When Habitat’s spring and summer homeowners moved into their new homes, they knew exactly what they would hang on their brand-new, freshly painted walls.

Students and faculty members from the University of Mississippi generously donated more than twenty pieces of original art through a new program called “Home is Where the Art is.”

The program is sponsored by the University of Mississippi’s Department of Art.

“Several participating artists are international students, and some of the American artists created the art while studying abroad in Italy or France,” said Danita Beck, an Ole Miss MFA graduate student who provided some of her work in addition to spearheading the project.

“We hope we can spark an interest in not only art but geography and history, just to name a few topics,” Beck said.

Other participating artists included MFA students Rina Chiu of Taipei, Taiwan; Robbie Carlisle of Amory, MS; Amy Evans of Lake Jackson, TX; Judy Ford of Oxford, MS; and Josh Revord of Memphis.

Faculty members Sheri Rieth Lee, Katherine Rhodes Fields and Lou Haney also donated pieces of their work.

Beck said she was thrilled by the number of works that were donated. Thanks to the generosity of the students and faculty, each homeowner family was able to take home three pieces of art.

Beck was on-hand when the families received their works of art so she could share stories about the artists and the works with each of the recipients.

One week later, homeowner Lana White proudly gave several staff members and volunteers a tour of her new home. Not surprisingly, her three works were already hanging on her living and dining room walls.

Based on the response from the other families, it is likely that their pieces have also found places of glory in their new homes, proving that home really is where the art is.