



# Kids have colorful dreams for new home

## Work to begin on Hub Area Habitat for Humanity's 10th home

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Jordan Graves, 9, wants his new Habitat for Humanity home in Aberdeen to be bright red.

His sister McKayla, 13, wants a lime-green home with blue trim. Miranda Graves, 14, the third child of Deb Allison of Aberdeen, wants a blue house with yellow trim.

But Mom, who will get the final word, told her kids on Thursday afternoon at the groundbreaking for their new home she might consider a subdued shade of one of their colorful, bright ideas - at least for trim.

The home on Ward Drive in southeast Aberdeen will be the 10th house built by Hub Area Habitat for Humanity since the local affiliate of the worldwide organization was founded in 1993.

“We have a lot of work to do,” affiliate President Matt Prehn told a gathering of about 30 at the ceremony.

Anyone interested in helping with the construction is asked to go to [www.hubhabitat.org](http://www.hubhabitat.org), where forms for volunteers are available to fill out. Otherwise, the organization can be reached at P.O. Box 406, Aberdeen SD 57402 or at (605) 226-5492.

The program requires the homeowner to put in 300 hours of what's called sweat equity to help build the house. Allison's children are ready to go to work, too. Habitat's rules forbid children from working on construction, but they can serve food to workers and help with painting.

“That'll be fun,” Miranda said.

But what really will be fun is no longer having to share a bedroom with Mom, she said. The family rents a two-bedroom apartment now, with the three females sharing one bedroom and Jordan in the other.

As for Jordan, he's looking forward to having a lawn to mow and the fulfillment of his dream to have a drum set (Mom's taking that dream under advisement as well).

Allison said she is a survivor of domestic violence. The Groton native moved back to the area from Texas in June 2006. She works in housekeeping at Avera St. Luke's Hospital.

“I still can't believe I was chosen,” Allison said of the affiliate's decision to build a home for the family.

Her mother, Marilyn Thoreson of Aberdeen, talked her into applying.

“I didn't think I had a chance,” Allison said.

After Prehn handed Allison a hammer in honor of her selection, she gave her mother a tearful hug.

Fischbach honored: The home will be dedicated to David Fischbach, a past president of Hub Area Habitat for Humanity, who also served on the South Dakota Habitat for Humanity state board. Fischbach, of Aberdeen, died at age 47 in 2006.

Several of his family members and friends attended the groundbreaking.

“Even in his illness, he was always finding ways to help other,” said Judy Vrchota of Aberdeen, a past executive director of the local affiliate.

Hub Area probably would be building its sixth house rather than its 10th if Fischbach had never been part of the organization, Prehn said.

“He helped so much.”

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, Christian organization founded in Georgia in 1976. It has built more than 200,000 homes worldwide.

In a nutshell

- Hub Area Habitat for Humanity broke ground on Thursday for its 10th home.
- Deb Allison and family of Aberdeen will live in the home on Ward Drive.



American News Photo by Dawn Dietrich-Sahli Ready to help: Jordan Graves, 9, his mother, Deb Allison, and sisters MaKayla Graves, 13, and Miranda Graves, 14, all grab a hammer after the hammer was passed to the family by Hub Area Habitat for Humanity president Matt Prehn during a groundbreaking ceremony for the Allison's new home on Ward Drive in southeast Aberdeen.