

**HABITAT:** Events marked 25th anniversary of organization in Sisters

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Habitat had a lot going on for their 25th anniversary celebration, with two ground-breakings happening together.

“We normally don’t build two homes at the same time, but our second groundbreaking for Marla Brinkman, we are partnering with Heart of Oregon. And with the help of

one of their programs, Youth Build, some of the younger kids will get to help build,” Habitat construction manager Darleene Snider said.

Although Snider will be the general contractor, they are bringing in Heart of Oregon’s construction manager James Collins to help.

“Heart of Oregon is a non-profit that has been around for about 15 years, and our mission is to offer the opportunity for the youth to have an education through work experience,” Collins said.

Each year Heart of Oregon provides job-skills training, education, and leadership development to over 300 local young people who face major barriers to success.

Habitat’s very first international volunteer, Clive Rainey, flew in all the way from Guatemala to take part in the celebration.

Rainey hooked up with Habitat in 1977 soon after the organization was formed as its first volunteer. It was Rainey who brought the concept of “Sweat Equity” to Habitat after learning that developers of middle-class housing sometimes used a family’s unskilled labor on their house in lieu of a down-payment. Today, sweat equity is a key part of every Habitat build in 80 countries.

The dedication for Selah Broderick’s Habitat home was a heartwarming experience for everyone.

“My home has been built by volunteers, including me. It’s taken me two years to complete the program. I got to be part of the community that’s all working together and I got to contribute. It’s been amazing,” Broderick said.

The opening prayer began with Sana Hayes reading a poem, a blessing for Broderick’s new home, followed by some words from



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Selah Broderick enthusiastically cuts the ribbon and celebrates her new Habitat for Humanity home at 412 N. Desert Rose Loop.

Habitat’s Executive Director Sharlene Weed.

Broderick’s home with a scripture from the Bible.

“How did we get to this day with 160 families’ lives positively affected by Sisters Habitat? By working together, building and raising funds — and lots of prayers,” Weed told the crowd that gathered around Broderick’s brand-new home.

“In just the past year, over 250 volunteers worked over 19,000 hours on the houses, in the stores, and on the board and committees. And nearly 3,000 volunteer hours were put in on this house alone. Habitat works!”

R a i n e y   b l e s s e d

“ ... nearly 3,000 volunteer hours were put in on this house alone. Habitat works! — Sharlene Weed

The celebration followed with a free fundraising dinner at FivePine Conference Center featuring Clive Rainey as the special guest speaker.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Habitat For Humanity and Sharyn Benson break ground for her new home at 373 N. Desert Rose Loop.

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