

CONNECTIONS APRIL 2008

Long time-No Write

Sorry about that. I've been busy.

- **Volunteers:** November to February volunteers were a scarce commodity. Lutheran Disaster Response had 48 volunteer hours in February. In March LDR had 4332 volunteer hours. April will be a good month also. In May there is room yet for a few more volunteers. We have volunteers groups into July. We need skilled workers. If groups want to come, please try to have one skilled worker for every 3 or 4. We are not able to supervise or train people. Sixteen and older is our age requirement.
- **Projects:** We are in the final construction phase on one house. We have four more new houses under construction. We are working on six other homes at this time.
- **Blitz Week:** The last two weeks in March we had many volunteers and we had a goal of building four new homes. We failed in reaching that goal for a number of reasons. However, they were exciting weeks. We prepared and served 2900 meals which were prepared by many volunteers of the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Southern Baptists, Mennonites, Lutherans, and Methodists-Christians of many faiths. The Salvation Army and Southern Baptists funded the food. The Red Cross delivered lunch and two snacks every day. 320 people registered with SCKTRO during the week of March 18, but we believe the number of volunteers was even higher.

A community dinner was prepared by volunteers and served in the high school gym. 350 people, volunteers and community, came together for an evening of sharing. A group of young people provided entertainment by singing praise songs.

- **Another Title, More Work:** James Bond who was the project manager left for a new position as Disaster Response Coordination for World Hope International. I have been the project manager as well as the LDR Site Coordinator for two weeks. Kathy Koehn who is a case manager funded by LDR is now answering my e-mails and doing the computer input that is necessary.

The work load is heavy; but with the prayers and help of many people, I have found joys in doing this. I have of course found frustration as well, but with God's strength-I continue.

News in Brief

- **May 4th:** The anniversary of the tornado, **President Bush** will present diplomas to 14 high school graduates.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** will be building in Greensburg.

- **Mennonite Housing** will manage a building program with SCKTRO providing volunteers.
- **Orphan Grain Train** is providing more units to increase the capacity of the Volunteer Village. Praise God.

In His Service,
Chuck Jedele