

# Broadneck High Tribuin

Thursday, October 14, 2010

## A Habitat for Humanity build day experience

It's hard to believe that an area only blocks away from the state capital and beautiful historical down town Annapolis could be in such bad shape. When I turned right off from Calvert Street and onto Clay Street in West Annapolis, I didn't really know what to expect. But my experience there was not like anything I've ever seen or been a part of before.

When we arrived at the build site, we were told to follow the man dressed in camouflage towards the other man dressed in camouflage and park where the women dressed in camouflage told us to park. We parked behind three or four large, brick, cinder block-shaped buildings. The doorways were all boarded up on every building and all the windows had broken glass and large holes in them. It made for a nerve wracking one-minute walk to the build site.



Habitat members prepare for a long day of construction.  
From left (all seniors): Jessica Smith, Ellie Storck, Laura Kort,  
Jillian Etzler, Kaila Ward. Photo by Ellie Storck.

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project had provided us with lots of cool things we didn't expect to get. Everyone got a hard hat, work belt, measuring tape, work pencils, water bottles, name tags and more. The abundance of supplies provided by the Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake group really said a lot about how much effort goes into these projects. After spending a good 10 minutes being excited about looking like construction workers and taking lots of pictures, we were ready to get started.

The group leaders divided us up so that there were about two students at each house that was being constructed. My house had about seven adult volunteers working in it, along with our group leader Lance, who looked like he'd been working in construction all of his life—he was a pro.



At first it was definitely easy to sort out the new from the experienced volunteers. Most of the adults picked up a hammer or a saw or a power drill and started working on the house immediately, hardly even needing instructions (apparently it was obvious that the wall was off the blue-taped line three quarters of an inch). My fellow student volunteer and I stood around for a few minutes until some one finally gave us instructions to grab some OSW and measure the outside wall to sheath it. Oh right, duh...just grab the OSW and start sheathing. We definitely knew what that meant. Not.

**The eight boys in Habitat for Humanity pose before starting work. From left (all seniors): Chris Haenn, Joe Presti, Jon Greene, Barrett Kirby, Max Banderanko, Steve Svehlak, Colton Whitehead, Michael Storey. Photo by Ellie Storck.**

Though at first some of the work was pretty confusing and a little frustrating, we were all able to catch on to the construction site lingo soon enough, and by the end of the day we all knew how to do our assigned jobs. The other volunteers who had more experience were extremely patient and happy to help us learn, which will be very helpful for our other projects this year.

In addition to learning skills on the construction site, we also learned a lot about the area we were building in, and we became closer as a team. This was most certainly an experience not to be forgotten, and I think it's safe to say that all the Broadneck Habitat members are looking forward to the next build day.



**(From left) Banderanko, Centrowitz and Culp work to put up a wall on the construction site. Photo by Ellie Storck.**

Posted by estorck on Oct. 14, 2010.