

# Build Report for Battle Creek, MI 2006

Name and Dates of Build \_\_\_Battle Creek, May 30 through June 9, 2006\_\_\_

Team Leaders \_\_\_Tom & Marion Braum\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate Name \_\_\_Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity\_\_\_\_\_

Number of:

Team members \_\_\_6\_\_\_ Coaches \_\_\_3\_\_\_

Coaches cancelled \_\_\_0\_\_\_ First-timers (on RV build) \_\_\_0\_\_\_

Hours worked by team (estimated) \_\_\_255\_\_\_

Builders on the team \_\_\_5\_\_\_ Non-builders \_\_\_1\_\_\_

Total days worked \_\_\_9\_\_\_

Welcome/Orientation Gathering

Hosted by Affiliate or  Team (circle one)

Safety Guidelines Distributed Yes/ No Reviewed Yes/ No

If "no", why? Experienced volunteer builders didn't feel it necessary.

We worked on 2 new constructions. During the first week, we helped prepare the site and the homes for the Professional Homebuilders Blitz the following week.

The men performed the following tasks:

1. Installed basement steps (2 houses)
2. Moved doors in basement interior framed walls
3. Built the front porch on one house

The women performed the following tasks:

1. Organized the construction site trailer, tools, nails, screws
2. Washed safety goggles, gloves and nail aprons
3. Worked in office, organizing donation documents

During the second week, the week of the Professional Builders Blitz, the men performed the following tasks:

1. Built porches, steps and handrails (2 houses/4 porches)
2. Framed interior wall extensions to vaulted ceiling
3. Trimmed out dry wall and added beading
4. Nailed interior paneling in vaulted ceiling prefabricated sandwich panels
5. Framed-in ceilings in staircases and closets
6. *Special Project:* pulled 250 ft data/phones cables in affiliate office to provide WiFi for future volunteer builders in Parking lot.

The women performed the following tasks:

1. Painted trim strips with assistance from many teen homeowner volunteers
2. Helped nail together two 2x6's 44times and carry to sides of homes
3. Office work, sorting and typing

Comment on parking arrangements:

This was great! We were parked in a fenced-in paved lot next to their Re-Store building. We had 30 amp electric and water; a dump was available in the lot. The gate could be locked and we all had keys. We had access in the building for toilets, showers and a huge kitchen where we gathered in the mornings, ate lunches, which were provided and prepared, and where we ate group dinners, 7 of the 9 evenings.

Comment on construction supervision:

The construction supervisor, Dirk V was wonderful. He was always pleasant and helpful. Even though he had 20 or more professional contractors to oversee, he had time to find jobs for homeowner volunteers and us.

What could the affiliate have done to make the build more effective?

Had the Professional Builders Blitz not been scheduled for the second week of the build, I think the build would have been more personally rewarding, but we really learned a lot from the pro-builders that we worked with during that week.. Even with the Pro-Builders Blitz happening, the affiliate still did everything they could do to accommodate us and our needs. They arranged for devotions to be led by locals ministers and lunches were provided by local church groups.

Problems or concerns expressed by team members:

The only concern was that there was not a lot for us to work on during the second week because the Professional Homebuilders Blitz was happening. The affiliates one construction supervisor and one volunteer coordinators had their hands full with the blitz build. The team took it in stride, watching the professionals, learning from them when possible and the ladies found some work in the office to do and also took time off for personal pleasure. (We went shopping and decided that they wanted Marion to teach them to crochet which she did. They enjoyed that.)

Accidents & injuries: Nothing but the occasional sliver.

Highlights of build:

The Professional Homebuilders Blitz and the new energy efficient construction materials were the highlights of this build. These two houses were receiving a lot of publicity because they were 5-Star energy efficient houses. They had a prefabricated cement/insulation foundation walls that were set on leveled gravel, no waterproofing required. The walls and roof were prefabricated 6-inch thick foam panels with laminated OBS inside and out. The roof panels were made the same way. Panels were lifted by hand and glued and nailed together. End of day two, we had two houses completely closed-in with shingles on the roofs. This was the first time this kind of material has been used in the area and as far as we know, in a Habitat house. There was a press conference held on the first day of our second week, the first day of the blitz.

On the first day of the blitz, we had the pleasure of dining with the guy who had designed the walls for these houses using CAD. This was quite a feat since the walls

were constructed elsewhere and raised and glued together on-site. We got some inside information on the process of developing this energy efficient material. The last day of the build ended with the dedication of the 2 homes. The homeowner of one of the homes had worked with us a few days during the 2 weeks. A potential homeowner with 4 or more teenagers worked nearly every day of the second week. It was interesting to work with teenagers who were eager to do many things but had to be taught and supervised through many tasks.

We started our build with dinner out on Memorial Day evening. Mary and Marion planned the 2-week menu and after group consent, shopped for food together. Mary prepared most meals that were selected for their ease of preparation and healthiness. We enjoyed dining together every evening in the affiliate's kitchen where we discussed the day and the construction of the homes. On the 2 Friday evenings, we dined at local restaurants that were very enjoyable. Over the weekend between the 2 build weeks, team members did their own thing. We stayed on-site while the other couples left town to visit friends or go to baseball games.

Other comments:

This was a very easy build to lead since it was very small. Coordinating and pleasing 6 people is a snap compared to the usual 10 to 16. The couples were easy-going and interfaced with each other nicely. We found we had a lot in common.

Attachments: Financial Report (Audited?  Yes/No)

List of team members with updated contact information

Nothing different from roster sent to us.