

Helping one of their own



BRYON HOULGRAVE/The Globe Gazette

Members of the North Iowa Area Community College Building Trades class carry a wall to the foundation of a new Habitat for Humanity home in Mason City.

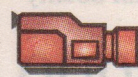
NIACC Building Trades students helping Habitat with home for fellow student

By MARY PIEPER

mary.pieper@globegazette.com

MASON CITY — The Building Trades class at North Iowa Area Community College has again partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build a house for an area family.

VIDEO



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This time the recipient of the house is another NIACC student.

Suzanne Ford, a single mother with four children who is studying for her associate degree in nursing, said being chosen for the program is "very humbling."

The Building Trades class plans to finish Ford's house at the intersection of Seventh Street Southeast and South Pennsylvania Avenue in Mason City by mid-April.

Ford and her children —

Students to work in flood-ravaged Tennessee

MASON CITY — Eight students in the Building Trades program at NIACC are leaving for Nashville, Tenn., on Thursday to help rebuild after flooding this year.

The students will be among more than 780 volunteers from all over the country taking part in Eight Days of Hope, a ministry that helps flood victims.

The primary work will be the restoration of the uninsured flood-damaged houses in Nashville. Almost all of these

houses need new electrical wiring, insulation, flooring, dry-wall, rough and finish carpentry repairs and paint.

The NIACC group will return home the day before Thanksgiving.

Gregg Helmich, Building Trades instructor at NIACC, said the administration at the college is fully behind the trip.

"You can't put a dollar amount on that kind of service learning," he said.

— By Mary Pieper

Collin, 7, Tyler, 6, Evan, 5, and Madeline, 4 — will then move from their three-bedroom apartment in Clear Lake to the four-bedroom, two-bathroom, single-story home.

Ford said she applied to Habitat of Humanity North Central Iowa because it is difficult to find affordable housing in the Mason City area.

Gregg Helmich, Building Trades instructor, said the house is the main project for the class this year.

"We are making good progress," Helmich said.

The concrete slab the house

will sit on has been completed and the walls are to go up this week.

Working on Habitat for Humanity houses is not only a good opportunity for the Building Trades students to practice their skills but it also gives them a chance to help others, according to Helmich.

"We are all about that," he said.

Jacob Gall of Mason City, a student in the Building Trades program, said building a house for a fellow NIACC student "puts it a little closer to home for us."