

# Lakeland Physicians Lead Landmark Habitat Build



Lakeland physicians are building a healthy community through Harbor Habitat for Humanity, an organization dedicated to providing affordable, high-quality housing for local families. This summer, a group of Lakeland physicians broke ground on a home they are building in a 21-unit Harbor Habitat subdivision in Benton Charter Township, which marks the first time any medical community has sponsored a Habitat house in Michigan.

***"The Lakeland medical staff is pleased to be the first in the medical community to sponsor and build a Habitat for Humanity house in Michigan, and we hope other medical communities across the state will do the same," said Ken Edwards, MD, one of the physicians leading the initiative. "The frequent contributions physicians make to the community usually go unseen, such as providing charity care to the uninsured. Harbor Habitat is a visible example of the commitment Lakeland and its medical staff have for the community."***

This project began last year, when **Matthew Campbell, MD, Ken Edwards, MD, and Kent Lancaster, MD,** met with **Chris Laurent,** Director of Development for Harbor Habitat for Humanity, with plans to completely sponsor a house. The physicians raised \$30,000 last August when they held a special fundraising event at Dr. Edwards' home, which was attended by 70 Lakeland physicians and their spouses. Since then, physicians have contributed an additional



\$30,000 toward the \$75,000 sponsorship.\* Throughout the 12-week build schedule, the physicians and other Lakeland associates have donated their time on weekends to work alongside the professional Habitat team on the house.

"Harbor Habitat is getting a lot of attention from other Habitat affiliates as a result of these physicians' work," said Chris Laurent, Director of Development for Harbor Habitat for Humanity. "Their commitment will enhance the quality of life not only for the new homeowners, but also for the entire community."

Dr. Lancaster said, "This has been a wonderful experience. The physicians I've spoken with are looking forward to building another house next year."

*\* Figures as of July 15, 2008.*

## How to Become Involved

For more information about Harbor Habitat for Humanity, call (269) 925-9635 or visit [www.harborhabitat.org](http://www.harborhabitat.org).