

EMU Board of Regents Meeting, 9-19-2006, Communications Session

Good afternoon, my name is Michael Haynes, and I am the Student Project Coordinator for the EMU Habitat for Humanity Eagles Nest Project. I am here today to give you an update on how we have been doing.

Last year, the Eagles Nest Project raised \$21,000 toward our \$65,000 goal, and made great strides in raising awareness of our organization and cause. It has been very heart-warming to see the consideration for others that our campus community has as our fundraising total rises. We have several fundraisers scheduled during the upcoming months, including partnerships with EMU Athletics and the EMU Honors College.

An interesting development in our plans occurred last week. We were approached by Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley with a challenging situation. Two University of Michigan chapters have only been able to raise \$40,000 combined, yet they are committed to building a house. A family has been identified and the house build has begun here in Ypsilanti, over on Watling Street.

We are being asked by Habitat for Humanity and the University of Michigan to join their efforts, creating collaboration between our groups and ensuring that this single mother and her four children will not have to wait another whole year to move in. The Eagles Nest Project leadership, as well as its core supporters, have taken this request very seriously and are considering the impact of our decision. We are weighing our options, which are – to create a partnership with U-of-M to complete this house which has already been started, or to help them reach their goal through co-fundraising efforts. **What is not an option, however, is leaving this family any longer without a home.**

By working together, we will not only get this family into a home in Ypsilanti, but we will also lay the groundwork for future collaborations. The potential is here to not only unite EMU and our city of Ypsilanti, but also to bring into our family the University of Michigan and the city of Ann Arbor, truly a partnership which can only greatly benefit our communities.

We are looking forward to another successful year of growth both financially and in visibility, and ask for your continued support of the Eagles Nest Project. Our hope is that our continued fundraising efforts will allow us to not only help this family get their own home, but also move us toward another build next year, assisting more families in need. Thank you.