

In our world today we have people who are starving and poor and have no place to live. Among these people are ones who have had a home but they are too run down and are no longer livable, this is where we come in. Through programs such as habitat for humanity we can all make a difference. I know this first hand, when my class had to go to Albany for the community service portion of our Participation in Government class. This was an exceptional opportunity for us to make a difference.

When we first arrived in Albany and turned down the street, we saw two different things. On the one side of the street were run down old houses that were in non-livable conditions. The siding was falling off the house and the porches looked like they would break if you stepped foot on them. However, luckily most of the houses were up for auction because the owners up and left. When we looked to the other side of the street we saw the great work of people that participated in Habitat for Humanity. The houses were gorgeous, they had four of them going at one time all of them at different stages. The house that we got to work on although it looked like it was almost finished still needed a lot of work before it was ready and the people could move in. When we got off the bus we were met by one of the men who volunteer's his time every week. He split us into three groups. The first was a group of guys who went upstairs to put up the sheet rock, another group were outside moving a huge pile of stone, and the rest of the class including me went downstairs to hang up this foil which helped insulate the house. I never realized how much work people had to do in this program. As we continued working downstairs I could hear the pounding of the guys upstairs as they lifted the sheet rock and began to screw it into place. When we got a break I noticed that no one wanted to stop working, everyone had gotten so into it that they didn't realize how long they had been working. After our break we went back down stairs to finish what little bit of the basement we had left. When we finished that we went upstairs to see how the boys were doing with the sheet rock. They had pretty much the entire upstairs done it was amazing to see how fast everyone was working. When we finished all that needed to be done in the house we went outside to help move the rocks. It was so great to see everyone come together and work so hard to help those who are less fortunate than us.

When we finished moving the huge pile of rock to the back of the house one of the guys who volunteers his time asked us if we would like to see what the houses look like when they are finished. With the curiosity flowing through us we went to the very first house and walked up the steps onto the newly built porch and into the house. As we stepped into the living room we saw the freshly painted white walls and the nice new carpet under our feet, everyone was in awe to know that the house that we had been working on all day would eventually turn out to look like this one. Next he brought us into the kitchen which had a new stove sink and countertop along with nice wooden cupboards. The majority of the things in the kitchen were donated by businesses who wanted to help make the transition into a new home easier. After we finished looking at the stuff on the first floor we took the nicely carpeted stairs up to the second floor where we saw the rooms that would eventually contain beds, toys, and other knickknacks when this family made this house into their home. The last stop on the tour was the basement.

Now because this family three kids they decided to make this house special by creating a room for their fourteen year old daughter downstairs. It was such a kind and giving thing to do. After taking some photos to remember this day by we got on the bus to head home looking forward to coming back and helping again.

People all across the nation are participating in Habitat for Humanity. However, even with all the help they get it is still not enough, there are a ton of people out there without a place to call home and you can make a difference. My classmates and I felt so blessed to be given the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life and I hope that everyone gets a chance to have that feeling.