



Driving by the HopeSource office on April 3<sup>rd</sup> would have found dark windows and a locked door. Instead of providing typical services that Wednesday, eighteen staff members were out serving in a different way. That day, they picked up their tools, loaded up on a bus, and headed to the Kittitas County Habitat for Humanity builds on Water Street in Ellensburg. HopeSource employees, joined by Sarah Bedsaul and Habitat volunteers, spent their day assisting in the building of two new homes for families in the community.

The weather that day was perfect as well as the company we held with Habitat for Humanity. When we arrived just after eight, you could feel the excitement and anticipation in the air, as well as the hopes of what we as a group could accomplish that day. We started out the morning with a prayer, then received instructions and



information on the homes we would be helping to build. The foundations and some of the walls were already in place, completed by groups of volunteers before us.

We were then broken into teams and lined out by volunteer contractor Thad Vaughn. Some of us used tools we had never attempted before, from nail guns to circular saws. So this was a new experience for sure. We framed multiple walls, cutting boards to size, laying them out, assembling the boards precisely measured, covering them with plywood, cutting out the window holes, sealing the base, and finally, in triumph, standing shoulder to shoulder as we jointly lifted the wall into place.

At the end of the day, we looked back at what we had accomplished, feeling very proud of the work we'd done.



Standing with the future occupants of the homes, Habitat workers, and other HopeSource employees, many of us realized that this was something we could continue to do on our own time, working on similar projects or

in other areas of need for our community. Participating in a Habitat build leaves you with a great sense of being and an understanding of how we are all part of a unity within our wonderful county and the great people therein.

