

Ladies, get your hammers

Habitat for Humanity's Women Build project is designed to include, encourage women to help

From staff reports

Men and women both give to charity, but in the area of charitable home building, men often lead the way.

Last September, that changed.

Habitat for Humanity, an organization dedicated to building homes for the needy, held an all-women building project and is planning another one this year. A date for this year's build has not been set.

The first Fort Wayne-area Habitat house was completed in 1987, according to the organization's Web site.

By the end of 2007, the local chapter had completed 114 homes and seven rehabs. In its 21st year of building, Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity completed another 11 homes, providing safe, affordable shelter for 16 adults and 27 children, the Web site reads.

Typical homes have a single floor, three bedrooms and are about 1,100 square feet. The cost of the home is about \$57,000. Twenty-year mortgages are no-profit, no-interest with monthly payments that are approximately \$325.

According to its Web site, this year the organization will build 14 houses as the members continue their Christian

Habitat for Humanity

To get involved in the Women Build project or other Habitat home projects, visit www.fortwaynehabitat.org.
Address: 629 E. Washington Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Phone: 420-9919 or 422-4828
Fax: 1-260-424-9272

mission of providing simple, decent housing for people in need.

To prepare some of the women for the building project, Habitat for Humanity International's Women Build department will have classes locally to get women ready. These classes could be different from last time around.

The classes are not required for participation in the Women Build project; however, any woman interested in attending for comfort reasons is more than welcome, according to Laurie Brumbaugh, resource development coordinator.

Despite its name, "This project is not to exclude men," said Brumbaugh, who added that men are able to help in the project. "It's just to include and encourage women."

—Robin Crowell contributed to this report.



By Brian Tombaugh of The News-Sentinel

Becky Boles works building trusses for the Women Build home for Habitat for Humanity at 3705 Sherwood Terrace in September.

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