

Helping Humanity

Forty People From Park Ridge Donate Time, Energy To Rebuild Two Louisiana Homes

By **CRAIG ADAMS**
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A group of at least 40 people from the Park Ridge community is trekking to Slidell, La., to build homes for Habitat for Humanity.

Bill Scharringhausen, a retired pharmacist, is raising money for the effort.

"I'm getting out as many letters to individuals and organizations as I can," he said. "I'm trying to get the word out."

Scharringhausen said he's always been involved in the community. He is also a former president of the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce. He connected with this group through earlier mission

work with his church, he explained.

About 30 local residents went to Slidell last year where they mostly performed clean-up work. The sign-up list for the late October trip is growing. "We've got 40 at this point. We can take even more," he said.

Habitat for Humanity in Slidell set a goal in June to build 100 homes before next June. Scharringhausen's group expects to almost complete two homes in their week.

"You start with a cement slab and build from the ground up," he said. Within the week, the workers will finish the roof, the electric, the plumbing, and have the

building ready for final touches. "It's a pretty rewarding thing," he said.

He added that they would do some of the work here in the Chicago area. The group will take a weekend and frame out walls to put onto a truck and ship to Slidell. The volunteers will follow by land and by air. "Some are driving vans. We have a trailer for our tools and supplies. A good portion of our

folks will fly," Scharringhausen said. In addition, each volunteer pays \$500 to help purchase lumber and other materials at the site.

"They (Habitat for Humanity) coordinate all the purchases of supplies and meals," he said. The workers will stay and eat in a local church or a school. "It's communal living," he added.

Scharringhausen also explained that the people going represent all

fields.

Anyone interested in donating to the group's effort can send donations to Bill Scharringhausen, Fund Raising Coordinator, 19 N. Seminary Rd., Park Ridge. Checks should be payable to Habitat for Humanity/Slidell. People interested in volunteering and traveling to Slidell should contact Jeff Engle at 773-835-4704 or Scott Engle at 773-835-4703.