

Meeting mission's goal lived up to the build-up

Holy Trinity members raise walls as part of Help Build Hope program

By Brian Lisik

blisik@sunnews.com

Construction of a house for Louisville, Ky.-based Cross-Roads Missions was the culmination of a dream that at least a couple of church members have had for a long time.

The project took place Aug. 6-8 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

"About eight years ago, I was chairman of our Evangelical Committee," said Rich Hudder. "We decided that this was something we had to do,

so Phil Dell'anno and I contacted Habitat for Humanity of Medina County."

The word from the Habitat folks, Hudder said, was "you have got to talk to Cross-Roads."

The stated mission of CrossRoads is to be "a doorway for churches and individuals seeking ministry opportunities in places they may otherwise have difficulty serving."

The mission's Help Build Hope program espouses to provide a "teachable mo-

ment" for explaining the importance of worship, service and discipleship through the framing and construction of homes for those who need housing.

A "Help Build Hope" event brings the wall-framing projects directly to the parking lot of local churches, camps or conventions. When the walls have been framed and a prayer and dedication service held, the walls are donated to a partnering organization. In the case of the Holy Trinity-built house, the constructed

walls were trucked to a site in Holmes County, where the house will be completed for a needy family.

Parishioner John Roberts was named the project's construction manager. From preparatory efforts such as the church's pig roast fundraiser, to bidding out construction materials - ultimately awarded to low-bidder Home Depot - the roughly eight-month project was successful on a number of levels.

"It went really well and brought the church closer together," Roberts said.

Close to 100 people participated in the house-raising and the church's pastor, Rev. Patrick Van De Motter, said the effort brought out parishioners "from 2 to 90," along with volunteers from Brunswick Reform Church, Brunswick United Methodist Church, Living Word Lutheran Church in Medina Township and Ascension Catholic Church in Cleveland.

"This is not the sort of thing the church has normally done, but we hope it is the sort of thing we normally do in the future," Van De Motter said.

Hudder quickly corrected his pastor.

"We're not 'hoping' to do it again," he smiled. "We will do it again."



BRIAN LISIK / SUN NEWS

Parishioners at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church pulled together Aug. 6-8 to build a house that was later shipped to Holmes County where it will be donated to a needy family.

Contact Lisik at
(216) 986-2356.
Follow him at
cleveland.com/sun