

Miami Valley Career Technology Center Press Release

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MVCTC students lead Habitat project

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CLAYTON, Ohio (WDTN) - The construction trades students at Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) use their skills to help others through their work with Habitat for Humanity. This year's students are working on the 11th Habitat house that the students in carpentry, electrical trades, plumbing, masonry, heating and air, heavy equipment, and the construction trades program have built on the school's Hoke Road campus in Clayton.

The construction begins at the beginning of each school year when the heavy equipment and masonry students build the foundation. The house is finished by spring when it is moved to its permanent location where its new owners will help with its completion. This year's house will be moved to Harrison Township.

Frank Gorman, Former Executive Director for Dayton Habitat for Humanity, calls their partnership with MVCTC "fantastic." "They provide a house for us each year and it gives the construction trades students the opportunity to use their skills and give back to the community. The partnership between Habitat and MVCTC has made a difference and helped us work toward our mission of building affordable housing for families in need," Gorman stated.

Habitat for Humanity supplies all the construction materials for the modular house that is built in two separate units and placed together on the foundation to become one house once its moved to its permanent location. MVCTC supplies the labor carried out by the students. Most of the students who work on the house are seniors who attend their humanities and academics classes in the morning and work on the Habitat House in the afternoons as a part of their program lab. This year the programs have worked with an architect to make modifications to the plan for 2009-10 to make it more aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly (greener).

Another valuable partner in the project is Unibilt Corp. in Vandalia. Unibilt supplies the house plans, trusses, and technical assistance. It also coordinates and carries out the move from the construction site at the school to the permanent location.

Ask the students how they like working on the Habitat house and they'll smile and tell you it's pretty "cool." The students are members of a career/tech student organization called SkillsUSA. At their May 2009 club meeting, they met the future resident of the house they were building at the time.