

## BUILD REPORT FORM

Name & Date of Build: Habitat for Humanity of Valencia County Belen, NM

Team Leaders: Bill & Rosemary McLaughlin

Assistant Team Leaders: Doug & Judy Key

Affiliate Name: Habitat for Humanity of Valencia County, Inc

Number of:

Team Members: 18/16/14 Coaches 9/8/7

Coaches Cancelled: None First Time Builders 4

Hours worked by team: 1,155

Builders on the team: 16 Non-builders: 2

Total days worked: 10

Welcome/Orientation Gathering

Hosted by team leaders at RV Park for team

Safety guidelines distributed: Yes Reviewed: Yes

Safety also reviewed by volunteer coordinator on first day at build

Type of work performed:

The team performed a wide variety jobs. We completed the sheet rock installation in 1 house, and completed the installation of the roof sheeting and paper, so the house was dried in. Also completed the installation of "buffalo board" trim on 2 houses.

We began the building of the 3<sup>rd</sup> house from the slab up. The slab up construction included the laying out and installation of the sill plate, building exterior and interior walls, installing "buffalo board siding, and the truing of the house. Delivery of trusses was delayed so the roof could not be started.

One house was cleaned for dedication. Unfortunately, the dedication had to be scheduled for after our departure.

There was plenty of meaningful work for one and all.

Comment on parking arrangements:

The La Mirada RV Park in Belen was an easy 12 miles from the job site in Los Lunas. Several team members expressed a desire to have a site for less than \$135/week. One couple, new builders, chose to stay at the Elk's Lodge at no charge, but did join in on the two park dinners, in a room provided by the campground without their usual rental fee..

Infrastructure for a new 400 home mixed use area is being started in Belen. It would be wonderful if it could include RV sites for groups like ours, and possibly for a drop in site listing through the Care a Vanner desk. (Dade City, FL has done this.)

Comment on construction supervision:

Two supervisors very available to give a general outline of what should be worked on;. They were appreciative that the team had the ability to self start and follow through on projects. The local affiliate seemed to have some volunteer burnout after having several weeks of Collegiate Challenge that they had supervised alone. They and the affiliate director indicated our group would be welcome back anytime.

When all three were asked whether it would help them more to have our group alone or in conjunction with a college group all said it didn't matter. With the students, different ones could help small groups of students, but alone much could be accomplished with minimal supervision.

One thing they are working on is consistency from both supervisors on how things should be done to meet code, and maintain conformity. Our group was flexible about changes, and was reminded that we are there to help the affiliate in any way we are needed.

Ways the affiliate could have made the build experience more effective:

The volunteer coordinator had been very helpful and responsive to our pre build planning, including trying to contact the Elks about 'community service' parking for our group.. Lunches or 'leftovers' were provided 5 of the ten days we worked. We were independent and comfortable with this since their volunteer food sources had been used for the collegians. It was wonderful to have access to a stove, refrigeration and freezers in the on site construction office.

We were sorry that a welcome or closing dinner with families and affiliate members could not be arranged. Several nice partner families worked on site, and one family brought a delicious New Mexican lunch to help complete 'sweat equity' hours.

Problems or Concerns expressed by team members:

Other than cost of campsite no specific ones come to mind. Everyone seemed happy with the build fee, and the two couples who left early declined the offer of a refund. All team

members were asked to complete the build feedback form honestly and completely and submit it to the leaders' envelope or mail to the build coordinator.

### Accidents and Injuries

One finger was hit by coworker's hammer. First aid was given by the construction supervisor who is a first aid trained volunteer fireman. No further action requested .

### Highlights of Build:

This was a diverse group of experienced and inexperienced builders. People meshed well and it was a comfortable, fun week. The leaders appreciated the support and empathy shown with a 'voiceless' week by Bill, and news of the death of his sister.

Food played a part in many activities from the Welcome Dinner, through a Casino Buffet, late St. Patrick's Dinner, a pot luck, two dinners, including the closing night, at very good New Mexican restaurants. Even with the wind and cool weather we managed to gather for attitude adjustment most days. Many were able to take side trips to enjoy the interesting history and landscape of New Mexico.

We met three of the four homeowners whose houses we worked on, and were able to sign the Bibles they will receive at their dedications.

It is an exciting affiliate with many innovative ideas in the works to help them fund the much needed Habitat for Humanity houses in their area. It is always an advantage when there are multiple houses—four in our case—plus a little done one a fifth—so that there are a variety of jobs for everyone, if he or she chooses.

The group voted to give the \$175.00 remaining from the build fee to the Homeowners' Asso. The present construction office (a house) will be turned over for their use when the new area is started next year.

On our departure morning, Gwen Davis did a touching and sometimes humorous description of each team member's contribution to the build, complete with appropriate gifts.

### Names of recommended future team leaders:

Anyone on the build that has previously led. In addition: our assistants, Doug and Judy Key, who couldn't have more supportive and Brian and Gwen Davis.

To encourage a new crop of leaders, have assistants be in training, not already experienced leaders or assistants. Someone said once that the best thing to be was an assistant. It wasn't that much work, and guaranteed you a spot on a build.

Respectfully submitted, Bill and Rosemary McLaughlin, Team Leaders