

BUILDING HOMES

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FACTS

Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller. The idea originated at Koinonia Farm, a small, interracial, Christian-farmed community founded in 1941 by a farmer and biblical scholar.

The Fullers visited the farm in 1965 after leaving their affluent lifestyle to begin a life of Christian service. It was there that the idea of "partnership housing," where those needing homes worked with volunteers to build simple, decent homes.

No profit was added to the houses, and there was no interest. Financing for the projects came from a Fund for Humanity, which was made up of new homeowners' house payments, donations and no-interest loans provided by supporters and money earned by fundraising.

Homeowners must pay a down payment and monthly mortgage payments in addition to investing "sweat equity," or their own time into building their house and others.

The cost of the homes throughout the world varies from \$800 in developing countries to an average of about \$60,000 in the United States.

The Fund for Humanity concept moved to developing countries in 1973. The Fuller family moved to Mbandaka, Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo, and launched a home building campaign there. After three years, they returned to the U.S.

In 1976, Habitat for Humanity International, or HFHI, was formed. **Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter** and his wife Rosalynn took their first Habitat work trip, the Jimmy Carter Work Project, to New York City in 1984. Their involvement brought the organization national visibility and encouraged more volunteers and donors to help out the cause.

Habitat for Humanity has built more than 300,000 houses, giving more than 1.5 million people a place to stay across more than 3,000 communities worldwide.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity International, visit www.habitat.org.

To get involved with the Lansing chapter, visit www.habitatlansing.org.

SOURCE: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

FACES PLACES

HELLO, MY NAME IS
Christopher Waston

"I grew up in Detroit and went to public schools... I know people who, whether they wanted an education or not, couldn't have one," said Christopher Waston. "I want to make as much change as possible." The elementary education sophomore and his friend D'Angelo Farmer created the club The Black Males In Education to promote black male engagement in educational studies. They noticed there is a shortage and want to see more black men partake in this field. Their research found less than 2 percent of African American males were going into education. "I know these issues are real and that change needs to happen," said Waston regarding current urban education conditions.

—Compiled by Ursula Zerilli

Section B | The State News | www.statenews.com | January 21, 2009

Wednesday

A Lansing mother moves into her Habitat for Humanity house



Snead talks on her cell phone as her nephew, Daejon Foy asks Snead for something inside her new home on 1536 Ballard St. in Lansing. Snead has been working multiple jobs to make payments for a 0 percent mortgage on a home built by Habitat for Humanity Lansing for her and her four children.

PHOTOS BY HANNAH ENGELSON / THE STATE NEWS

WORKING FOR A HOME

By **Hannah Engelson**
THE STATE NEWS

Editor's Note: The State News has been following Teresa Snead on her journey of receiving a home from Habitat for Humanity since the ground breaking at the building site May 22, 2008. The following is her story.

"It's like a fresh start," Teresa Snead said. "I love it, I love it. So happy." This year, Snead, 36, and her four children spent their first holiday season in their new Lansing home after they were officially handed the keys on Nov. 21. Finally being able to move into the two-story house after more than four months of labor with Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity was a life-changing experience for Snead.

"It's going good," Snead said of her first few months in the new home. "I'm still not done furnishing it like I want."

Snead said she hopes to be done making the home her own within the next month.

Along with more than 300 volunteers, Snead has been working to build a new life for herself and her family since the Ballard Street plot was excavated on May 22.

"I think that house is going to change everything about her," said Larry Dawson, Snead's father.

She will continue, he hopes, to strive and to not sit back and use excuses and become depressed because it seems like things are not going (her) way."

Snead spends six days and more than 75 hours per week working three, sometimes four, jobs to provide for her children

— Parris Snead, 10, Demarius Hoyle, 13, Dominique Hoyle, 15, and Dequan Hoyle, 18.

"If it wasn't for them, I

wouldn't have a reason to do what I'm doing," Snead said. "Everything that I do, I'm doing it for them."

Snead works for Lansing School District as a bus driver and lunch aide.

Between being responsible for the safe delivery of 50 to 70 elementary and high school students to school each day, she makes sure her own children are ready for school and takes them there herself.

In late afternoon, she cleans as a supervisor for Commercial Janitor Service in Lansing. In the evenings, Snead works as a cashier at Rally's Hamburgers.

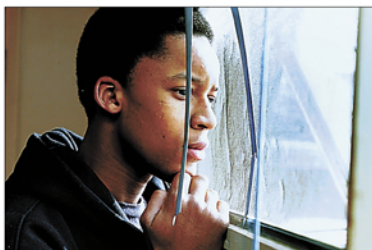
During the week, Snead often makes it home around 1 a.m., leaving her only a couple hours before she wakes up the next morning at 5:30 a.m. to start all over again.

Snead looked strained as she sighed. "Work, work,

See HOME on page 2B



Lansing resident Teresa Snead lifts the frame of her new garage with Habitat for Humanity volunteers July 12 on Ballard Street, in Lansing.



Demarius Hoyle, 12, looks out the window at his family moving Nov 22 at 1329 Grand River. "When my kids were small and I moved here, it was good because it was a big house," Teresa Snead explained about her resident for the past nine years on Grand River. "Now they are all big and teenagers so it's kind of small."