

FMCA CHAPTER: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

POMONA VALLEY AFFILIATE

Claremont, California

March 27, 2006 to April 7, 2006

BUILD REPORT

Submitted by Team Leaders: Lynn & Deann Harrington

April 9, 2006

Fifteen volunteers from the FMCA Chapter: Habitat for Humanity, participated in finish work on six houses along Claremont Blvd., in Claremont, CA. These six houses were not the usual Habitat design. Due to the size and shape of the lot donated, they had to design houses to fit. Each house has the same floor plan, 4 bedrooms upstairs, living room, small kitchen and dining area downstairs, with a two car garage under the other two bedrooms. It was a challenge to find your workers in six houses that all looked exactly alike! We worked 10 days, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; approximately 1,033 hrs. Dennis Rodgers was their paid, on site, supervisor. He guided us along with several of their own faithful volunteers each day. They have been working on these homes since October of 2005. We did painting, painting and painting! The weather did not cooperate. The outside gables and eaves were all done one coat, but only one house got the second coat on our last day. All garage door overhangs and kitchen window overhangs received two coats of paint in between showers. Several teams scraped all floors of the plaster mud and dirt build up. We then moved inside to paint semi-gloss on kitchens and bathrooms, then went on to paint all four bedrooms in each of the six houses, with 2 coats of flat wall paint. All kitchen, bathroom and bedroom window casings were cleaned and caulked. All six outside doors were sanded, caulked and painted with Kilz. All doors between the house and garage were also sealed with Kilz. One team installed all counter tops on three of the houses. They ran out of material to complete the project. All bedroom molding was installed on the last two days. One team repaired improperly installed fascia boards on all the houses. One person built forms and platforms for the street lights to be installed on. One person installed shut-off valves on all the plumbing for all six houses. On our last day a team went through all houses and removed all construction debris and discarded items. They also swept all floors. This list alone does not seem too impressive, but multiply all tasks by 6, and you get a feel for the great job all team members did on these six houses.

Our assistant leader did not arrive on site until Thursday of the first week. She was ill on Friday and went home early. She returned to the worksite on Wednesday of the second week. Due to her other commitments and illness, she never acted as an assistant. She was willing, but all was arranged before she came on site and completed during her illness. She was a willing worker and worked well with the group.

Our accident record was good. No serious accidents! A minor fall, a sliver and a couple of cuts were cleaned and treated with band-aids.

Our camping accommodations at the Fairplex were great. We all had full hook-ups free of charge, arranged by the affiliate.

This build was confirmed and arranged in a one week time frame. Cyndi Torres, ED of Pomona Valley affiliate, was very efficient and kind to us. She supplied all needed info within hours of our requests. Carol, their volunteer coordinator was there to provide our every need at the job site. We all received t-shirts, aprons & award pins from them.

Dennis Rodgers was a supervisor who looked for quality in all jobs. He stated right up front that he was not a "diplomat", just a construction supervisor. After a couple days working with him, we were all comfortable on the job site, and his way of supervising. He was always ready to provide material, give instructions and consider suggestions from our team also. If any job was not up to his expectations, we did it again! The owners of these houses are fortunate to have the quality that has been placed in building their homes.

On Friday, March 31, 2006, the Partner Families Committee held a dinner for us and all the selected homeowners at the Church of the Brethren in La Verne, CA. What a joy to meet these hard working families who have been selected. There will be 19 children living with their families in these 6 houses! They have all earned their sweat equity hours and are just waiting to get into their new homes. It was a pleasure to know, we did some good, to get them in sooner.

Our team went out to dinner several times during the two weeks and enjoyed a "Farewell Dinner" at the Tenderloin restaurant in La Verne on April 7th. Dennis and Carol joined us. Five of us drove to Orange Grove and attended Robert Schuler's "Crystal Cathedral" one Sunday. Six of us drove to Ontario Elk's Lodge for dinner on the final Friday as guests of Ray & Sandy Keser. La Verne Cabell taught a class for us on t-shirt collars and braiding.

We, as a group, had a great time. All four new coaches were a great asset to the build and to our chapter. Everyone worked well as a team and made our job as leaders easier.

We recommend that our chapter consider coming to Pomona for future builds. The affiliate is super to work with, the camping is great and they have the tools and materials on hand to work with. In spite of many rainy days, we were kept busy on inside work. It was great to feel that we were making progress each day. This affiliate knows how to make things happen. We were only the second "RV group" to work here. I explained to Cyndi, that they could contact the RV Desk in Americus if they wished to host us again.