The Fuller Center for Housing Rebuilds Lives, Homes

It’s no secret that times are tough. The economy is down, jobs are hard to come by and many families are having a hard time making ends meet.

But the staff and volunteers at The Fuller Center for Housing are doing their part to help.

The Fuller Center of Greater Toledo is a local non-profit housing charity dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide, starting right here in the Toledo area.

The Toledo chapter of the Fuller Center was founded in February of this year and teamed up with our law office shortly after, says executive director Dave Belknap.

“All it started with the Love for Lupe project,” he said. Upon hearing about the need for volunteers, Belknap decided to join in. While working on the project he met Leslie Rombkowski, our firm’s office manager, and Steve Reany, our business acquisition director.

Ever since that first project, the Fuller Center and its crew of staff and volunteers has been busy raising awareness of the charity’s mission, looking for deserving families and raising money.

One way the Fuller Center has been funded is through the Love for Lupe project, the Fuller Center and the Charles E. Boyk Law Offices have been working together.

“What you help the community, it’s amazing that so many doors open up,” Belknap said.

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Walleye Return to Toledo for Another Exciting Hockey Season

It’s time to get ready for some T-Town Hockey! The Toledo Walleye are set to return to the Huntington Center to ring in the 2010-11 season. They’ll kick things off with Fin-Fest on October 9. The event will feature a public open skate from 2:00-3:00 p.m., an opportunity to take shots on goal from 3:00-4:30 p.m., a chance to meet Walleye players, unique photo opportunities and college football on the televisions in the Huntington Center’s club level lounge. The regular season begins on October 16 with a game against the Wheeling Nailers at 7:00 p.m.

Fans can purchase individual tickets or choose from two different ticket packages. The Opening Night Bash package includes a buffet dinner and a ticket to the game, while the Hat Trick package gives fans a chance to choose from different three-game plans that all guarantee seats to Opening Night. Fans of the Walleye will recognize several names on the bench this year. Defensemen Kyle Page and Chris Zarb, and forwards Mike Hedden, Adam Keefe, Dominic Osman, Sal Peralta, and Scooter Smith will all take the ice for the Walleye again this season. New players for the upcoming season include Mike Walsh, who played for the Toledo Storm in 2005-06, defensemen Brett Blatchford (St. Francis High School & the University of Notre Dame), and rookie Tyler Gott of Niagara University.

Head coach Nick Vitucci will try to guide the Walleye to the playoffs for the second straight year. The team finished with a 35-36-7 record last season. They also finished second in attendance in their conference, the ECHL, with 226,575 fans attending games in the 2009-10 season. Several promotions are already planned for the upcoming season, including post-game parties with the players after Friday matches. The Hanson brothers, who were featured in the movie “Slap Shot”) are scheduled to appear on Dec. 4. Old favorites from last year will return this year as well, including Chuck-A-Puck, Design a Sign nights, post-game autograph session with the players, television character appearances and more. Tickets for Fin-Fest and regular season Walleye games can be purchased by calling (419) 725-WALL (9255) or visiting the team website, www.toledowalleye.com. Fans can also follow the Walleye on Facebook and Twitter to learn more about the team as the season approaches.

Nine Things My Kids Taught Me This Month

My wife Joann and I are the parents of four kids—Emily, who’s 14; Sarah, 12; Jacob, 11; and Joshua, 8. I thought I’d share what they have taught me this month.

1. Justin Bieber is the greatest entertainer of all time.
2. There are 493 Pokémons.
3. All wisdom in the world can be found on Facebook and YouTube.
4. Girls have cooties.
5. Playing Nintendo DS is more important than reading books.
6. Everybody else’s parents are cooler than Joann and I are.
7. Whenever there is work to do, they’ll get it done “just in a minute.”
8. There is never anything good to eat in our house.
9. Mom is a short-order cook who is there to make customized meals at all hours of the day.

Being a parent is always an adventure and a learning experience. I think every parent can agree—where would we be without our kids to teach us this valuable information?

Steve’s Rave Review: Table Forty 4

Table Forty 4
610 Monroe St.
Toledo, OH 43604
(419) 725-0044

Each month Steve will visit a local establishment and offer his opinion. His reviews are rated on a scale of 1 (worst) to 5 (best) high heels. Be sure to check his website, www.whereistever.com, for extended reviews and video bonuses!

Drink strength: 3.4/5

I ordered a whiskey sour and let me tell you, they were not shy on the booze! It was fabulously garnished with just the right amount of sour mix.

Ambiance: 5/5

The decor is rather interesting, with a large bar that’s well perfect for making eye contact across the room. It was a little loud (I shouldn’t have to yell to ask my friend how her food looked, even if I already know it’s fabulous), but turn the speakers down a little and it’s a winner.

Food: 5/5

My friends and I got bruschetta and spinach con queso for appetizers, which were delicious and refreshing (just like me). For the main event I got white fish, one friend got a turkey burger and my other friend got the open-face steak sandwich. All in all we were quite pleased here.

Where’s Steve?

With summer coming to an end, Steve has been busy having as much fun as possible before the cold months set in. In August, Steve attended the Bartender’s Ball held at Chuck’s on Monroe. This annual party for local people employed in the food and beverage industry is always a success, but this year was even better than others.

“There were over 700 people there!” Steve said. “It was packed.” There was also a special cause associated with this year’s Ball, as it benefitted paralyzed motorcyclist Mike McCluskey.

“Was a great event for a great cause,” Steve said.

Steve also found himself in the radio studio—just for FM. He also paid a visit to The University of Toledo’s campus radio station, WXUT. He was a guest on the House Party radio show, which airs on Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. You can listen to that show online at www.wxut.net.

“Was a blast,” Steve said. “Great people.”

If you’d like to catch up with Steve in September, make sure you look for him at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Sept. 26. You can also check his website, www.whereistever.com, or follow him on Twitter @WhereisSteveR.

Where would we be without our kids to teach us this valuable information? I think every parent can agree—where would we be without our kids to teach us this valuable information?