

Blueprint

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Memphis Builders Rally to Support Local Families in Need

Habitat Project Honors Memory of Giving Spirit

Julie Clary

Memphis Habitat, like most Habitat affiliates across the country, has its building process pretty much down to a science. Locally, volunteers come out on Friday and Saturday for the first weekend of construction and for the following six Saturdays to complete the project. Sub-contractors are hired to complete tasks such as dry walling and electrical work on weekdays. From framing to painting, the process traditionally takes eight build days, dozens of sub-contractors and hundreds of volunteers.

This spring, the Memphis Area Home Builders Association (MAHBA) sponsored the building of a new Habitat home at 1061 Shaw in South Memphis and broke from tradition in a big way, finishing construction in two weeks flat.

Members of MAHBA's Home Builders Care committee organized the project, spending about a month calling on local suppliers to donate materials and sub-contractors to donate labor.

"Habitat is always a good fit for us as home builders because of its mission to provide housing for deserving families," says Jimmy Moore of J. Moore and Associates and chair of the Home Builders Care program. Founded in 1944, MAHBA serves its members and the community by promoting quality housing through education and professionalism.

In all, 40 local businesses affiliated with MAHBA committed

to build not just a house, but a home for a local family in need. Just two weeks after the foundation was poured, dozens of supporters, including local builders and Habitat staff, stood outside the newly constructed three-bedroom,

two-bath home for a dedication ceremony. It represented the fourth Habitat home that local builders have been involved with in the past year, following the construction of three homes as part of last June's national Home Builders Blitz initiative.

"We have learned so much from the builders. It's been a privilege to watch them work and interact with them," says Jeff Capps, Memphis Habitat

The Memphis Area Home Builders Association, joined by more than 40 local businesses, completed construction of this new Habitat home at 1061 Shaw in South Memphis in just two weeks.

director of community relations. "They take great pride in these Habitat homes I know it's a special experience for them to build in service to our families. And we certainly appreciate them doing it."

Named the Jim Chambers Memorial Build in memory of longtime Habitat supporter and local home builder Jim Chambers, this

building effort also became a blessing for those who worked alongside Chambers on other Habitat projects. Chambers' son, Chuck, a project manager for Chamberlain & McCreery, served as the project manager for the MAHBA project.

"I love it, the opportunity to give back to this area and to someone who is so worthy," Chambers told reporters on the day of the home dedication. "All of our partners came

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Chuck Chambers, who served as project manager for MAHBA's building efforts this spring, joins builders at the home dedication.

