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Rival School Moms Unite To Wear Pink Hard Hats And Pick Up Hammers For Atlanta Habitat For Humanity.



ATLANTA - Every day schools compete athletically and academically but school moms from eight Atlanta area schools know they share a common bond: To help their community and to support the need for affordable housing in the Atlanta area.

Seven years ago a small group of women at Marist School, a private Atlanta Catholic school, formed the Marist Women Build committee to partner with Atlanta Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing for women built by women. Their hope was to become a successful high school model for the attainment of homeownership while building fellowship among the women of Marist School. Once they were successful in their efforts, the ladies of Marist Women Build dreamed that some day they could also encourage women affiliated with other schools to do the same. This year their dream will come true.

In addition to building the seventh Marist Women Build house, the first "Sister House" will be built next door by "Sisters" affiliated with Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, Greater Atlanta Christian School, Pace Academy, Pinecrest Academy, St. Pius X Catholic High School, The Westminster Schools of Atlanta and Woodward Academy.

Kicking off March 21, 2009, over 600 eager moms, students, alumni, faculty, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and corporate sponsors will join together on seven consecutive Saturdays to build two homes for two newly qualified female homeowners and their families. Working alongside the two women homeowners, these dynamic women will pour concrete, build/install walls, erect roof trusses, install roof shingles, hang siding, paint, landscape and much more – all the essentials required to complete a home and lovingly demonstrate their spirit and commitment to their community.

Each year the Marist Women Build committee must raise a required minimum of \$75,000 to sponsor each Atlanta Habitat for Humanity home. The committee did not want the financial requirements to be a deterrent to gaining other schools participation, however in these tough economic times, the challenge of building two homes and raising at least \$ 150,000 appeared to be a tall order.

Fortunately this year many benevolent corporate donors stepped in to make the dream come true. With a significant grant from The Sara Blakely Foundation, the continued generous support of many long time corporate sponsors as well as the financial support of individual donors/participants who every year not only donate their time but contribute financially to each house, the committee met their financial goals allowing them to move forward with both houses.

Just as The Sara Blakely Foundation is focused on giving women a “Leg Up” to succeed, Habitat for Humanity International has established the Women Build program to encourage the involvement of women in the construction of Habitat homes. Women Build projects provide an environment in which women can feel comfortable learning new skills while making home ownership a reality for hardworking women. Empowering women homeowners also leads to a positive impact on the future of their children. Marist School was the first high school to establish a Women Build affiliated project which has added to the over 900 Habitat for Humanity homes built by all women crews since 1998 – positively affecting the lives of over 2000 children!

About Atlanta Habitat for Humanity

Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, one of more than 1,600 U.S. affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing affordable housing to Atlanta’s working families. Since 1983, volunteers from corporations and faith-based and civic organizations have worked in partnership with qualified homebuyers to construct affordable, green, quality homes in Atlanta, which are then purchased through no-interest, no-profit loans. From 1983 through 2008, Atlanta Habitat built more than 1,000 houses in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County. Since 2008 Atlanta Habitat has been able to serve families in 10 metro Atlanta counties. For more information about Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, please visit www.atlantahabitat.org or call 404-223-5180.

For more information on how you and/or your women’s organization can participate, please contact:

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