

January 17, 2009

We are in full swing in the New Year. 2009 is as exciting as our last three years. We are so richly blessed by all of you who have shared your skill, time, donations, commitment and prayers. We have 50-70 volunteers every week in the month of January, February and March.

On January 9<sup>th</sup> we dedicated the house on Washington Street. We can't share names of homeowners on our website, but you'd remember this spry 79 year old mother of 10 children. She and her brother were at the dedication surrounded by her children who came from near and far to share in this joyous day. The weather was beautiful (about 65 degrees) and the house is gorgeous! It was an awesome way to start the New Year. Thank you to the volunteers who made this house, and 23 other homes in 2008, a reality.

Hopefully you've heard about the new name and operation for Bart Tucker and Project REHAB. On December 1<sup>st</sup> Project REHAB transitioned to become Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders (FCDR). If you don't know the story of the Fuller Center for Housing check out their website at [www.fullercenter.org](http://www.fullercenter.org) and learn the latest news about the founder of Habitat for Humanity and The Fuller Center for Housing, Millard Fuller. We are delighted to be part of energetic, Christian organization and to be working with amazing couple like Millard and Linda Fuller. To learn more about our transition to FCDR click on the link to the left called "Project REHAB/Fuller Ctr".

On December 23<sup>rd</sup> a longtime volunteer and staff member, Evelyn Reyer, retired from Bethel Volunteer Ministry. Her presence and support will be greatly missed. She has provided an amazing service to this Ministry. She has been part of this Ministry from its inception immediately after Katrina. As she grieved the loss of her son and daughter-in-law, she says she found comfort by volunteering at the church and she received a lot of love from the hundreds of volunteers that came through. Although she is retiring Evelyn will be very busy. She's a member of the Bethel Lutheran Church council and also participates in several committees and activities. She's even been back to help us out when we just couldn't do it without her. She is, and will be, greatly missed.

We hope we see many of our "winter" boomerangers. I hear that it is very cold in the North Country. We hope that the weather, and the opportunity to serve God, will be a motivator to come and help those in need. We can't wait to welcome you home.

Heather Westcott