

Sisters students raise walls for Habitat home

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Some 14 Sisters High School students turned their education into real-world productivity last Thursday as they raised the walls on David Spain's Habitat for Humanity home at 920 E. Cascade Ave.

The students in the high school's construction program framed the walls as part of their class and on Thursday, they put them in place.

This is the third or fourth year the program has worked with Sisters Habitat for Humanity, according to teacher Tony Cosby. Over the years, Sisters students have also worked on homes in Bend and framed walls for a

Hayden Homes building.

The value of the work is manifold. The students get practical construction experience and apply what they learn in class to an actual building — which is satisfying. That work also applies and makes relevant math skills learned in the classroom. And the students also learn teamwork.

Above all that, Cosby notes, is the sense of connection to their community such projects engender.

"I think it's probably the most valuable thing our program does," he told an assemblage of Sisters habitat volunteers. "The value is today. We get to start the walls for this family and have you come out and celebrate. It's awesome."



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Sisters students framed and raised walls for the Spain house.

A Home to Share opens in Sisters

By Kathryn Godsiff
Correspondent

The first phase of A Home to Share (AHTS) is complete, with a house called Mary Ellen's Place refurbished and ready for residents. The home, located on Spruce Street in Sisters, was the site of celebration last Friday as board members, volunteers, and community members gathered for its grand opening.

Board President Hal Darcey said, "A Home to Share is grateful to all who gave time and treasures to make this possible."

It's been a true community effort, with both Rotary and Kiwanis helping with hands-on work parties, and community members coming alongside to help, according to their skill sets. Rotary teamed with The Roundhouse Foundation and secured a Rotary grant that enabled purchase of materials to begin the refurbishment. Rotarians worked through last summer and fall to get that done. Kiwanis tied up the loose ends with a large turnout to a recent work day. And a whole lot of people quietly completed tasks as they had time.

There was music, food, and a sense of accomplishment and celebration at the opening. It was a chance for the community to wander through the home and talk about yet another unique solution found by Sisters



PHOTO BY KATHRYN GODSIFF

Community members celebrated the opening of a new living facility in Sisters last weekend.

residents. And it gave board members opportunity to take a breath and get ready for the next phase, that of interviewing applicants for the home.

There will be "typically functioning" adults (a term coined by founder Sandy Affonso) living with the developmentally and physically disabled residents. All residents contribute to the smooth running of the home and pay rent. Each disabled resident is required to have outside support in the form of an agency partner. One such is Good 2 Go Oregon, founded by AHTS board member Tracy Young. He said their task is in supporting

residents with their life skills in the home.

According to Affonso, whose daughter Lizzie is the first resident, an opportunity exists for someone who either eventually wants to work with disabled young adults or has an understanding of their special needs. As a resident of AHTS, a typically functioning resident is not required or expected to be a support person. This frees them to simply be a roommate and for all to experience living in a community situation.

For more information about A Home to Share or to apply for residency, go to www.ahometoshare.com.

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