

College students build for Habitat

Spring break for many college kids can mean a trip to a sunny beach or just a visit home, but for 11 University of Minnesota students it meant a trip to Sisters to help work at a Sisters Habitat for Humanity jobsite.

"I have to say we loved coming here working with the volunteers. Everyone is so welcoming. We are so happy to help build and to see the sights of Sisters. It was great to work alongside the future homeowner Dave Holmes, too," junior Kelly Sabrowsky said while helping remove concrete forms after stem-walls had been set.

This group is part of 5,000 college and high school students around the nation who will spend their spring break helping people in need of a decent and affordable place to call home. Habitat affiliates in more than 35 states will be hosting the students through Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge Program.

"This was a great group. They brought enthusiasm and skills; so much so that they finished the week's worth



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Collegiate Challenge students work on a Sisters Habitat home.

of work in three days. I had originally planned on them working on one house, and they ended up working on three," Habitat's Construction Manager Darleene Snider said.

The students left Minnesota on a Saturday and drove straight through to Sisters, arriving on Sunday afternoon where they were welcomed by Habitat volunteers and staff at a potluck dinner. They spent four days at the jobsite, painting the

interior of one house, cutting rebar, taking apart concrete forms and cleaning up the jobsite. On their day off they drove to Lincoln City to see the Pacific Ocean.

"Our volunteer crew and staff always look forward to Collegiate Challenge week. The students are hard-working and energy-filled. We love sharing the Habitat mission and the Sisters community," Marie Clasen, Habitat's volunteer and family services manager, said.



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