

Habitat News



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA • FEBRUARY 2010 • Vol. 18, No. 1



Solution Tree and Team Zachary Collaborate to Build Habitat Home

BY ASHLEY HAWKINS

PR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER

Collaboration is what made the Vidaurri family Habitat home a possibility. Two local groups, Solution Tree and Team Zachary, are co-sponsoring the Vidaurri home which will house Perla and Jesús Vidaurri along with their four children: Lalo, Chuy, Carlos and Daniela.

The Vidaurri family came to America in hopes of building a better life for their family. However, that better life wasn't coming along easily. Living in a cramped apartment was just one of the hardships the family was facing. Their youngest son Carlos is also fighting cancer.

In hearing about Carlos and his family, Team Zachary, an organization started in memory of a local family's son, wanted to help. Zachary May was involved with Habitat as an AmeriCorps member and helped build homes for other partner families. Though Zachary lost his battle with cancer two

years ago, his family continues his legacy by co-sponsoring the Vidaurri home along with a local company, Solution Tree.

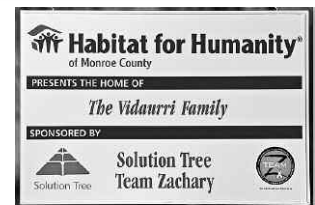
After experiencing firsthand what a battle with cancer means, Ann St. John, Zachary May's mother, was compelled to sponsor the Vidaurri home. She described what it was like when she first realized the tremendous impact a helping hand could have. "People helped me in ways that were unimaginable to me. From walking our dog when we were away, to cutting our grass, to stepping up at work, to sending letters, to someone flying us in their plane to Omaha for a very important meeting with the doctor, to e-mailing encouragements, to taking time off to come and be with me – lots of time!" she said. "There were hundreds of people who helped me and hundreds more who helped Zachary and others in our family."

Solution Tree, who had worked with Habitat previously, was interested in helping with the Vidaurri

family home as well. "Solution Tree had a great experience with past Habitat projects, so it made sense for us to work on this one," says Jane St. John, vice president of Solution Tree.



Crews from Team Zachary and Solution Tree (below) are working with the Vidaurri partner family (above) to build house number 96.



"There are also some other connections between the groups." Jeff Jones, president of Solution Tree, had known Zachary and his family while he was battling cancer and was involved along the way.

St. John wanted to pass that legacy on to the Vidaurris in honor of her son, through Team Zachary. "I sponsored this house in part because I have come to rely on the generosity

of the spirit of the Jones family,” said Ann St. John. “They helped me in huge, gigantic, unbelievable ways. And now with their help again I get to be reminded that life is not about accumulation but about expenditure. I get to remember that I am a tiny part of the whole.”

“I SPONSORED THIS HOUSE IN PART BECAUSE I HAVE COME TO RELY ON THE GENEROSITY OF THE SPIRIT OF THE JONES FAMILY,” SAID ANN ST. JOHN.

The Vidaurri’s new home is being built in the Habitat for Humanity neighborhood and will be located on “Omaha Crossing.” Interestingly enough, Omaha, Nebraska is home to the University of Nebraska where Zachary went for his cancer treatments.

The family is very excited about their new Habitat home and has been touched by the support of the Habitat community including Team Zachary and Solution Tree. The three families, connected through tragedy, are coming together to remember a remarkable person and build a loving community. Ann St. John said, “The Jones family and the May family and the Vidaurri family—we all need help which is really another way to say Love.”

Build Homes and Awareness with a Habitat License Plate

Help us spread the word about our housing movement while you are on the move! Getting an Indiana Habitat license plate just became a lot easier. You need no forms ahead of time; just go to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles office near you and tell them you’d like a Habitat plate. Or you can renew online and select “Habitat.” The plate will cost you \$40; of that fee, \$25 will be invested in Habitat’s work right here in Indiana! The financial support is really just the beginning—everywhere you drive, you’ll be raising awareness of Habitat’s efforts to provide decent, affordable housing. Please do your part—we need to ensure that at least 5,000 plates are sold in the next three years or we’ll lose the privilege of having them. Get a Habitat plate, and tell someone else to do the same!

Kip May Photography

Habitat would like to extend a special thank you to Kip May Photography. Kip May Photography’s in-kind donation to Habitat is to take professional portraits of each partner family earning sweat equity. Kip has also recently taken corporate portraits of the Habitat staff. This has been a wonderful gift not just to the affiliate, but especially to the partner families. Check out the photos on our web site at www.monroecountyhabitat.org. Visit www.kipmay.com for more information about Kip May Photography.

More Than Houses Breakfast Summary

This past November more than 575 people attended the More Than Houses Breakfast, Habitat’s annual fundraising event. The More Than Houses Breakfast is a free breakfast event that provides an opportunity for Habitat to share about the past year’s work and the inspirational volunteers, supporters, and families who made it possible.

This year’s speakers featured Rob Norris, a long-time volunteer with Habitat who invests his time with high school students from Bloomington North and Aurora, and Shannon Chapman, a Habitat homeowner who shared about her journey to home ownership.

YOU are changing the lives of people like Shannon, which impacts not only her, but her three daughters too. THANK YOU for continuing to sacrifice and give so that families in Monroe County can take the final step away from poverty. We know that many of you are feeling the effects of a challenging economy. At Habitat, we are too. The funds raised as part of the annual breakfast are critical to support Habitat’s programs. Thank you to those who have already fulfilled their pledges from the More Than Houses Breakfast. If you have an outstanding pledge, you can fulfill it by mailing a check to our office or donating online at www.monroecountyhabitat.org.

More Than Houses Breakfast Summary

YEAR	AMOUNT PLEDGED	AMOUNT RECEIVED AS OF JANUARY 10
2008	\$167,891	\$56,667
2009	\$161,353	\$36,919

Habitat Is Now on Facebook

Do you have a Facebook page? Want an easy way to show your support of Habitat to your friends and social network? Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County and the Habitat ReStore now have fan pages on Facebook. By becoming a fan you show your support for Habitat and are able to receive updates including photos, news, and volunteer opportunities quickly.

The Habitat ReStore Facebook page features photos of new merchandise, sale alerts and other special discounts specifically for Facebook fans. You can also post your comments and share your thoughts with the ReStore and Habitat communities directly. Fans can also post their own photos from build sites or to show the ways they are using ReStore items in their own homes.

To become a fan or to view the Habitat Facebook pages, enter the links below in your browser and click on “Become a Fan.”

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County:
www.facebook.com/monroecountyhabitat
 Habitat ReStore of Monroe County:
www.facebook.com/monroecountyrestore

YOU Can Lead a Crew in 2010!

BY KATRIN YEAGER

PR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER

MYTH: You need highly specialized building skills to qualify to become a Habitat crew leader.

REALITY: All you need is passion, volunteer build experience, and a desire to make a difference.

The call for crew leaders has never been stronger as we continue the momentum of 2009's successes. With more skilled hands at the helm, more homes get built. It is a simple equation. We invite all Habitat volunteers to learn more about how to be-

The need for crew leaders has never been more pressing.

come involved in the crew leader training program by calling Adrian Starnes, Habitat's construction assistant (812.331.4069), and read the perspective of Marci Becker (crew leader in training) below to get further inspired!

Marci Becker demonstrates that passion, not specific skills, is at the core of being an effective crew leader. While Becker is a three-year volunteer with Habitat, and spent two of those years as a team leader, she acknowledges a gap in building expertise: "To put it in restaurant terms, I knew I was a really great sous chef—but never really felt I had the skills and knowledge to direct tasks like the executive chef would." Not this gap, nor her primary role as wife, mother of two active children, and managing a full-time, high stress job would be barriers to her taking on the title of "Habitat crew leader" though.

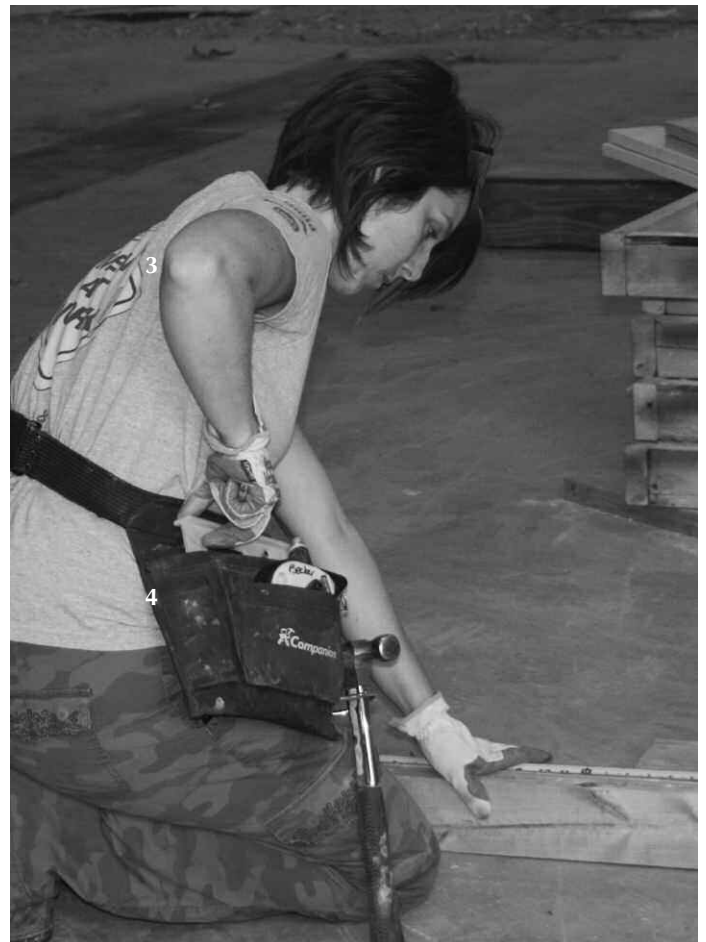
Marci joined her church's annual mission trip to New Orleans three times to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and remains very involved in the Women Build which she enjoys most. Marci's call to become a crew leader came in the form of a follow-up meeting after the May Women Build. The committee realized they could dramatically increase their success if they just had more female crew leaders. Women in particular seemed reluctant to lead crews. Marci was inspired by the need and started crew leader training this past summer. She attended one interest meeting, and subsequently committed to three training sessions. Today, she is an official crew leader who guides teams of volunteers constructing Habitat homes.

Crew leaders can bring existing experience to the role, or cultivate experience through volunteer time as they look to earn their stripes as either a "jack of all trades" or a specialist. Marci enjoys the entire homebuilding process and is thus training on myriad tasks, be it dry walling, framing, etc., which she'll eventually lead. "I end up going home and looking at my own walls in a whole different way," she says. "I've realized that my experience elevates my confidence in handiwork at home. I am much less passive. Anyone who is in a

position to own a home one day and leads a crew for Habitat will gain very valuable skills."

Marci is a born leader as she relishes the metamorphosis of volunteers. "They are timid and unsure of themselves when they arrive—it's fun to be able to see throughout a given day how they blossom, and we send them away knowing they made a difference on a house—it is a great transformation." The core role of the crew leader is instilling confidence and educating others.

Marci views her time with Habitat as a stress reliever and contribution to her community. She wants people to know: "It may be on Saturdays that we build, but it's physical and fun. It doesn't feel like work! I don't know anyone that has ever been involved that regrets it. It is a good thing to spend your time on. We have a whole lot of fun." Habitat thanks her for making the leap from leading teams to leading crews and looks forward to a lifelong relationship.



Bloomington High School North Continues Sponsorship Legacy



This year marks the 9th year that Bloomington High School North has sponsored a Habitat home. Since 2000, high school students have pulled together \$25,000 each year and donated hundreds of hours of time at build sites to house 9 families in Monroe County. This year, Bloomington North is sponsoring the home of Kristin Bogue and her three daughters: Hannah, Kayla, and Jaycee.

Brandon Gilmore, a student involved with the Bloomington North Habitat chapter, chose to get involved with the group this October. It not only made a difference for the Bogue family, but also in Brandon's own life. Hear of more of Brandon's story below:

I went to the Habitat build site on October 31 for the first time ever and I instantly fell in love with it. As soon as I heard the briefing that morning and starting working all of my anxiety left me and I started to have a lot of fun. I met a lot of great people, I made some new friends, and I was able to help some great people who were in need of housing. I have volunteered for Habitat over 40 hours now and it is still just as fun as the day I started working.

I have learned a lot from working with Habitat. I learn something new every time I go and work for the day. I didn't know the first thing about building a house the first day I arrived at the build site but I was able to do everything that was asked of me. You leave the build site at the end of the day with new skills, new friends, and a lot of satisfaction that comes from knowing that you helped someone with your day.

Over my winter break my grandparents from Arizona came to visit my family and I had the opportunity to show them what I have been working on at Habitat. I was able to drive with them through the Habitat neighborhood in Cedar Chase and show them the houses that I had been helping to build. This caused me to really see all the work that has been accomplished by all of the volunteers at Habitat in the short time that I had been volunteering. It's amazing to see how quickly the houses come to shape and how a whole neighborhood of Habitat homes can be constructed by regular people who just decide that they want to help someone.

I love volunteering my time to Habitat for Humanity and would not trade any of my experiences there for anything in the world. Habitat has caused me to make a lot of new friends, learn new skills, and help people all at the same time. The feeling that you get by volunteering your time and helping others is like no other and I love every minute of it.

—Brandon Gilmore,
Bloomington High School North student



ReStore's New ReRead Bookstore Finds Popularity Among Shoppers

BY JENNY HUGGINS, PR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER

Since opening in 2004, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore has become a popular place for locals to find new and used building materials and home furnishings at discounted prices. With proceeds from the ReStore directly benefiting Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County, shoppers play an important role in eliminating substandard housing in our community.

This summer, the ReStore opened a used bookstore, called ReRead, in its main building. Featuring contemporary books from 1990 and onward, ReRead treats shoppers to a wide selection of books from many genres – including detective, children's, science, and romance.

Volunteers at the ReStore ensure the books, which are donated by community members, are in good condition before placing them on the shelf for shoppers.

Books are priced reasonably, and many shoppers look forward to the Bargain Book Sale – a monthly event at which shoppers may fill a reusable ReStore bag with books from the bargain bin for only two dollars.

ReRead also includes a seating area where shoppers can relax and enjoy the quiet atmosphere. This area is furnished with items donated to the ReStore. While these furnishings are still available for purchase by the public, manager Sandi Clothier, indicates that "when the perfect piece comes in, [she] will make it a permanent part of ReRead."

In the new year, ReRead will be working to establish a cozy children's area in the bookstore. Bruce Norton, of Delphi Signs in Bloomington, is currently painting a mural that will not only serve as a piece of art, but also as a partition for the children's area.

Working with his daughter Janell, Bruce will paint a scene inspired from "Where the Wild Things Are," a classic children's book by Maurice Sendak. The mural, painted on wood, will measure approximately 4' x 8' and will be fully portable.

"Even though our main focus at the ReStore is to support

Habitat for Humanity, we are excited to be able to promote children's literacy on the side," says Clothier.

While most shoppers go to the ReStore when looking for household goods and building materials, Clothier is hopeful about the additional traffic the ReStore is seeing because of ReRead. "We now have customers that come in every day specifically for the books!"

For more information about shopping and donating at the ReStore, please call 812-331-2660 or visit www.monroecountyhabitat.org/restore.

Ways to Give to Habitat

GROCERY SHOPPING: Giving to Habitat is as simple as buying your groceries. Three grocery chains have programs in place that allow you to contribute 5% of your total bill to Habitat. For Kroger shoppers the program is now easier than ever. Sign up for a prepaid card and use it to pay



for groceries, and when your account balance starts to run low, just take it to the customer service counter to recharge it. If you shop at Marsh or Bloomingfoods, you can sign up to get prepaid gift cards mailed to you each month. Simply send a check to Habitat each month, and we'll send you the prepaid gift cards to pay your grocery bills.

CANS FOR HABITAT: Bring your aluminum cans to Habitat, and we'll turn them into cash for homes. Call the office at 331-4069 or send an e-mail to office@monroecountyhabitat.org for the drop-off location nearest to you or to arrange for a pick-up. You can also take your scrap metal to JB Salvage or Bloomington Iron & Metal and tell them to give the money to Habitat.



CANS FOR HABITAT
Aluminum Cans Build Habitat for Humanity Homes

GOODSEARCH: We all have to use search engines, so why not give to Habitat while you search? Go to www.goodsearch.com next time you need something on the Internet. The drop-down menu will allow you to give to Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County each time you search the Internet with the GoodSearch engine. You can even add it as a toolbar on your home page!

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HABITAT 5K RUN/WALK: Lace up those running shoes and make an impact for Habitat. The 12th annual IU Habitat for Humanity 5k Road Run/Walk will be on Saturday, March 27, at 10 a.m. To sign-up and for more information visit www.indiana.edu/~habitat.

 **Habitat for Humanity**
of Monroe County

ReStore

300 W. 11th St.

331-2660 • restore@monroecountyhabitat.org

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday 12 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. • Sat.: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Free donation pick-up available. Call to schedule.

Meet Our Partner Family

Isis Saavedra



Most people could never imagine housing conditions so inappropriate that they would have to send a child away. But for Isis Saavedra, that is exactly her situation. Originally from San Diego, Isis moved to Indiana to be near a cousin. She loved Bloomington because of the small-town feel that was so different from the larger cities she'd lived in throughout her life. A single mom with three children, Esther (9), Adrian (6), and Annalyth (3), she works hard at Indiana University as a cook, helping to feed other parents' children living in Read dormitory.

Isis enjoys Bloomington and likes her job, but has faced multiple housing problems since arriving. She moved into a duplex, but it is not much larger than a studio apartment. Even her friends who visited could see how cramped her situation was. "They come and say, 'It's like a dollhouse here!'" said Isis.

She shared a bed with her two daughters, but often ended up sleeping on the couch. In addition to the space problems, the duplex has a bad mold problem. Her son Adrian's room still has mold covering the pane and the sill. "My rent is always on time. I'm never behind," Isis said. But it was not enough to improve the situation.

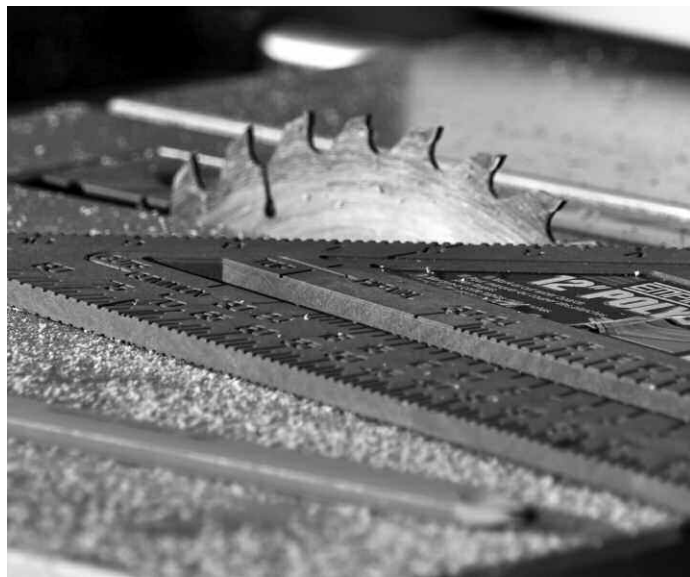
So, due to the poor conditions and their effects on her family, Isis chose to send the oldest daughter, Esther, to live with Isis's mother in California until the situation improved. It's been three years since Esther has lived with her mother and siblings. Though the Saavedras get to visit each other once a year, it is not nearly enough. Isis said, "It's so hard to even say, 'see you later' each time."

Isis heard about Habitat from a former co-worker. She longed to reunite her family and have a place all of them could call home. When she found out she was accepted in 2009, she was in shock. "I was so happy!" Isis said. "I was

like, 'Are you guys for real?' I couldn't believe it for about a week."

Now Isis is excited about preparations for her new home, which is targeted to be complete in April, and she is thrilled about the family reunion that will take place shortly after. Esther will come home to Bloomington in August. "This home will be something they (my children) can say is 'mine.' They can say, 'This is my house,'" said Isis.

With a large lot in the new Habitat neighborhood, Cedar Chase, their own bedrooms, and space to play inside, the Saavedra children have a lot to look forward to. But ask Adrian what he is most excited about in his new Habitat home, and he will tell you very simply, "Esther."



URGENT NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION TASK LEADERS

You don't have to know it all to be a task leader for Habitat! We are currently offering training sessions on specific construction tasks like siding and interior trim so you can become an expert and lead volunteer build teams. And with the upcoming Women Build event in May, women task leaders are more important than ever. It only takes three build sessions (volunteer build days or special training sessions) to become a construction task leader.

Below are the next training session opportunities or sign up for any build day on our Volunteer Calendar at www.monroecountyhabitat.org:

Saturday, February 13: Siding on Viduarri home

Saturday, March 27: Siding on Saavedra home

Saturday, April 10: Interior doors and trim on Saavedra home

2010 NAP TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE

We are pleased to announce that we were awarded \$39,605 in tax credits allowing us to raise \$79,210 to help build affordable housing in Monroe County.

This is how the program works: Donations of \$100 or more are eligible for a 50% tax credit and a deduction at the federal level if you itemize. For example, each \$100 in gifts from an Indiana resident whose tax bracket is 28% generates an estimated \$64 in tax savings (\$50 NAP tax credit and \$14 in federal tax savings), thus each \$100 you give costs you only \$36 (check with your financial advisor to see how NAP will work for you).

To receive credits, please send a check of \$100 or more made out to "Habitat for Humanity" with "NAP" clearly written on the memo line of the check along with the completed top two sections of the **NC-10 NAP tax credit application form** (available under "News and Events" at www.monroecountyhabitat.org) to the Habitat office. Our allocation of \$39,605 means we need to raise \$79,210 to sell all of the credits. Contact our office at 812.331.4069 for more information.



Give a Day— Get a Disney Day

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County is teaming up with HandsOn Network to celebrate the good things people do for their communities through the "Give A Day. Get A Disney Day." program. By volunteering a day with Habitat, you can receive a **free one-day admission to a Disney theme park!**

In 2010, Disney wants to inspire one million people to volunteer a day of service to a participating organization in their communities and celebrate their good works by giving each of them one day admission to a theme park at Disneyland® Resort or Walt Disney World® Resort, free. Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County will be one of the organizations providing eligible volunteer opportunities for the program.

Guests can go to www.disneyparks.com to search for volunteer opportunities made available through HandsOn Network and sign up for a day of volunteer service.

If you have questions you can contact Laura Oberholtzer, Volunteer Coordinator, at 812.331.4069 or volunteers@monroecountyhabitat.org.

Spread the Word to Potential Homeowners

Informational meetings for potential homeowners:

- Tuesday, February 2, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 6, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 6, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 1, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 1, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, July 10, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 3, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, September 11, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 5, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, November 6, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, December 7, 6 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Habitat office, 213 E. Kirkwood in Bloomington. Please phone the office at 812.331.4069 to confirm the date and time of the meeting. Interested families should phone to request an application and get a list of documents to bring. *Please include this information in your organization's newsletter!*

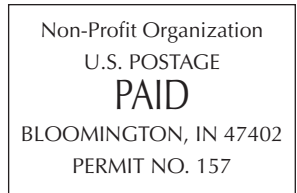
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If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, contact us by phone (812.331.4069) or e-mail (habitat@monroecountyhabitat.org).

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GIFT-IN-KIND DONORS!

Thank you to the following businesses, organizations, groups, or individuals that kindly donated materials or services to the affiliate between July 1, 2009, and January 11, 2010:

Alexander Framing Contractors LLC	Fourwinds Resort and Marina	Olive Garden
Cheryl Bainbridge	Gilbert S. Mordoh & Company, Inc.	Otis Spunkmeyer
Baugh Enterprises	Girl Scout Troop 482	Proslink
Sandy Beehler	Jeff Goldman	Brandon Reasonover
Bloomington Bagel Company	Jennifer Hart	Meagan Shebel
Bloomington High School North Social Studies Department	Hunter Douglas	Sherlock Homes
Bloomington Plumbing	John Bethell Title Company, Inc.	Square D Company
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Chipotle Mexican Grill	Jones, McClasson & Benckart, P.C.	Title Plus
Closets Too!	Kip May Photography	Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington
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Dow Chemical Company	Markeys Rental and Staging	Whirlpool Corporation
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Angela Floyd	Debbie Murzyn	