



The Blitz is On!

Hundreds of hammers will be pounding in Bonton during the fourth week in May when Dallas Habitat hosts 135 AmeriCorps members representing 43 Habitat affiliates from around the nation in an 11-house 'blitz' build. DIY celebrity Steve Thomas is lending his support and is expected on-site for a part of the week. By Sunday May 20th, 11 new homes will join the 82 Habitat homes already in Bonton, an aspiring neighborhood doggedly battling back from a troubled, blighted past. As always with Dallas Habitat projects, our blitz build homes include many great partners including the Dallas Land Bank and HUD NSP2 funding received through Habitat for Humanity International. In addition, the Habitat families who buy these 11 homes (as well as 14 others in Bonton) will receive



\$25,000 in principal reduction made possible through the Dallas Housing Authority.

Blitz homes will be "green" homes

The Bonton blitz will feature a side-by-side comparison of our standard wood framing versus Structural Insulated Panels (SIP). Four blitz homes will be framed using high performance building panels that have a foam core between wood sheathing, SIP. The side-by-side comparison will allow us to evaluate these two techniques in a real volunteer-build setting. After the families move into the homes, we can also track ongoing energy efficiency and buyer satisfaction. And blitz homes will meet LEED Silver standards for green construction practices. Dallas Habitat is Dallas' largest green builder having built more than 90% of all LEED-certified single family homes in the city.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a network of programs that support the engagement of nearly 75,000 Americans who provide a year of service to meet critical needs in education, the environment public safety and other areas. The 135 AmeriCorps members who will be leading the charge at our blitz build have dedicated a year to work at various Habitat affiliates building homes and working in support roles along side local volunteers and Habitat partner families. To celebrate, they are coming to Dallas to work even more!



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
AMERICORPS**

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Oh yeah, what is a blitz build?

A blitz build is an accelerated construction effort, where several homes are built at the same time on a compressed time schedule. Dallas Habitat's largest blitz was its 2002 Greenleaf Village effort, when 25-homes were built in 10 days in a new subdivision in West Dallas. Since that transformative effort, we have sponsored blitz builds in 2004's Pinebrook neighborhood, 2006 in Joppa, and 2008 in Greenleaf Village II. Over the years, we have learned that a blitz build can be a great way to marshal a lot of volunteer effort in a short time. It has the added advantage of creating excitement around our efforts in a given community, while quickly making a major impact. A blitz build also hones our organization's capacity to plan and execute this kind of major undertaking. By the time the fourth week in May rolls around, Dallas Habitat staff will have put in

100s of hours preparing for the event, making sure everything is ready to raise those 11 roofs.



Bonton is just south of CF Hawn Freeway (US 175) and east of I-45. Our January newsletter focused on the transformation of Bonton and Habitat's 15 years and \$12M of investment in the community. This year's blitz is a great way to celebrate that commitment. We are proud to say that in May, the blitz is on!

For more information about our upcoming blitz build, please contact Dallas Habitat's Neighborhood Investment Department at ni@dallas-habitat.org or call 214-678-2300.