

Building Community

Dream House Diva Team for Habitat for Humanity

by Patty Sorenson, Dream House Diva & Resurrection member



Habitat for Humanity's model of training homeowners, requiring homeowners to work on their own homes as well as others', and providing 0% interest mortgages to them feels like they are building community, especially when you include the fact that volunteers do a large part of the building. For the Women Build program, women leaders are added to create teams of women to participate in peer-to-peer

fundraising and be part of a build day on two specific homes. Community is seen in the Women Build Teams and leaders, too.

Being the hands and feet of Jesus makes my faith sing, so when a friend of mine asked me to be a co-leader of a Women Build Team, the idea of serving and empowering women made me answer yes before the question was finished. We built a Dream House Diva

team of 13 women from our shared and individual friendships. Three people from RLC agreed to join: Molly Laut, Victoria Hoppes, and Danita Forgey. Others who could not commit to the team

agreed to give monetarily to support the fundraising goals. And still others reached out to help with fundraising opportunities. The support was incredible. With our efforts and help from the RLC Mission Endowment Fund, the Divas will reach over \$10,000 in fundraising for the Women Build effort. We



also wielded hammers and are part of two families' homeownership dreams. Add to that the joy of seeing my friends from work, Junior League, and church bond as we organized fundraisers, hammered nails into boards, cheered each other on, squared-up corners, and found similarities in our lives and the books we read. The community theme just keeps growing.



What has become evident through leading this team is that building communities amongst those around you is just as satisfying and needed as building homes for single moms. We are not just serving the homeowners, we are serving everyone who is on or supporting the Dream House Divas team. Friendships are being built and strengthened, and we are learning from each other. We are admitting when we need help and recognizing who is there to provide that help. We are showing each other that we are here for each other. We are building a stronger community by being the hands and feet to serve others.

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