

St. Bernard's to help build Habitat home

Middleton parish will join those of St. Peter, St. Martin and St. Thomas Aquinas to build home

Four Catholic parishes have joined forces to plan and build a Habitat for Humanity house in Dane County for a qualified family.

St. Bernard's in Middleton, St. Peter in Ashton, St. Martin of Tours in Martinsville and St. Thomas Aquinas in Madison are part of a group established by the Diocese of Madison's organizational plan for parishes.

Volunteers from these parishes will raise funds with the goal of breaking ground at a Dane County site in the spring of 2010. The goal of the group, officially called Habitat Church Build of Middleton, is to raise \$65,000 toward the total cost of the home. Persons wishing to donate funds can make checks payable to Habitat Church Build-Middleton and mail them to the parish office at St. Bernard's.

The kickoff fundraiser is the Multi-parish Garage Sale at St.

Bernard's, Saturday, July 25, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Gently used toys, games, clothing, tools, house wares and furniture will be accepted Thursday, July 23 and Friday, 24 from 2-6 p.m. Furniture can only be brought to the parish center Saturday morning, the day of the sale from 7-8 a.m. All unsold items will go directly to St. Vincent de Paul.

Two meetings recently held at St. Bernard's gave prospective families the opportunity to learn about the requirements necessary to be approved as a family for a Habitat home.

The churches are coordinating their efforts with Habitat for Humanity Dane County (HFHDC) staff to raise funds, determine the location of the build and find a family for this new home.

Perry Ecton, chief executive officer, HFHDC, guided the first meeting while Maggie Fitzsimmons, family services coordinator, HFHDC, ran the second meeting at St. Bernard's Parish.

HFHDC, which was established in 1987, is part of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) which is an ecumenical Christian not for profit housing developer that seeks to eliminate inadequate housing. Since 1987 HFHDC has partnered with 140 families to build homes in the Dane County area.

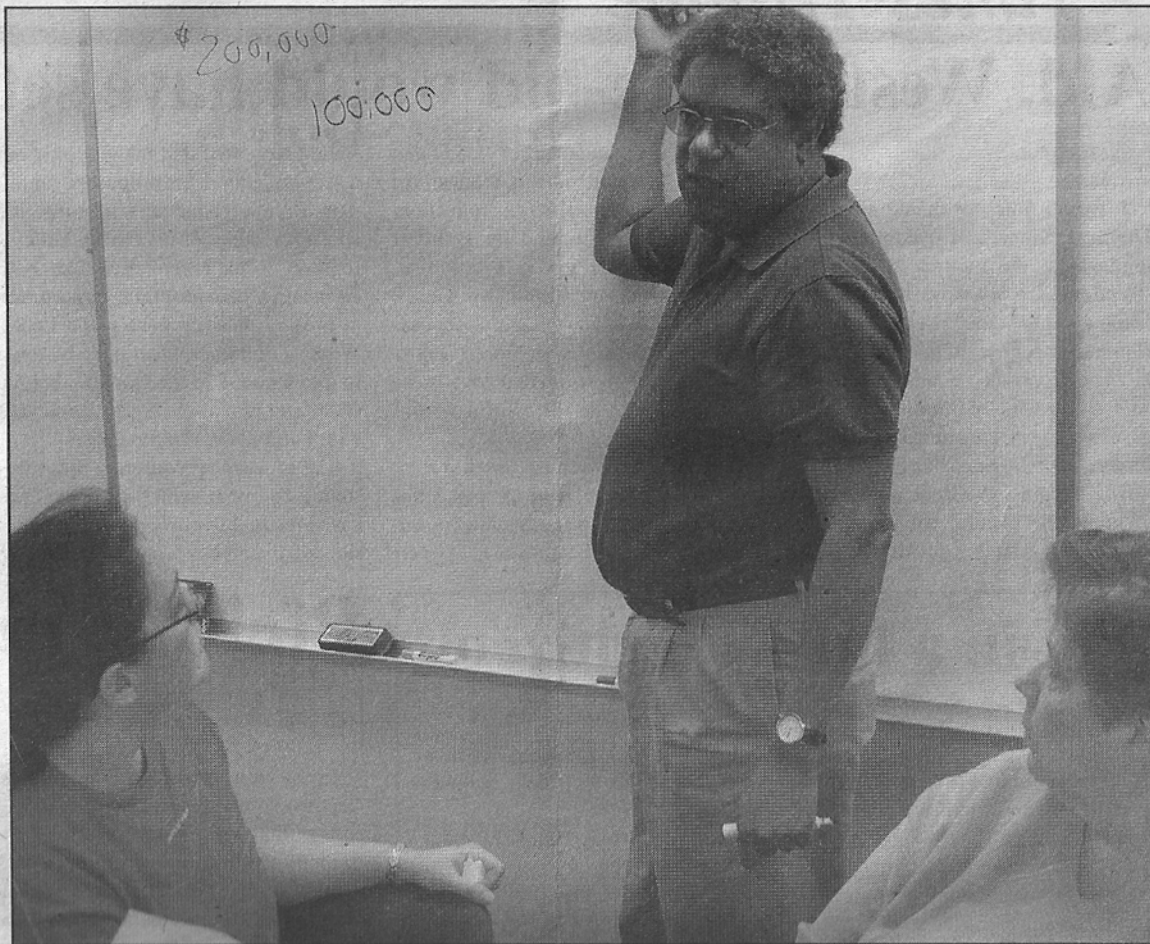


Photo contributed

Middleton area Catholic parish volunteers, Joan Pregler, from St. Peter in Ashton, Barb Roberts and Wendy Hanson from St. Bernard's in Middleton, participated in an informational meeting for prospective Habitat for Humanity applicant families at St. Bernard's parish center on June 17.