

Florence Habitat celebrates 27th home opening

Friends, family and Habitat for Humanity volunteers gathered March 26 to dedicate and celebrate the new home of Hailey Durgan and her son Gunner on Munsel Lake Road.

This new house with its beachfront landscaping is the 27th house built by Florence Habitat for Humanity since the year 2000.

The Rev. Greg Wood of the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw presided over the service and made it clear that this was a house built with pride and particularity by the volunteers and by Durgan, who worked far more than the 300 "sweat equity" hours expected of her.

This house was nearly nine months in the making, and its new owner and the construction manager, Jerry Jensen, kept at it despite the long summer drought and the endless winter rains.

Now, Durgan will take on a 30-year Habitat mortgage while she raises her son and progresses in her career in the PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center Imaging Department.

Durgan and her son received many gifts and good wishes from the assembled guests. Family partners, Barbara McLane and Paula Harrison, presented not only the keys to



COURTESY PHOTO

Florence Habitat for Humanity recently completed its 27th house, located on Munsel Lake Road, for new homeowner Hailey Durgan and her son Gunner.

the house, but also beautiful handmade quilts from the LDS Church Morningstar Quilters.

Diane Bailiff, chairwoman of the Family Partnership Committee, presented a framed photograph made by Florence's own Willard Conrow, who was a special friend of Habitat for Humanity and created special art for each new Habitat house.

Jim Kaul, Habitat historian, compiled a photo album showing all stages of the construction from groundbreaking to completion, and gave it to Durgan so she could remember every shingle and floor tile.

Lynn Woodworth, of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Daughters of the King, gave Gunner a wooden crate full of special books chosen just for him and catering to his taste for insects and other crawling things.

Gunner, in response, read his "Alphabet Book" to the crowd,

to much applause and only a little help from Mom.

Paula Harrison thanked the many donors and volunteers who made this Habitat house a reality: the in-kind donors like Woody Woodbury of Grocery Outlet, who stocked the pantry and refrigerator; Brian LaCouture Construction, who contributed much advice and labor; Julie and Wayne Goodman who deeply discounted the flooring and tile materials; and, the donors of money either directly to Habitat or through their churches or participation in Habitat fundraising events, such as the annual BeachWalk.

Durgan expressed special thanks to everyone there and the building volunteers, who gave months of hard work and years of accumulated expertise to the design and construction.

With tears, flowers and the song, "Over the Rainbow," Durgan thanked Habitat for Humanity, its supporters and volunteers for making her dream of a home come true.

DRESSED IN EASTER FINERY



COURTESY PHOTO

More than 20 children gathered March 26 at Regency Florence for a community Easter Egg Hunt. Resident piggy, Mr. Rooty Pig, was dressed in his Easter finery ready to greet everyone who came to hunt easter eggs and have some fun. Mr. Rooty Piggy is a 4-month-old pot-belly pig that lives permanently at Regency.



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