

Lake City Reporter

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Habitat volunteers work hard to make dreams come true

Tasks include marking studs, digging trenches.

By **TONY BRITT**

tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

The buzzing sound of a saws cutting through wood and the constant rap of hammers striking nails gave audible proof on Saturday that Habitat For Humanity volunteers were putting sweat equity into their latest project.

Looking at their clothes dripping with sweat was the visual evidence.

More than 12 people showed up to work Saturday at the latest Habitat For Humanity home on Dyson Street.

It was part of Young Emerging Professionals Volunteer Day, where work included digging trenches for water lines, caulking, marking studs to hang

sheetrock and hanging siding. The lion's share of the work included finishing the home's exterior siding.

"Every volunteer that we had commit showed up and we almost had too many volunteers for the work that we had allotted today," said Sandy Kishton, a member of the Lake City/Columbia County Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Twelve volunteers were coordinated through the chamber of commerce and the local Altrusa chapter, as well as five Habitat For Humanity volunteers who normally work on the project.

Kishton said the chamber of commerce's Young Emerging Professionals group started the volunteer day and Altrusa members learned about it and joined in.

"We've coordinated the volunteer days

through the Chamber, Altrusa and Habitat For Humanity," Kishton said.

In the coming weeks, work on the home's soffits will be completed, as will the interior sheetrock installation and painting.

Kishton estimated it would take four-to-six weeks to complete the project — if the weather permitted.

"What's so unique about a project like this is because it's tangible, you've got hands-on opportunities and it's something you're going to remember," she said. "It's just another part of being part of the community. I'm just very happy and pleased that everybody showed up. All of the Habitat staff or other volunteers have been very welcoming and helpful."



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Sandy Kishton (from left), a local Realtor representing Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Young Emerging Professionals, Helen Brunson of First Federal Bank of Florida and Jan Smithey of Altrusa International work together to dig space for a pipeline at the fourth Habitat for Humanity Lake City-Columbia County house Saturday.

Joy Lizette and Faye Bowling also participated