

Students help design 'Oprah House'

The talk show host asked viewers to help Habitat for Humanity volunteers build homes

By Tricia Duryee
Community Reporter

A combination of family, friends and volunteers from Oprah Winfrey's "Angel Network" gathered Saturday to celebrate the clearance of a vacant lot, which in the next few months will become home to a Habitat for Humanity family.

Not only will a low-income family receive a brand new home, but University students will have a stake in the final product's design.

The home, which will be constructed on the corner of Rainbow Drive and N Street in Springfield, has been declared an "Oprah House." In September, the talk show host challenged her viewers to help Habitat for Humanity build one home in each of the 205 communities where "The Oprah Winfrey Show" is broadcast.

The construction of this home in Springfield marks the 21st Habitat for Humanity home built in the Eugene-Springfield community since 1990.

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization that builds homes in partnership with

low-income families. The recipients are required to meet certain criteria and to contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity" while the home is being built.

Construction coordinator Dominic Worsowicz said the home is different for a number of reasons.

"A large number of houses are sponsored by churches; this one doesn't have a sponsor," he said. "It will be riding on the coattails of public relations and publicity to help get donations from the community."

He said KEZI, the station that airs "The Oprah Winfrey Show" for the Eugene-Springfield area, offered to cover the story as it progressed and to request financial support or physical labor from the community.

But the basis of the home's design comes from members of the University community.

Plans for the house were designed by University graduate students from the Energy Studies in Buildings program within the School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

According to Marc Sloom, a member of the research team, the methods used to make the house efficient will save the family up to \$70 a year in heating costs.

He also said there were other benefits, including tax breaks and an official statement certifying

that the house meets minimum code requirements.

"There's a lot of different ways it will benefit," Sloom said. "It will raise the value of the house, and it will be recognized by a national program. It is a lot of smaller things that make it an impressive package."

The 1,040-square-foot house is complete with unique paneling and solar capabilities. Not only was technology taken into consideration for energy efficiency, but also for construction costs.

For example, the paneling insulates more effectively while also reducing on-site labor by approximately 40 percent.

The completion of the three-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath house will be home to Keith and Kerri Nemeth and their three children some time in July.

In addition to being grateful for the opportunity to own a new house, Kerri Nemeth said the location of the house will be much more convenient than their current residence in Veneta.

"Because of our position, we are considered low income," she said. "We don't make enough money to save up for a down payment on a house. It would take a lot longer to save up."

"It's so hard with kids. [Habitat for Humanity] has made the dream possible," she said.

THE FRENCH HORN

L&L GROCERY

cafe • bakery • wine • produce

Show your student ID and receive 10% off
a lunch or breakfast item in the cafe

6:45am-6:30pm M-F • 7am-6pm Sat. • 8am-2pm Sun.

located in the L&L Marketplace

1591 Willamette 343-7473

Lai Lai



Mandarin and Hong Kong Cuisine with a taste of Thai

15% Student Discount

on regular dinner menu items with ID

Student Dinner Special \$5.95

343-2828 • 1525 Franklin Blvd.

485-2090 for Delivery

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT *Rhythm & Reviews - every Friday* Oregon Daily **Emerald**

How to keep your parents from having a cow.

Sign up for **health insurance**, like they told you to do. Remember?

It's easy - just go to the **Health Center** at 13th and Agate.

But don't miss the **deadline**. Sign-up runs now through **April 10th**.

And you've got insurance choices. So check them out

on our web page. (darkwing.uoregon.edu/~uoshc)

Questions? Call us at 346-3702.

**Because we (and your parents) don't want medical bills
to stop you from getting your degree.**

UNIVERSITY

HEALTH CENTER

We're a matter of degrees ♦

Open daily 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Tuesdays (9 a.m.) and Sundays (10 a.m.).

Appointments and after hours: 346-2770 • Web: darkwing.uoregon.edu/~uoshc