

## George Bach

George was born in Germany of German parents and resided in the quaint town of Hattersheim. George was seven when the U. S. tanks and the friendly troops rolled past his father's jewelry and clock repair shop throwing candy and gum. This event made such a lasting impression on him that he eventually became a tank platoon leader with the United States Army.

After the war his uncle and the Lutheran Church sponsored the family's immigration to the United States. The family settled in Richmond, Virginia close to the aunt and uncle that helped bring them to America.

After high school, George attended Virginia Military Institute (VMI) earning a degree in English and excelling in their Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Upon graduation George was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and served his adopted country through eight years of U.S. Army Reserves.

George ultimately formed his own successful consulting business. When his mother and stepfather became ill it was impossible for George to focus on his business. He put his life on hold to care for them and subsequently lost everything and literally become homeless after their deaths. Then George was then diagnosed with cancer. Even though he was able to battle his disease and win, his sense of self worth and finances were devastated.

George came to Pendleton County in November 2008 with the prospect of getting a house cleaning job. When that job fell through he had no money, no vehicle no place to live, and few friends. The First Baptist Church of Brandywine took George in and helped him with temporary housing which consisted of George staying with members of the church and ultimately moving in with a local pastor and his wife. In April of 2009 the Weavers contacted Habitat for Humanity and asked us for our help. Although it was not easy, within five months Habitat for Humanity has been able to help George find a temporary safe place in which to live, a part-time job, and helped him to development a plan to take charge of his future.

George heard about Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity's building program and although he was apprehensive he went through the application process but had little hope that things would change for him. When George heard that he was approved he felt the weight of the previous years lift from his shoulders!

*"Getting an Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity home will mean an end to my homelessness. It will mean I can have my dignity back. For the first time in years I'll have a place to call mine and to feel safe and secure in. "I'm looking forward to my new life in my new home, again having a comfortable place to do the things I love most to do; read, write and paint."*



*George will move into his new townhouse at  
River Bend Gardens in June 2010.*