever this winter. We just ran a retreat for the youth of our local parish and, boy, are our souls tired.

Several members of our staff have headed for points elsewhere. James is back in Massachusetts doing construction work, he must enjoy getting paid for it once again. St. Louis has reclaimed John and Vera, the sweetest (and the only) lovebirds on staff. John misses playing mind games with volunteers and Vera went back to doing "atmospheric" arrangements at the florist. After serving three years, Butch will step down in May as Project Coordinator. He plans to continue to stay in close contact like the good neighbor he has always been.

This month Gina left the kitchen and began life as a work site coordinator. For her first job insulating under a house, some animals left her little welcome presents. Andy has since taken her spot as house manager. He loves to do bulk grocery shopping and specializes in "Death by Chocolate". For all her time installing plumbing under the new dorm, Anne has been named "Queen of PVC". Scott, "King of Cool Tools", has added to his collection with a huge 28 ounce hammer which he calls Bessie. Megan has been working hard to set up group weeks and send out information packets. She hopes that someday Matt will play his fiddle for the staff. Matt remains noncommittal on a recital date.

This winter we also hired Pam Moore as our new Office Manager. Pam lives in the area and works at a bank during the day. At night, she handles our office responsibilities and a lot less money.

EDITORS NOTE: In the lead article of this issue, Rodney grossly neglected to give himself credit for the completion of the dormitory. It could not have happened as well without him. Thanks a ton.

With the help of numerous donations, Nazareth Farm made this Christmas a merry one for many. Support flowed in for the annual Christmas party on December 15 as well as for presents to the forty families we worked with this year.

Over 120 children packed into the banquet hall of the Doddridge County Park for the party. They sang carols, made ornaments, and received presents from Santa (not the real one). To watch the children's faces light up as they opened their gifts was to see the true spirit of Christmas.

Thanks to those of you who supported the Adopt-A-Family program, we were able to bring fruit baskets and other various gifts to everyone we worked with this year. When we delivered the presents, the staff found that most people liked the long holiday visit just as much as anything we gave them. They often told us that their Christmas was much nicer because of our kindness. Thank you for helping us share this joy!



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

We have a new Executive Director and a new Project Coordinator!

As Rodney prepares to leave the Farm a second time, Jen Jackman will take over as Executive Director. She is originally from the Chicago area and has brought groups to the Farm for almost twelve years. Currently, Jen is the director of a retreat center in Indianapolis. She will be arriving in April with her best friend and dog, Casey.

Butch has already begun to train our new Project Coordinator, Tom Porter. Tom is a retired educator originally from the Philadelphia area. He has lived in Doddridge County for six years and is an active member of our parish, St. Patrick's. We are excited to welcome both of these long time friends to their new roles.

SERVICE

PRAYER

SIMPLICITY

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HUDACKO HIKES THIS WAY

One of the greatest gifts I've received through the Farm is an appreciation for the outdoors. I have grown to love hiking and camping. My favorite time on a trail is that quiet morning when I rise earlier than my partners ever care for me to squirm. Then a cup of tea, my journal, and I say good morning to the world. Pretty close to heaven if its not raining.

The time has come to incorporate this joy and a chance to give back to Nazareth Farm. On June 16, past Farm staffers Alicia Soszynski, Jessica Hanson and myself, Amy Hudacko, will begin hiking about 400 miles of the Appalachian Trail. We hope to make it from Harper's Ferry, WV to the Hudson River at Bear Mountain in New York. We ask you to sponsor our journey as a direct donation to the Farm for the many gifts it offers volunteers and the people of Doddridge County.

Any individual, group, or family can pledge by the mile. Send your pledge in today on the attached form. Afterwards, we will tell you all about the trip in the fall issue of *Nazareth News*. Thank you for your help. Your spirit will guide us on the trail in our adventures and continue to support the place that so many of us call home.

HIKE THIS WAY

NAZARETH FARM FUND RAISER

I would love to make a
donation to Nazareth Farm of
___¢ per mile x 400 miles = \$ ___
or \$ ___ over all.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

✂ clip out or copy and send to Nazareth Farm - Attention: Hike