

HOME IMPROVEMENT

DBU Students Spend Spring Break Building Houses

Spring Break—a term synonymous with fun in the sun, beaches, recreation and relaxation. For sixty-five Dallas Baptist University students and staff members, they chose to forego the typical spring break outings, opting to participate in the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge Spring Break program. This year the group traveled to Tallahassee, Florida, hoping they might catch a little sun and maybe a glimpse of the beach as they helped

others fulfill their dreams of owning homes.

“This was the 13th year that DBU students participated in the Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Collegiate Challenge,” explained Jay Harley, DBU Director of Spiritual Life and coordinator of this year’s Spring Break Habitat trip. “Dr. Gary Cook, our president, strongly supports the efforts of Habitat and the principle of servant leadership. Serving with Habitat is a great way for students to

be a witness through service and exemplify servant leadership.”

Every day the students performed a variety of tasks, including adding siding, priming and painting the interior, installing insulation, and laying sod for two houses. They also helped pull up shingles and rebuild the roof on a home that was going to be sold with the hopes of using the money from the sale to buy land for three or four more Habitat houses. DBU students worked with local volunteers and students from other universities, and throughout the week, they bonded with their fellow tent-mates as they worked to build homes for the less fortunate.

“Wherever we went, we seemed to make friends with the regular volunteers and other university students,” said Aften Wilson, a DBU sophomore. “Working on a house can really bring a group together, and we all had a common bond, knowing that we were doing something that would make a huge difference in someone’s life on a long-term basis.”

Spring Break 2004 has come and gone, but the DBU students who spent eight days on the Habitat trip know that they helped create a home for someone whose future is just beginning. Added benefits to the trip were the many newfound relationships the students formed with one another as they worked side by side each day.

