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The Herald-Sun

'Blitz' to build three homes in North East Central Durham

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By Habitat for Humanity



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The Williamson family and Britney Wallace, B. Wallace Design & Construction.



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DURHAM — Habitat for Humanity of Durham thrives on partnerships and volunteers. All Habitat partnerships have three key elements: the communities in which we build, the volunteers who bring their time and resources and the families who work so hard to make a better life for their children and future generations by building and purchasing a home with Habitat.

Habitat embraces asset-based community development and residents of the community in which we build are key partners. It is gratifying to be welcomed into the North East Central Durham (NECD) neighborhood by long-term residents, who believe that Habitat homeowners and Durham Habitat are good neighbors and partners.

We are excited about a unique Habitat event in NECD this June. The Habitat Home Builders Blitz 2014 is a national partnership in which professional builders build, renovate and repair more than 250 homes across the United States. Durham Habitat is proud to be participating in this nationwide event with the Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange & Chatham Counties (HBA-DOC). Together with HBA-DOC builders and their trade partners, three homes will be built in just one week (June 7-13) on South Briggs Avenue. The positive impact of three Habitat families buying and building their new homes on once overgrown and vacant NECD lots will be immediate.

Durham Habitat and the HBA-DOC have a strong Home Builders Blitz history. In the summers of 2005 and 2006, a combined 12 homes were built in South West Central Durham. In 2008, five more blitz homes were built in just one week in northern Durham County. With the three blitz homes that will be built this summer in NECD, 20 homes in total have transformed the lives of 20 families by helping them, and their future generations, forever break the cycle of poverty.

The 2005 and 2006 blitz efforts also had another significant impact. They helped catalyze the revitalization of South West Central Durham. Twelve Habitat homeowners and our blitz teamwork led the way for a partnership of developers, including Self-Help, Durham Community Land Trust and private developers, which helped transform the neighborhood. The result: crime is down, property values are up and community development continues in South West Central Durham.

Like all Habitat builds, Builders Blitz 2014 will build homes, hope and community. The lives of three more Habitat homebuyer families will be transformed and we'll add to Habitat's stabilization efforts already underway in NECD. We'll raise awareness of Habitat's work and the need for safe, decent and affordable housing in Durham, where tens of thousands of our neighbors live in substandard housing. Many thanks to our Builders Blitz families and teams of 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2014!

The blitz teams and foundations are ready, the Habitat homeowner families are approved, and we're working to secure in-kind and monetary donations for building materials and services. Herald-Sun readers who would like to make a donation in support of Durham Habitat's Home Builders Blitz 2014, please visit events.durhamhabitat.org/blitzdurham2014 or call Roxanne Hall Little at 919-698-3910.

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