

HABITAT VOLUNTEERS MAKE A LOVE CONNECTION

by Wade Olson

YOU MIGHT NEVER HAVE THOUGHT IT, BUT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DOES HAVE A SINGLES SCENE. TAKE MIKE AND JEAN Auble, for example. They met three years ago over a cup of nails and a few hammers.

After crossing paths on several occasions during subsequent Habitat for Humanity builds, the two construction supervisors finally started dating. Today they're married and working on a more personal project — building their own home.

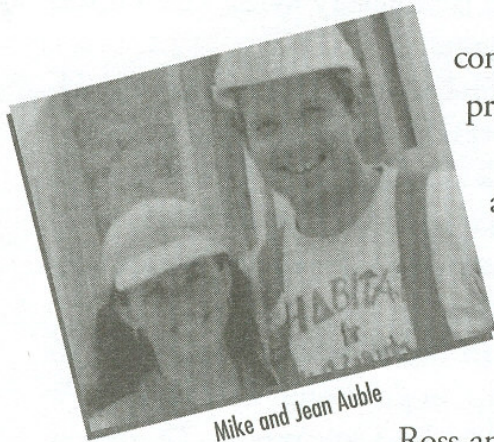
“He’s a great guy with a huge heart,” Jean says of Mike. “He also knows how to fix a lot of things around the house. He used to tease me and say that remodeling our house was Habitat for Jean, instead of Habitat for Humanity,” Jean chuckled amid the construction zone they call home.

“Building for Habitat is great because you’re out exercising in the sun and helping people. But I was blessed to get more out of it than just those benefits.”

Ross and Karen Dolen also found their soul mates at a Habitat building site. Ross was the resident photographer at Summer Build 1997. Karen is a long-time Habitat volunteer who started working with Habitat through her church group. Ross and Karen wound up next to each other in the line for lunch. They ended up dining together amongst the sawdust and siding and they’ve been inseparable every since. The pair married in August of this year.

“I think volunteering is one of the best ways to meet people,” says Ross. “You find people who aren’t as involved in themselves and really think of others.”

It just goes to show, you can get a lot out of volunteering — even a future mate!



Mike and Jean Auble



Ross and Karen Dolen