

FMCA Chapter: Habitat for Humanity ®

Ocala, Florida

February 11 – 24, 2007

Team Leaders: Corbett & Connie Pool

Assistant Team Leaders: Fred & Ronda O'Donnell

Affiliate: Marion County Habitat for Humanity ®, Ocala, FL

The 2007 Ocala Habitat for Humanity build was a complete success. In the ten days that we worked, we took a blank foundation and totally weathered in the three bedroom, two bath house and the accompanying 10'X8' shed for Alisa Johnson and her two children. They have been waiting over a year to get a house. It is expected the house will be completed and dedicated in June.

Our team consisted of 21 team members in eleven coaches. It was one dedicated and hardworking team that arrived at the job site ready to go to work. We parked at the Ocala RV and Camp Resort about nine miles from the build site. A few weeks before the build we were informed the 12 coach limit was increased to 15 coaches and we were able to empty the waiting list. We received the cancellation from the Glovers before the SEA Rally in Brooksville. The Arrowsmiths informed us of their cancellation during the SEA Rally and the Shipes cancelled the day we arrived in Ocala.

Of the eleven coaches, seven were repeat builders and we had four first timers. Our first timers were Neal and Beverly Brown from New York, Nancy Dile from Florida, Charlie and Marilyn Hudson from California, and Glenn and Marcie Ronken from Ohio. They all did a superb job.

The team worked approximately 1,544 hours during the two weeks of the build. Our social chairman was Lynn Christensen assisted by Marilyn Hudson and they arranged for, or cooked seven evening meals. Cassie Blake was our photographer.

We held our orientation gathering on Sunday, February 11th along with the welcome dinner hosted by the affiliate. We had a general discussion of the building site and reviewed the safety guidelines.

On the first working day, we started with the blank foundation raised the exterior walls for a blessing of the house. On the third day we set the trusses and had a crew working to sheetrock a house a few doors down. They completed the entire house before they returned to work on the Johnson house. We had one bad weather day that we had to be cut short by two hours due to threatening windstorms. By end of the first week the interior was ready for the plumbers, electricians, and the heating and air conditioning contractors. The goal of the team was to have the house completely weathered in and we made it except for the metal flashing for the fascia board.

The affiliate arranged with Ocala RV and Camp Resort for a reduced rate of \$15 per night plus tax. We had new 50-amp electric service, water and a dumpsite. This campground is very busy during this time of year and would normally receive \$24.95 per night plus tax. The campground also provided us the use of the Kitchen hall for our evening meals. Most of us also took advantage of the \$3.00 breakfast the campground provided on Saturdays. The

FMCA Chapter: Habitat for Humanity ®

Ocala, Florida

February 11 – 24, 2007

manager Doris Marsh was very accommodating and a pleasure to work with. She and her husband and another couple visited the work site to observe our work.

Dee Hartley, the affiliate volunteer coordinator was a joy each day and made sure we were well fed with Dunkin Donuts each morning and daily lunches. She was very helpful with our other needs, not related to the job site. Jerry the newly hired construction supervisor and Tony the assistant did a superb job for us. They made sure we had all the necessary supplies on hand or they were purchased immediately when we identified the shortages. Many of us have worked with this affiliate in the past and the Executive Director's guidance to our supervisors was to turn us loose and make sure they were available to answer questions should the arise. The job site was in good condition when we arrived on the first day. This affiliate has a complete stock of tools and ladders and all items were in good conditions.

We had an accident free build with only minor scraps, cuts, and purple thumbs. We were assisted by three local volunteers that worked with us on a daily basis. They are Gary Cook and John and Joanne Perri.

We had lengthy discussions with all the build participants regarding the need for build team leaders and several people have expressed a desire to attend the Build Team Leader Training so they might be able to lead builds in the future. The ones that were interested were Bob and Lynn Christensen, Charlie and Marilyn Hudson and Nancy Dile. We believe they will be excellent assets for the chapter and Habitat for Humanity.

We appreciate the opportunity to have led this FMCA Chapter: Habitat for Humanity build. This build will be our last one to lead. However, we look forward to participating in future builds.

Corbett and Connie Pool, Build Team Leaders