

Habitat for Humanity 2006 Builder's Blitz



Southcreek Construction's framing crew working on a Habitat for Humanity home.

COURTESY PHOTO

Builders construct 10 Habitat homes in Spencer

BY KEVAN GOFF-PARKER
THE JOURNAL RECORD

SPENCER — Building 10 homes in five days may seem like an ambitious venture, but 10 local builders were already closing the gap Monday by participating in Habitat for Humanity's 2006 Builders Blitz.

Ann Felton, chairman and chief executive officer of Central Oklahoma Habitat, said the construction will continue until all of the homes are complete on Friday.

"Habitat for Humanity's 2006 Home Builders Blitz is a national program that aims to build more than 400 houses with professional builders nationwide," Felton said. "We've partnered with 10 different builders and we proba-

ly have 75 people here today. They've already done the framing. They're awesome."

Situated on NE 45th Street and NE 46th Street in Spencer, the houses will be open to the public during an open house and cookout from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at NE 45th Street and S. Douglas Boulevard. A dedication ceremony is also planned from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday.

Felton said that on Monday morning the builders started with a simple foundation and ended the day with the homes "dried in" (adding windows, doors and roofs to the frame).

The builders include Ideal Homes, Home Creations, Heartland Homes, Southcreek

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Dra Shackelford and Jeremy Ackerman of Oklahoma Home Centers pose atop the slab upon which they helped build a house for Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity's Home Builders Blitz in Spencer.

Builders Blitz' adds homes to area

Project to raise Spencer's population 4%

Beverly Bryant, Special Correspondent

SPENCER — A week and a half ago, the rains in Douglas Meadow ran red with Oklahoma mud after a torrential rain poured down on belted lofs.

Empty concrete slabs, portable toilets and all tractors moving materials were the only things that big things were on the way.

"There will be 61 homes in this neighborhood by the end of the builders' blitz, and we've built them all," said Ann Felton, chairwoman and chief executive of Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity.

The influx of families to Douglas Meadow will raise the population of Spencer by 4 percent, Felton said. Construction in the neighborhood started a few years ago. Felton said

ber, Keith Hickox, who died building started.

Though Mary Poppins' magic has been appreciated by the neighborhood, they themselves gathered to survey the neighborhood, they themselves gathered to survey the neighborhood, they themselves gathered to survey the neighborhood.

The local builders who participated in the weeklong project, said Ann Felton, chairwoman and chief executive of Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity. She said the builders did "everything from the slab up."

All of the homes went to single mothers, Felton said, noting that one in four women live below the poverty line in Oklahoma.

To qualify for a home, Felton said families have to make a minimum of \$16,000 per year. The potential homeowner also has to complete Central Habitat's "homeowner college," which helps them in the transition to home ownership. They also have a year to complete 300 hours of "sweat equity," where they volunteer for Central Habitat.

Three different floor plans were used for the project, ranging in size from 1,100 square feet to 1,250 square feet.

Loftis' home is 1,260 square feet and has four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Project creates home fit for Princess

Building blitz focuses on single mothers.

Ashley Romano Business Writer

SPENCER — Princess Loftis never thought she would realize the American dream — she never thought she could own her own home.

But the 35-year-old single mother of four is among 10 families with new homes today as part of Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity's Home Builders Blitz 2006. Builders constructed 10 homes in five days in the Douglas Meadows addition on NE 45 and NE 46 just west of Douglas Avenue.

"I was just so surprised," Loftis said. Loftis said she was floored to see her home, built by Ideal Homes of Norman at 8824 NE 45, nearly finished on Monday, the first day of building.

"I was dumbfounded," she said. Todd Booze, president of construction for Ideal Homes, said his crew put in a total of 30 hours, working nearly 15-hour days. By the end of day one, crews had the drywall completed. By Wednesday, inspectors were checking the house, he said.

Steve Shoemaker, director of marketing for Ideal Homes, said it generally takes about 90 calendar days to complete a house.

"Everyone did a great job of getting the houses built," Booze said. "We're happy to be a part of it." Friday morning, sprinklers soaked newly laid sod as builders put the final touches on the homes.

Ten home builders and more than 300 volunteers participated in the weeklong project, said Ann Felton, chairwoman and chief executive of Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity. She said the builders did "everything from the slab up."

Ceremony honors owners and Habitat for Humanity

New homeowners will be recognized from 10 to 11 a.m. today in a ceremony at Keith Hickox Park on Ann Felton Way, between NE 45 and NE 46, just west of Douglas Boulevard in Spencer.

The 10 builders will be recognized. They were: Ideal Homes of Norman, Home Creations, Heartland Homes, Southcreek Construction, GT Homes (Gardner Tanenbaum Group), Homes by Taber, Johnston Builders, Bridgeport Development/Newhaven Homes, Tommy Huelskamp Homes and Oklahoma Home Centers. Numerous subcontractors and suppliers also contributed.

Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity will give Bibles and lawn care equipment to each family. The Women's Council of the Central Oklahoma Home Builders Association will present mailboxes and house numbers to the families.

The Edmond Board of Realtors will provide welcome mats to each family. Open house will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Business Writer Ashley Romano

"Everything is totally amazing," she said. "They've done a wonderful job." Loftis' children — Danielle, 18; Sonia, 17; Jaiden, 6; and Jorden, 4 — are thrilled with their new home, their mom said.

Loftis is moving from an apartment. She said her new surroundings are a lot "prettier." She is especially excited about decorating her new home.

"I got to go shop for curtains," she said. Loftis' friend, Bernadine Moss, told her about Habitat for Humanity.

"She is so deserving of this," Moss said. Loftis works as an administrative assistant for the Oklahoma State University department of education and recently finished her associate's degree in political science at Oklahoma State University. She plans to earn a master's degree in criminal justice.