



Photo from June 2005 Women Build event.

The barn raising of our ancestors has taken on a whole new twist. A century ago the men would gather and help each other build barns and the women would most likely assist by making sure that the men were well fed.

Those days are gone.

Women Build, a unique program of Habitat for Humanity, is finding great success in Central Minnesota. "Women are great organizers and community builders," said Anne Walters, resource development manager for Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity. "The Women Build project brings women together to help build homes. This is a concrete way for the women to help address the housing crisis issue."

Last year, the Central Minnesota chapter of Habitat for Humanity, conducted two Women Build events in June and October. Fifty women volunteered for the one-day event in June and another 50 volunteered for two half-days in October. They assisted by framing and constructing interior and exterior walls, and floors. "These events drew women of all ages, from 20 to 65. We even had a grandmother, her daughter and granddaughters participating," Walters said.

The plan this year is to conduct a Women Build Week from Monday, Aug. 14 - Saturday, Aug. 19. Three hundred sixty volunteers will be needed to work on three homes in south St.

Women's Fund

to sponsor
Women Build
event for
Habitat for Humanity



Photo from October 2005 Women Build event.

Cloud. Sponsorships from Dream Realizers at \$12,000 to Hope Builders (up to \$99) are needed. The overall goal is to raise at least \$85,000 in cash and in-kind donations to underwrite the event and help to fund the construction costs of the three homes. With part of the proceeds from the upcoming June 27 Women on Stage ... at the Ranch event, the Women's Fund at the Central Minnesota Community Foundation has decided to step up and be a Dream Realizer by contributing \$12,000.

"Part of the mission of the women's fund is to create and support programs that enhance the lives of women and children," said Shelly Bauerly Kopel, co-chair of the Women's Fund. "The Women Build project fits so well with this focus. Women are able to give of themselves, both physically and financially, to assist with a

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societal issue that affects many women and children. It is literally an effort to build community, and we are pleased to be a part of it."

Walters echoed Bauerly Kopel. "It really seems that these two missions work very well together. The housing crisis not only affects women but there are 12 million children affected by a lack of affordable housing. We are extremely grateful for the support of the Women's Fund. It will certainly help to make our fundraising goal a reality."



The St. Cloud Times/Style Magazine is a proud supporter of the Women's Fund and its mission.