

Putting it Together

Habitat for Humanity builds two houses for area sisters

By MARIUM MOHIUDDIN
Staff writer

Who can build two houses in two weeks? Most contractors would shake their heads and walk away. "It cannot be done in that amount of time, maybe 3 to 4 months for one house."

Saturday, Sept. 27 Habitat for Humanity will prove not only can it be done, but it can be done by volunteers. It will bring to close a "Blitz Build" done by Habitat for Humanity. The aim of the Blitz was to build two houses in two weeks. On Saturday, the families will move in.

One week later, on Oct. 4, ground breaking will begin for the next project, to build two more houses for St. Joseph Regional Health Center.

Habitat for Humanity is a national, self-sustaining organization founded in 1976 to build homes for families in need. The national organization will be building its 50,000th home.

It is a Christian organization, but it is not exclusive to Christians. People of many different backgrounds volunteer. Each house building begins with a blessing to motivate the volunteers to accomplish the work in short periods of time.

Kate McKeon, president of Aggie Habitat for Humanity and a senior finance major, became involved with Habitat through a friend from Florida.

"There are 50 active members, and an estimated 300 Aggies work every year," McKeon said. "We have even had a couple of Corps outfits come out and help."

Construction has become a big part of these Aggies' lives.

"The executive committee had gotten together and built an extension to my house," McKeon said. "We bonded by adding a room, and had finished about 70 percent of the work."

The Aggie Habitat for Humanity has begun an annual 5K run.

"It is the largest one in Bryan-College Station," McKeon said. "Last year we had 550 participants, and this year there were 700 participants. We charge a \$12 entry fee and raised \$4,000 to \$5,000."

Trisha Burk, executive director of the local Habitat for Humanity, said families go through a rigorous selection process.

"The houses are not given away; they are given to families with a steady income. Over time, the families pay Habitat for the house. There are no banks involved, no interest, and Habitat handles the mortgages," Burk said.

It all begins with an application. From there, it is determined who has a real housing need. The families



DEREK DEMERE/THE BATTALION
Carolyn Clark, a professor in the Department of Education, works on one of the houses. She volunteered through the Unitarian Fellowship Church.

have to be willing to put in 400 volunteer hours.

The two homes being built are three bedroom houses upon 1,150 square foot lots. The families are also given \$1,000 to personalize their new homes.

"The local chapter has built a total of 17 houses since its start in 1989," Burk said. "These two new homes will bring the grand total to 19."

The land was donated by the Charlene Morrison family. Morrison was a resident of Bryan-College Station and worked for the city. When she passed away she left her land to her grandson, Andy Morrison. Andy Morrison had gone on a mission where one of his counselors had worked for Habitat. Andy Morrison then donated the land to Habitat for Humanity.

Two sisters, Hope Miranda and Oralia Perez, both single mothers, will be moving into the houses.

"I have gone to the sight almost everyday, and helped with painting and cleaning," Perez said.

There are about 60 people volun-

teering a day.

No carpenters are needed on site because the volunteers have the skills. Some professionals are still contacted, however. The air conditioning is donated, and contractors are called in to do the insulation. The insulation placed in the houses is energy efficient and cuts the heating and cooling bills down.

Habitat for Humanity is always looking for more volunteers. They are trained in the wide variety of skills needed to build a house, such as framing, roofing and placing vinyl siding. There are also several committees such as resource, public relations and donations. Among the committees, there is also a family nurturing committee which provides workshops to the families about their new homes.

The workshops include budgeting, financing and how to fix things around the house. They allow the families to take good care of their homes.

"The families have too much sweat equity to see their dreams collapse," Burk said.



DEREK DEMERE/THE BATTALION
Ryan McMahan, Class of '96, nails molding to a wall with a pneumatic nailer.

Still waiting for your ship to come in?

You don't have to wait much longer! Complete your education by studying abroad! Discover the opportunities at

TAMU OVERSEAS DAY
Oct. 9, MSC
Main Hall
10:00 - 2:00

Representatives from various study abroad programs will be in the MSC from 10:00 - 2:00.
Sponsored by Study Abroad Program 161 Bizzell Hall West (845-0544)

WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES 1997-98
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Who's Who applications are now available for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

- Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
- Student Programs Office (2nd Floor MSC)
- Student Activities Office (125 John J. Koldus Building)
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Office of Graduate Studies (125 Teague)
- Office of the Dean of each College
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th Floor Rudder)

Completed applications must be received by the Student Activities Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26, 1997. They may be hand-carried to the Student Activities Office, sent through Campus Mail, or sent through U.S. Mail. (See the application for addresses.)

Attention all Volkswagens. Please come home. Mom & Dad miss you very much.

Free 57 point inspection for all Volkswagens. Call for an appointment soon.

We would like to "Welcome Home" all Volkswagens and their families just to see how they're doing. Simply visit us to receive a 57 point inspection, absolutely free. All you need to do is call us for an appointment. We miss you very much.

Quietly doing business the FRED BROWN way since 1982

Volkswagen
FRED BROWN
3100 Briarcrest Drive (East Loop 6 at Briarcrest)
776 - 7601

Drivers wanted.

THREE FREE BAGELS for no dough at all.

That's 3 free authentic, traditionally-made bagels. Baked to perfection in our own ovens throughout the day. In other words, the taste is right. The texture is right. And the price could hardly get better.

3 FREE BAGELS

BRUEGGER'S BAGELS
BAKED FRESH
Totally completely obsessed with freshness

In Culpepper Plaza
1703 Texas Avenue
College Station, TX 77840
409.694.8990 Fax 409.693.7873

Between Harvey & George Bush

BRCS759a Offer may not be combined. One per customer please. Expires 10/09/97

Hastings and **KAPLAN** present...

FREE SAT GRE GMAT LSAT Information Workshops

- Learn what the test-makers don't want you to know!
- Discover expert test-taking strategies.
- Get tips on how to target your study needs.
- Learn how to avoid traps, tricks and stupid mistakes.
- Master time-saving techniques.
- Find out how you can get a higher score and a brighter future!

Saturday, September 27th
C/S Hastings

SAT: 1:00-2:00PM GMAT: 3:00-4:00PM
GRE: 2:00-3:00PM LSAT: 4:00-5:00PM

Call 1-800-KAP-TEST for more info. & reservations!

ed Arroyo CASUAL QUALITY TEX-MEX

Home of the Del Mar Shrimp & Crabmeat Enchilada
Happy Hour: Mon. - Fri. 2-7p.m.
99¢ Ritas • 99¢ Drafts • \$1.25 Domestic
\$1.75 Imports • \$3.75 Pitchers

All Day Saturday - Monday
\$1.50 Ritas • \$1.50 24oz. Chuggers • \$3.25 Pitchers

Come Watch the Aggies Beat the Hell outta Colorado!
3 Satellites • 3 Big Screen TVs • 8 32" TVs

Mon. - Sun. 11:00 - ?
2010 S. College, Bryan
(across from the Ptarmigan)
822-0102

S. College	Carson	Texas Ave.	University
X			TAMU

Austin Round Rock Dallas Ft. Worth

MONDAY MIDNIGHT SALE:
PORTISHEAD, ROLLING STONES,
BOB DYLAN, VERVE, ST/U-TURN,
LOREENA MCKENNITT, P. SMITH,
ARMAND VAN HELDEN

IMPORTS T-SHIRTS POSTERS
TEXAS MUSIC BUY & SELL USED CD'S
PUNK ROCK DANCE MUSIC TRIP HOPTRANCE BREAKBEAT
RAP REGGAE BLUES JAZZ COUNTRY CLASSICAL
SPECIAL ORDERS ALWAYS WELCOME

marooned
"THE" RECORD STORE IN B/C/S
110 College Main 846-0017

Tuition, books, clothes, parking pass, bus pass...

IT KEEPS ADDING UP!!
Need some extra cash?
Westgate Biologicals, Inc.

4223 Wellborn Rd. 700 University Dr. East Ste. 111
Bryan, Texas 77801 College Station, Texas 77840
846-8855 268-6050

Call for an appointment
Walk-ins are Welcome!