

Habitat for Humanity London Celebrates Volunteers

March 2009

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CMHC Staff & City of London Staff

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**Volunteer -
Deborah Kime**

DEBORAH KIME **Global Spectrum**

Deborah Kime is a happily married mother of two boys, age 11 and 13, and she holds the position of Director of Groups Sales for Global Spectrum. Outside of work, she keeps herself busy with fund-raising activities and charitable work that revolves around her children. Deborah also enjoys shopping.

In the past, Deborah had purchased fixtures through the ReStore. She was introduced to the concept on volunteering on build sites when her extended family shared their experiences of helping out. This year, Global Spectrum became a Habitat for Humanity London sponsor when the decision was made to tie a Habitat for Humanity Build into the 5th year anniversary of the John Labatts Centre opening.

At one time Deborah called England home for ten years. She says she left for England with five boxes of junk, and came back with a husband and more boxes.

Back in England, Deborah exercised some of her build skills while doing some renovations with her husband. She adds ‘... people can surprise themselves with the skills that they have once they are given a bit of direction.’

Her career keeps her pretty busy and she wishes that could have had more time to participate at this year’s build, but the

experience she walked away with was very rewarding. ‘At this stage in life, it is important for me to contribute something to someone else that is not for my own personal gain. The volunteer experience is one that she hope to be able to pass onto and share with her children. “Our family is fortunate, and being able to give our time and energy to help someone else gain more is important.”

Deborah also comments on the ‘all women builds’ that have taken place. “I think the introduction of the ‘All Women’ builds are empowering because with some direction, they allow us to transfer our own skills to site skills.” Her favorite quote is ‘Go Big or Go Home’.



They keep coming back!

Two By Two

TERESA AND JEFF YOUNG
McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP



Teresa and Jeff Young reside in Ailsa Craig, a small community located just north of London, Ontario. Jeff is self employed and Teresa works at the law firm of McKenzie Lake. Together they have raised three children and have been active in local community activities that include children's baseball, church functions and events at the 'Crest Centre', which is an organization that provides "...quality supports to adults with mental health and, or developmental disabilities that facilitate full citizenship through personal growth and participation in all aspects of community life".



Although Teresa mentions that her father came from the construction industry, and Jeff has experience as a heavy equipment operator, this is the first time that the couple have volunteered their time to Habitat For Humanity London Inc.

"This is an opportunity to help someone...a way of giving back and helping close to home." says Teresa. "I can't see myself going on a mission to Africa." adds Jeff. "...and we did not know any of the volunteers outside of McKenzie Lake, but that part didn't matter. We are here to help our community." Jeff's personal business purchase three bricks from McKenzie Lake's own fundraiser and the proceeds of their efforts go towards this year's Habitat For Humanity London build.

"I'll never remember what was so important that I would have passed on this opportunity to help. It does good, for a good cause." Jeff is sincere in his statement.

As for Teresa, her reason for volunteering is rooted in the law firm of corporate sponsor McKenzie Lake.

"Angus McKenzie was a true gentleman with a good heart, who never forgot his roots. He was an inspiration because he was so community oriented. The lawyers that I work with are all good people, and I did this in celebration of Senior Partner Angus McKenzie...because of who he was and his accomplishments."

Individuals

DIANA PETERS
Individual Returning
Volunteer

With two grown children, three grandsons and one granddaughter, Diana Peters still finds time to garden, enjoy crafting, and work on her home. Diana also likes to travel and her most recent adventure took her to the Equator.

Now retired, Diana says it was the company that she used to work for that had introduced her to Habitat For Humanity London Inc. The company often donated doors to the ReStore, and one day Diana decided to send in a volunteer application. **This year's build is Diana's sixth with Habitat.** Diana is not a stranger to volunteering her time, and has helped out with other organizations such as Beavers, Cubs, Sea Cadets and other activities that her children were involved in.



When Diana first decided to volunteer with Habitat For Humanity London Inc. she was not sure what to expect. Her husband had passed away and with her children grown, she was on her own. Diana figured it was time to learn skills that would help her to maintain her own home. At her job, Diana sat at a desk all day, but she loved being active and outdoors. Reflecting on years gone by, she often wished that she had attended a school that made it easier for women to take trade courses.

Meeting people and the satisfaction of knowing that she has helped someone else are the things Diana enjoys most about the time she donates to Habitat. "I have always had my own home and it is gratifying to help someone achieve their own goals."

When asked what her favorite quote is, Diana responds "Probably my daughter's answer to 'how old are you'...'As old as my tongue and a little older than my teeth'...this is now what she tells her kids.

Diana says, "I think people are missing out when they don't volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. You are able to find skills that you did not know you had and the trades people and experts are very patient with you."

Family and Friends Volunteer

LORI WOROZBYT

New Homeowner

Lori Worozbyt was raised in Belmont before moving to London where she has lived for thirteen years. She and her two children, ages 11 and 6, moved back home with her parents after her separation. Lori has worked as an administrative assistant at the London Community Foundation since 2004.

At the beginning of 2008, Lori began to look for a place of her own to raise her family. London was the most logical choice to live because this is where she works, attends church, and where her children go to school. Lori is a member of the Glen Cairn Baptist Church, and the church was generous enough to supply lunch of a few occasions to feed all of the volunteers at the build site.

While looking for a home, Lori knew that life would be different, and sacrifices would have to be made. She had heard of Habitat For Humanity before, but had no idea that there was an active chapter in London until a co-worker told her.

A new chapter began for Lori and her family the day she was notified that she had been selected as one of the four recipients of this year's Kipps Lane homes. Lori was ecstatic. "I was on cloud nine and wanted to tell the whole world. Life had taken a turn for the best, and the gift that I had been given was hope."

Lori's friends and family were just as excited and were anxious to help out. "They had heard of Habitat For Humanity, but they did not understand the process, or that they could come out to volunteer. After investigating these volunteer opportunities, her friends, family and coworkers came out to help on the build site. "They had a blast and many have said that they would like to do it again. They were impressed with Habitat as an organization."



Lori (on right) with her Mom

Anticipating the 500 hours of "sweat equity" was intimidating for Lori. All future homeowners are required to volunteer their time to help with the build in a construction or nonconstruction format. They can also volunteer at the ReStore. "I was assured that a good portion of the volunteers were unskilled. On the first day, I was made to feel welcome and that whatever contribution I could make was great. I felt at home."

Although the majority of "sweat equity" hours had to be completed by Lori, those close to her were allowed to help her reach her sweat equity goal. "It was humbling to see people give up their time to build, and it was encouraging to have people coming alongside you, people like my mother, father, brother-in-law, sister, co-workers and church members."

"My relationship with Habitat For Humanity has been a unique, life changing experience. I am privileged to be a part of the build and I am grateful of the community. I also hope to see my volunteer work with Habitat continue."

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**Homeowner
Lori Worozbyt**



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
London Inc.

We Get TEAMS!

JUDY BINDER
CMHC

Calling Windsor her 'hometown', Judy Binder is CMHC's (Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation) District Manager for Southwestern Ontario, and she is no stranger to the Habitat For Humanity London Inc. build site.



Her career and Habitat is her life, and she says animals, mostly dogs and cats, are her hobby. "Habitat is as strong as the community participation. I have to take my hat off to all of the communities who have affiliates, because they are a big part of how and why the Habitat organization is able to thrive."

Her first experience building homes with Habitat was back in 1990 and **Judy says that she has been 'hooked ever since.'** Judy says that it is through the company's corporate involvement that he has been given the opportunity to be a part of the communities across Ontario. **"Without a doubt, my professional and personal perspectives have left me smitten - hook, line and sinker."** It has become an 18 year love affair for Judy's relationship with Habitat.

When asked what she most enjoys about her volunteer experience over the years, Judy notes "Watching a community come together to support the families who otherwise would not be able to build and support a home of their own. It is a fantastic way to bond with a community, and is a great learning experience for people. Her favourite jobs are "...framing and roofing, not insulation..." she laughs.



Judy Binder tackles insulation "her not so favourite job"

Corporations Deliver

KPMG CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Corporate Team Sponsor

The employees of KPMG Corporate Accountants have adopted Habitat For Humanity London Inc. as one of their eight charitable organizations that they feel is a worthy cause.

Every year, the company selects a week where their employees will go out and volunteer at one of their selected charities across Canada. This year, 14 employees expressed an interest to come help out on the Kipps Lane build site, and that is more than double the spots the company had allowed for their London office.

"On behalf of the team, we feel that it was an amazing experience to be able to help someone build a future for their family. It was great to work alongside the actual homeowners, and felt good to see how much they actually appreciated us working on their house. It was an excellent experience for our team to work together outside of our normal work environment. We look forward to working with Habitat in the future. Thanks for the experience!" (Steve Sauv , KPMG Accountant).

Leone Rowland of KPMG had this to say about the build experience: "Working with Habitat for Humanity has been a thought of mine for a couple of years now, so when given the chance to volunteer through our "KPMG Volunteers" program, I jumped at the opportunity. What a rewarding job you must have. On a daily basis, you can see how people come together to contribute their services with the end result benefiting families in need so they can have a better life. It was a truly rewarding opportunity for me personally, and it all hit home when I saw the newspaper article covering the unveiling of the house to its new owners. Having worked side by side this couple and seeing the joy in their faces, I knew we had all done a good thing. I hope to participate with Habitat for Humanity again in the future."

This is the 5th year that the company has promoted the volunteer experience for their employees, and the first year that the London office came to help at the build site. Thank you KPMG!

NATASHA FRITZLEY John Labatt Centre

Since the fall of 2007, Natasha Fritzley has been a member of the Group Sales team at the John Labatt Centre. Originally from Barrie, Ontario Natasha has previously resided in Miami and Houston. She currently loves life as a single woman.

It was after Katrina hit the United States that Natasha became more familiar with what Habitat did in trying to make a difference in people's lives. Her previous hands on experience included painting a bedroom and a ceiling, and working with carpet. When asked if her experience at the Habitat London build site was what she expected it to be, Natasha answers "Yes" and then jokingly adds "...but I thought I would have a lot more natural ability."

What Natasha enjoyed most about being part of the group of volunteers from the John Labatt Centre, one of this years corporate sponsors, was "Contributing to a charitable organization and being able to see where the money goes, the results and the benefits." It is no wonder that her favourite quote is "The harder you fall, the higher you bounce." She sees the experience as something that she can continue to do in the future with friends and co-workers.

Natasha is very grateful to Habitat for Humanity London Inc. for the opportunity to learn new skills, recognize her weaknesses, and to be able to work towards a common goal as part of a team.



Volunteers are the heart and soul of Habitat for Humanity.

Every year local volunteers have donated hours of their time and talent to Habitat for Humanity London Inc. Join us as we help families in need open the door to a new life.

Share your skills, meet new people, and help us put our mission into action. An ongoing investment of your time makes an enormous difference in the lives of families in need of affordable housing. You do not need to be skilled in construction. You do not even have to know how to swing a hammer! Opportunities exist in our ReStore, office, and we are currently seeking volunteers to join our committees. You can participate as an individual, or sign up as a group. Creating affordable housing is a community effort and our volunteers are the heartbeat of this community. When you work alongside Habitat For Humanity London, you know you are making the world a better place.