

FMCA Chapter: Habitat for Humanity ®

Minot, ND Build Report
August 22 to September 3, 2005

Team Leaders: Corbett & Connie Pool
Assistant Team Leaders: Fred & Ronda O'Donnell

Affiliate: Northern Lights Habitat for Humanity, Minot, ND ®

Our team consisted of 17 team members in nine coaches. We parked at the North Dakota State Fair (NDSF) Campground about three miles from the build site. At the time the build sign-ups opened, we had a limit of six coaches, which filled immediately with an unknown number on the waiting list. Two of the original six coaches had to be cancelled and the build was expanded to eight coaches. During the 74th International FMCA Convention in Minot, ND, we were asked to trade a coach with the build team from South Dakota. The team was increased to nine coaches to accommodate John & Virginia Lambert, new chapter members and first-time builders who reside in Minot. We could have accommodated at least three more coaches based on the amount of work that needed to be done.

The team worked approximately 1,308 hours in ten working days during the two weeks of the build. One member of the team, (Arlene Kaminski) concentrated on the food requirements for the team; however she helped with minor chores at the build site and was our photographer.

With the confusion at the fair grounds with the wrap-up of the FMCA convention, we delayed the dinner with the affiliate until August 28th. We spent our first Saturday setting up our camping area with discarded outdoor carpet from the outdoor displays and decorating with the discarded potted plants. We held our orientation gathering on Sunday, August 22nd with just our build team members and had a general discussion of the safety guidelines.

During the two weeks, we built the attached garage, all the interior walls, set trusses, sheathed and singled the roof, hung three exterior doors, framed the two garage doors and completed about 80 percent of the siding and soffets. The interior was ready for the plumbers, electricians, and the heating and air conditioning by the start of the second week. The goal of the team was to have the house completely weathered in and we almost made it. If we had had another day to work on the house, it would have been done.

The affiliate arranged with NDSF at a reduced rate of \$8 per night our use of the campground, which has 30-amp electric, level parking and gravel sites. There is a dump and fresh water at one end of the campground. NDSF offered the 50-amp, water and sewer sites at \$15 per night on hard surface near the grandstand; however, the team elected to use the campground at \$8 per night. To help conserve water in our coaches, NDSF provided access to restrooms and hot showers 24 hours a day while we were there. Most of us took advantage of their offer.

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Larry Zirtzman, newly hired affiliate director, volunteer coordinator and construction supervision did a superb job for us. He insured that we had on hand all the supplies that we needed. He had the job site in good condition and scaffolding around most of the house when we arrived on the first day. He also insured that each morning we had coffee and snacks and by noon our lunches with sodas and water were on site.

We had only minor scraps, cuts, and purple thumbs. By the second week, we all were moving more slowly as our muscles and bones ached from the work.

We worked with three different groups of volunteers from Minot AFB. It was very good to have young helpers to do some of the heavier work on the house. They all responded well to us and were excited about volunteering more often to see the house complete.

Virginia Lambert embroidered guest hand towels with Minot Build and our dates for each coach participant. Arlene Kaminski made quilts for the three children of the homeowner. Arlene also quilted four door prizes for our going away dinner.

We appreciate the opportunity to have led the many FMCA Chapter: Habitat for Humanity builds we were selected to lead. This build will be our last one to lead. However, we look forward to participating in future builds. We have worked with Fred and Ronda O'Donnell on six different builds, two of which they served as assistant build team leaders. They are extremely well qualified and we strongly recommend Fred and Ronda O'Donnell as future team leaders.

Corbett Pool, Build Team Leader

Connie Pool, Build Team Co-leader