

# Habitat Happenings

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF HABITAT OF HUMANITY

## Building partnerships... changing lives one home at a time!

### Greetings!

We have had a busy and exciting summer. After all, our slogan is "Our excitement is building!" We are now building in eight different communities. Our partnership with the Twin Cities Habitat is blossoming with plans to build HFH homes jointly in New Prague. A lot there was donated to our affiliate last month, and one of the local banks recently donated \$18,000 toward our New Prague home. I would like to honor Sister Jean Juenemann, one of our Affiliate Board members, for all of her hard work in the community of New Prague. Without her this project would never have happened.

Last October we formed a *ReStore Committee* which has been working on the development of a ReStore for HFH of South Central MN. HFH all over the US and Canada has been setting up ReStores that sell new and used building products to the general public. A ReStore is a way for Habitats to generate a regular income, as well as generate publicity for our organization. Each year our land and materials costs are increasing significantly, and we need to subsidize our budget with a regular income. Also each year the need for families seeking affordable housing is becoming greater.

The ReStore building will serve three purposes: 1.) It will prove a way for us to generate regular income; 2.) It will serve as office space and meeting rooms for the affiliate; and 3.) It will serve as a storage space for all of our building materials. Currently we have building supplies scattered at five different locations around town. To date we have raised \$57,500 toward the ReStore project. We need your support! Please help us make our dream of building a ReStore become a reality. Thank

you! Please see page 6 for more details on the ReStore.

*Thrivent Financial For Lutherans* has developed a program called, "Thrivent Builds Homes." We are now working in three of our communities with Thrivent



members in hopes of qualifying to receive 70% of our building costs for two or three of our HFH homes next building season.

A special thanks to Jim Rivers and Betty Thompson for serving on the Affiliate Board of Directors. A big thank you to all of the Habitat board members, staff, and the many, many volunteers that help us get things done! Our excitement is building! It is in giving that we receive. May you all be blessed.

*Julie Schmillen*  
Executive Director



### TWO NEW AFFILIATE EMPLOYEES

Ben Schmillen became full-time Construction Manager for the affiliate in July after three months working part-time. He has four years of prior construction experience.

Julie Hiniker with 25 years of bookkeeping experience has just joined the staff as the affiliate bookkeeper/office manager. Born and raised in Mankato, Julie is the owner of Mankato Area Gymnastics.

*Welcome, Ben and Julie!*

## You're Invited!

### Annual Meeting October 24

Please join us Monday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m. for our Annual Meeting in the Blue Earth County library auditorium

Come hear about all about our Habitat families, volunteer opportunities and our goals for the coming year!

## habitat for humanity of south central minnesota

5th and Mulberry Street • PO Box 222 • Mankato, MN 56002-0222 • 507-388-2081  
FAX 507-388-1618 • hfhmkto@hickorytech.net • www.hickorytech.net/~hfhscmn

*Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization working in partnership with people in need to build decent, affordable, interest-free housing. We build or renovate houses with tax deductible donations using volunteer and skilled labor. By working together, home owners and volunteers build relationships as well as homes.*

*Habitat Happenings is printed on recycled paper.*

## NEW VISTA WORKS ON HABITAT RESTORE

Welcome to Natasha Aldrich Goblirsch, our new VISTA, who is assisting in the implementation of a Habitat ReStore. Natasha recently graduated from MSU-Mankato with a degree in Sociology and a minor in Business Management. She completed her internship with Project GEM, a local nonprofit for at risk youth. Married in May to Derek Goblirsch, Natasha lives in Cambria.

Natasha reports, "I will be creating and formalizing partnerships within the community to secure materials for our future ReStore. I look forward to getting better acquainted with area businesses and the community. I will be in charge of creating and operating a ReStore media campaign. Once the ReStore is up and running, I will also be overseeing the volunteer activities with a Volunteer Committee.

"I'm very excited to be working with Habitat for Humanity. The ReStore will benefit our community and environment. I look forward to getting to know you."

## RECYCLING PRINTER CARTRIDGES & CELL PHONES

Our Habitat affiliate is recycling ink jet and laser printer cartridges and also cell phones as a fundraising project. You may drop off your cartridges at the Habitat office, 512 E. Mulberry. Postage-paid boxes or bags bearing our code number are easily obtained by any group wishing to participate. Please call 625-9279 for information.

DID YOU

## Know?

Habitat has built more than 200,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1,000,000 people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. There are more than 2,100 active affiliates in 100 countries, including all 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico.

## CHILI LUNCH AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace Lutheran Church will hold a Chili Lunch for Habitat on Sunday, October 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds from the free will offering will go to Habitat for Humanity. Sandwiches and dessert accompany the chili. Look for a "No trick" pumpkin in your chili, and you'll win a "treat," a special prize. Don't miss it.



## FAMILY SELECTION COMMITTEE

Fr. Ted Hottinger, Chair

The following three families have been approved by the Chapter and Affiliate Boards to become future homeowners:

- Caitlin Basset and her son Destin 3-1/2, and daughter DaNeya 2-1/2
- Kathryn and Jeremiah Brand
- LaVonne Peck

We would like to welcome our new committee member, Abdikadir A. Mohamed. He is a much needed addition and we are all delighted that he has joined us.

Those interested in becoming Habitat homeowners are welcome to submit applications at any time. The basic criteria for acceptance are: low or middle income, inability to purchase a home, conditions of current housing, paying too much in rent, willingness to form a working partnership with Habitat in building homes

If you would like to apply to become a future homeowner, please call 388-2081 for an application. See St. Peter News on page 5 for other information.

## NOLA'S NEWS

Nola Speiser

## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

We have been working with MSU-Mankato, sponsors of the Habitat home at 404 Stoltzman Road for Ahmed Salah & Khadija Sharif and their seven children. Thanks to them for providing all of the required volunteer hours to complete this house.

Thanks to the 14 Care-A-Vanners working with us October 10-21, 2005. They are working on the basement of a home for Johnna Guinn-Brandt and her family of eight on Fairbanks Drive in North Mankato.

We are finishing the interior of a home for Rachelle Welsch and her two children at 505 Sunset Lane in Lake Crystal. The upper portion was completed thanks to construction classes at New Ulm High School.

We need individuals with previous experience in construction, plumbing, HVAC, concrete, maintenance, etc. to assist in the construction of our HFH homes. Please consider assisting a family in need or helping feed a visiting work crew. To do so, please contact Nola Speiser at 388-2081.

## HOME DEDICATIONS

The homes of the Nyam Gatluak's family of eight and Seak Kheng's family of five at 620 and 624 Park Lane will be dedicated Saturday, October 22 at approximately 3 p.m. with Open House beforehand.

## CHURCH RELATIONS INFORMATION

The Church Relations Committee works with local churches to increase and strengthen our partnerships, secure skilled individuals and promote the need for prayer. We would welcome new committee members. For more information contact Nola Speiser at 388-2081.

## ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING PROGRAM

Habitat for Humanity is involved in the Aluminum Cans Build Habitat Homes program inspired by HFHI. This program is a simple project in which to become involved. When a church, business, school, etc. hosts the HFH can "house," they simply allow HFH to move the "house" to the desired location where they drop off their aluminum recyclables.

Once the desired time frame has expired, HFH will pick up the shed and bring the materials to the recycling center with all proceeds going to the Mankato chapter's housing production. To host the Aluminum Can "house," please contact Nola, 388-2081.



*(Mankato news continued on page 3)*

# Mankato Chapter News (continued)

## PUBLIC RELATIONS/ FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Sally Coomes, Chair

### **AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE, 2005**

What a menu is planned for our Tuesday, November 15 annual Holiday Dinner at the Mankato Golf Club! Your choice of Grilled Flat Iron Steak or Seared Alaskan Halibut will be served with salad at the 7:30 dinner by Matt Zigich, chef extraordinaire. Grilled Flat Iron Steak has risen quickly in popularity in the Napa Valley region where restaurants have now been named for it. Those of us who sampled it are eager to enjoy it again.

Crab wontons, scallops and bacon, fruit kebobs and cheese will be offered during the Social Hour beginning at 6:30. Matt's delectable Chocolate Pound Cake Parcel with a fruit compote and a ganache will be served for dessert.

This special evening is made more delightful by our extensive Silent Auction and Caring Tree with many choice items, something for everyone from many, many generous area businesses. Ornaments on the Caring Tree contain a slip naming a prize won with each \$5 ornament purchase. If you wish to donate an item, please call Sally Coomes at 625-9279.

Elegance means no nail aprons! Please save November 15 for this special event supporting Habitat.

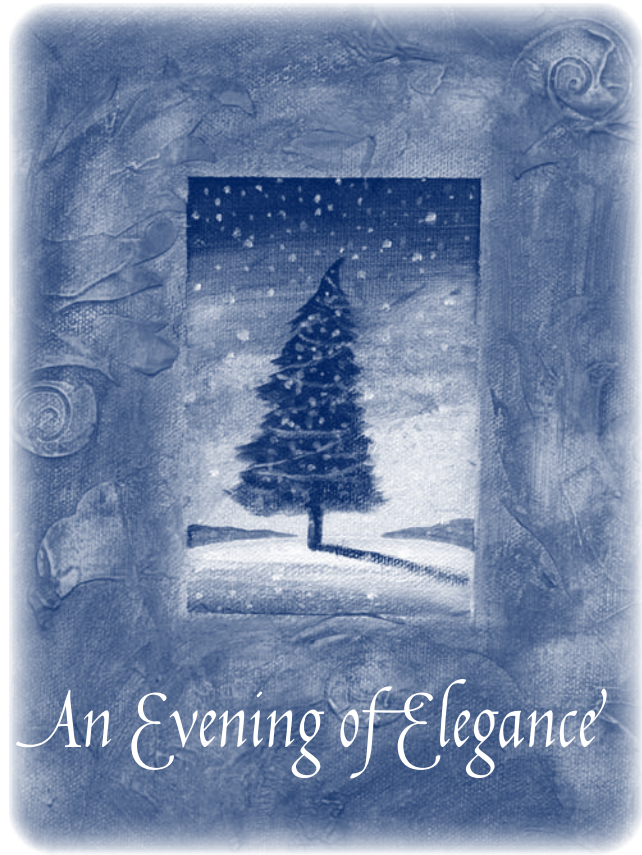
### **SPRING AND SUMMER FUNDRAISERS**

Thanks to many donors, the spring '05 "*Get on the Beam*" campaign netted \$3849. Thanks to United Building Centers and Lloyd Lumber for supplying the 2" x 4" beams and to the 47 beam sponsors. Our special appreciation goes to Franklin Elementary School which raised \$872.51 through the efforts of their WalkAbout Program.

The *Habitat Garage Sale* held August 6 at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church raised \$1904 thanks to Carolyn Kanyusik, St. Joseph confirmands and friends of Habitat.

Thanks to the July *Habitat 500 riders, Ron Spreng and Del Weiss,*

(Mankato news continued on page 4)



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

## *Habitat for Humanity Benefit Holiday Dinner*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2005

MANKATO GOLF CLUB

SOCIAL HOUR 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

DINNER 7:30 P.M.

SILENT AUCTION & CARING TREE UNTIL 9:15 P.M.

\$80 PER PERSON (\$50 TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

*Choice of Entree:*

GRILLED FLAT IRON STEAK (NAPA VALLEY SPECIALTY) OR  
SEARED ALASKAN HALIBUT

R.S.V.P.

Yes, please make a reservation for my party of \_\_\_\_\_ person/persons, November 15, at \$80 per person (\$50 tax deductible). Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_. (Please enclose a check made payable to Habitat for Humanity.)

*Please indicate your choice of entree for each person attending:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Flat Iron Steak  
\_\_\_\_\_ Seared Alaskan Halibut

No, I/we cannot attend the dinner, but enclosed please find my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return by November 9. Thank you!

## Mankato Chapter News (continued)

who raised \$1880 on some “savage hills” for the Mankato Chapter.

The *3rd Annual Hoffrogge Golf Tournament* sponsored by Hoffrogge Development on September 9 at North Links raised \$1850 for Habitat’s Mankato Chapter. Thanks to Larry Hoffrogge for again organizing this great event and to hole sponsors: Drummer’s Garden Center, Independent Paint & Flooring, Kelley Concrete & Masonry, Mechanical Resources Inc., Meyer & Sons, Pioneer Bank, Service First Electric, and Sterling Building Systems.

Thanks to downtown Hy-Vee and Larry’s IGA in Lake

Crystal for selling “*Homes for Habitat*” houses in June. Thanks also to JoEllyn Anderson of Hickory Tech for the design and to J-C Press in Owatonna for donating the “houses.” In November, “Homes for Habitat” will be continue to be available for purchase at some area businesses. Thanks to Carlson Craft Business Solutions for printing these “houses,” which customers can sign and display, a small one for \$1 or a large one for \$5. Please call Natasha Goblirsch, VISTA, at 388-2081 if your business would like to participate.



## Le Sueur-Henderson Chapter News



*Jo E. Anderson, Acting President*

The past year has been another eventful one for our Chapter!

The HFH goal of providing decent shelter for God’s people in need was pursued in yet another different fashion this year! We demolished a condemned house in a “mature” residential section of Le Sueur and did a “new” build. Le Sueur has a new city ordinance requiring garages for all new residential construction, so that was “different” as well. Tom and Elizabeth Lange and their family worked with a very dedicated building crew to get the house to the Certificate of Occupancy stage. They are living as “renters” until the final closing in November. The dedication of the home on a very hot July day was well attended and the three children received “special” quilts for their beds—made by the local “Kindred Kwilters.”

The “*Mike Sampson Memorial Tree Fund*”—which started with cash gifts at the November Brunch last year—was augmented by a very generous gift from the Modern Woodmen of America. This will provide trees for each of the five houses this chapter has built! Several have been planted and more will come this fall.



We have really missed the leadership of Mike Sampson following his untimely death in September last year. Jo Anderson served as Interim Chapter President until a new President was elected at the January Board Meeting. In September of this year the resignation of the new President has put Jo Anderson back into the position of “presiding officer”. The concern for the future of the chapter is to be the topic of discussion at a Public Meeting scheduled for October 13. As this is written we still do not have a building site for next year, and no family has been picked.

The *fall BRUNCH* will be Sunday, November 6, (9 a.m.–1 p.m.) at the St. Anne’s Catholic School, 511 North Fourth Street, Le Sueur. Y’all Come! You will be “satiated”!!

A hearty thanks to *Habitat 500 mother-and-son riders, Sue and Cory Bienfang*, who raised \$3110 for the Le Sueur Chapter during a warm week in July.

The *Activities Committee* still has homemade jams, jellies, fudge and baked goods for sale and each week this summer they have sold their wares at the Farmers Market. Recently they were at the local Alpaca farm’s open house and sold to the visitors who came to see and learn more about these interesting fiber-bearing animals.

We are still dedicated to helping God’s People in need of decent shelter.

FALL 2005 HFH AFFILIATE

### *Events*

#### *MARK YOUR CALENDAR!*

- OCTOBER 24,  
6 p.m.  
*Annual Meeting*  
Blue Earth County library auditorium, Mankato
- OCTOBER 30,  
11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
*Chili Lunch for Habitat*  
Grace Lutheran Church, Mankato
- NOVEMBER 6,  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
*Le Sueur-Henderson Chapter Fall Brunch*  
St. Anne’s Catholic School, Le Sueur
- NOVEMBER 7,  
7 p.m.  
*St. Peter Chapter All Committee Meeting*  
Union Presbyterian Church, St. Peter
- NOVEMBER 15,  
*An Evening of Elegance, 13th Annual Holiday Benefit Dinner*  
Mankato Golf Club



## PR/CHURCH RELATIONS/ FUNDRAISING

Co-Chairs: Rebekah Richards and Diane Christensen

Our bi-annual *Garage Sale*, held on Saturday, September 10 at Calvary Baptist Church, was a success! A total of \$1406 was raised—\$937 in garage sale funds and \$469 in matching funds from *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*. Over 40 individuals helped with the sale: advertising, sorting, carrying, marking, and selling. Even more people were involved in donating and buying. Thank you to everyone involved!

We have four *Precious Moments figurines* left over from the sale. These collectors' items are still for sale at current eBay prices. Interested buyers may contact Rebekah at 934-9117 or rrichard@gac.edu. The figurines are:

- "Thee I Love" 1979 (\$20)
- "I Only Have Ice for You" 1995 (\$50)
- "Friends Never Drift Apart" 1985 (\$50)
- "I Still Do" 1993 (only the little girl; \$10)

Thanks to *Habitat 500 riders, Julie Fedeler and Sue Pope*, who raised \$5004 in the July heat for the St. Peter Chapter.

## FAMILY SELECTION COMMITTEE

Gretchen Sadler, Chair

The Family Selection committee will meet after the All Committee Meeting on November 7 to determine when to begin the selection process for the 16th St. Peter Habitat home.

We have already received three applications and are always looking for applicants who live or work in the St. Peter/Kasota school district. As a general guideline, the following criteria are considered when selecting a family:

- Need for adequate shelter (this can include living in structurally unsound or crowded conditions, living in temporary housing, or inability to secure a home loan in any other way).
- Ability to pay for a Habitat home (enough income to pay about a \$400 to \$450 monthly house payment and reasonable debt to income ratio. The family,

## All-Committee Meeting

Monday, November 7  
7:00 p.m.  
Union Presbyterian Church

### *Everyone is welcome!*

Come hear reports from every committee and learn where your talents can be put to use. The regular schedule for All-Committee Meetings is the first Monday of February, May, August, and November.

depending on size, has to fit into an income guideline making neither too much nor too little.)

- Potential for family to partner successfully with Habitat

If you know of anyone who may qualify, please contact anyone on our committee\* and we will see that they get an application.

\*Gretchen Sadler, Bob Maharry, Deb Niederriter, Marolyn Kleinert, Lynn Boehne, Marcia Stapleton Mehlop, Jim Robinson, and Mary Jo Erickson

## VOLUNTEERS

Queen Booker, Coordinator

## FAMILY PARTNER COMMITTEE

Jan Prehn, Chair

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

Warren Peterson, Chair

The St. Peter Chapter is pleased to welcome Queen Booker as our new Volunteer Coordinator replacing Betty Thompson. We are most grateful to both of them.

Our 14th house, which will be the home of Jamila Said and four of her children, was recently moved from St. Peter High School to its foundation at 2108 York in the Washington Terrace subdivision. Work on the house has been going strong with our dedicated workers. We are now entering the home stretch and...WE CAN USE YOUR HELP! We work Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and until 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Any changes to this schedule are listed on our Volunteer Hotline: 380-5959. Workers of all skill levels

are needed. Volunteers can just show up at the site. To volunteer to bring food to the workers, or to organize a work crew, call Queen Booker at 931-5633. We hope to get the outside work done in October before the cold weather sets in so we can work inside after that. This fall and winter we'll focus on wood staining, sheetrocking, and painting.

We are always grateful to our partner organizations who provide consistent and wonderful support in terms of volunteers as well as refreshments. Many thanks to the banks, churches, schools, Sentence to Serve, Knights of Columbus, our many, many community volunteers, and of course the families!

The Building and Trades class at St. Peter High School is starting the construction of the 15th Habitat house which will become the home for Mohammed and Duniyo Abdulkadir and their six children. Mohammed attended the Homestretch Workshop in September.

Preparations are underway for the dedication of the home of Dawn Cummings and her three children on Oct. 15, 2005, at 2110 Bunker Lane in the Washington Terrace subdivision. The Cummings' home is the 13th house built by the St. Peter chapter.

## DID YOU

# Know?

Throughout the world, the cost of Habitat houses varies from as little as \$800 in some developing countries to an average of \$59,324 in the United States.

Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build still more Habitat houses.

Habitat is not a give-away program. In addition to a down payment and the monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor—sweat equity—into building their Habitat house and the houses of others.

# HABITAT RESTORE IS COMING TO SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA!

## What is a ReStore?

It's a retail store that accepts donations of new and used building materials and home fixtures to sell at 50-75% off retail price. It raises money for Habitat for Humanity to build additional homes and also helps the environment by diverting tons of useable material from landfills. Contractors, businesses and individuals benefit when they receive a tax deduction and avoid landfill fees. Our affiliate envisions an increase in house production by one home per year with funds generated by the ReStore, which will hold a warehouse and offices for Habitat for Humanity.



## Where will it be located?

We have signed a purchase agreement for a lot on Bassett Drive.

## When do we start?

We plan to break ground in spring or summer of 2006.

## What will the ReStore sell?

Customers will be able to find items such as cabinets, lumber, tile, appliances, electrical supplies, vents, lighting, doors, sheet rock, space heaters, hand/power tools, framed mirrors, shingles, a/c units, countertops, paint, plumbing, fixtures, wallpaper, windows, hardware, flooring, wooden furniture, and many other building supplies. We anticipate that our customers will be: do-it-yourselfers, landlords, contractors, handymen, and arts/crafts people.

## How do I donate items to the ReStore?

Please call Natasha at 388-2081 or e-mail [habitats@hickorytech.net](mailto:habitats@hickorytech.net)

## How do I volunteer?

Volunteers opportunities will include: Cashier, Customer Service, Donations Pick Up, Product Procurement, Store Maintenance, Janitorial Work, Stock People, and Repair among many other activities. We currently need a Donations Pick Up volunteer. Please call 388-2081 if you're interested.

## How will we raise ReStore funding?

We need your support! To date we have raised \$57,500 with contributions from the following foundations: Hickory Tech, Mankato Area, Mardag, Midwest Wireless, Schmidt, TCF, Wells Fargo Housing and Xcel Energy. We need to raise more than \$400,000. The funds will be used for land, construction, start up costs and a store manager. You can help us raise funds by buying square feet of our building; see the donation form at right for details.

## ReStore Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to support the ReStore by buying square feet in the building!

1 sq. ft. \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

2 sq. ft. \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

3 sq. ft. \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

4 sq. ft. \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

5 sq. ft. or more \$ \_\_\_\_\_

May we list your name in our newsletter in honor of your generosity? yes / no

Please return this form to:

Natasha Aldrich Goblirsch

ReStore VISTA

Habitat for Humanity of

South Central Minnesota

512 East Mulberry St.

Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507-388-2081

Fax: 507-388-1616

website: [www.hfhsouthcentral.org](http://www.hfhsouthcentral.org)

Address Changes \_\_\_\_\_ change, \_\_\_\_\_ remove my name as shown.

PO Box 202  
St. Peter, MN 56082

Habitat  
for Humanity®  
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2 sq. ft. \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

3 sq. ft. \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

4 sq. ft. \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

5 sq. ft. or more \$ \_\_\_\_\_

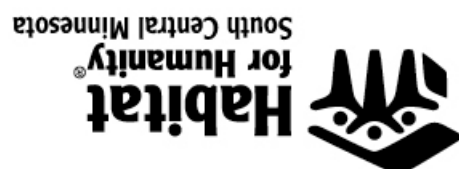
May we list your name in our newsletter in honor of your generosity? yes / no

Please return this form to:  
Natasha Aldrich Goblirsch  
ReStore VISTA  
Habitat for Humanity of  
South Central Minnesota  
512 East Mulberry St.  
Mankato, MN 56001  
Phone: 507-388-2081  
Fax: 507-388-1616  
website: [www.hfhsouthcentral.org](http://www.hfhsouthcentral.org)

Address Changes  
Please \_\_\_\_\_ change, \_\_\_\_\_ remove my name as shown.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 222  
Mankato, MN 56002-0222



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