

A House to Call Home

Having the opportunity to be a part of the Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity Women Build projects has caused me to reflect on what it means to have a house to call home. I think about the feelings that I have when I drive up to my house at the end of a day or sit on my porch and watch my children play. I know my family has a place to feel safe and secure to play together, laugh together and grow together. Then I think of the people that can not afford to provide a stable home for their family; people who have to uproot their kids every couple of months just to have a reasonable place to live. I ask myself what I can do. That brings me to the action being taken to provide affordable housing for low-income families. Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating poverty housing in the Central Minnesota area and to making decent reasonably priced shelter for people a matter of conscience. An estimated 48 of the 50 Central Minnesota Habitat homeowners still reside in their original homes. The homeowners go through an extensive application process and after being selected the homeowners attend education classes as well as contribute their own sweat equity hours into the home. After they move into their Habitat home they pay a mortgage for their home and the money helps to build/remodel more Habitat projects. Habitat's sustainable program changes lives everyday! This years Women Build week project was a first for Habitat. With the status of the housing market, Habitat decided to by a foreclosed home and renovate it. The project went incredibly well. We had many wonderful volunteers as well as construction site supervisors that came everyday with an eagerness to work hard and guide the volunteers to do various tasks from using a jack hammer to transplanting hostas. Diane Willenbring a fellow Circle of Women member as well as a member of the woman build task force and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the volunteers both men and women who took time out of their day to contribute to this amazing project! As the weather gets cooler and you snuggle up with your family on the couch or carve pumpkins to put on your front step, take a moment to reflect what it means to you to have a house to call home.

*Rachel Thoennes, Birchwood Electric
Proud to be a Central Minnesota
Habitat for Humanity Circle of Women
Member.*

*"A house is a home when it shelters
the body and comforts the soul."
Phillip Moffitt*

2008 Women Build Construction Site Supervisors

- Adam Anderson- Finken Water Centers
- Ralph Beckers-Mathew Hall Lumer
- Art Buhs- Art Buhs Construction
- Paul Erickson- St.Cloud Overhead Door
- Mark Finn- Werschay Homes
- Terry Fuchs-Kitchen Tune-up
- Randy Graham- Graham Painting
- Jim Green- Lumber One Cold Spring
- Jim Gruber-Timeless Tradition Homes
- Neil King- Werschay Homes
- Roger Kirchner & Tony Knier - Home Check Plus**
- Bob and Doreen Scott- DBW Construction
- Tony Thoennes- Birchwood Electric
- Pete Tourand-Tourand Construction
- Ryan Trosdahl- W. Gohman Construction
- Duane Willenbring-Willenbring Construction

