

AU Students Participate in Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge

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Alfred, NY — The Alfred University Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity International is traveling to DeLand, FL, to participate in Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge school break service program. Thirty students will join the West Volusia County Affiliate from March 5-14 in an effort to build decent, affordable homes with families in need. During the university's spring break, the Alfred University students will participate in a "blitz build", a five day building project. On Monday morning the AU students will begin with only the cement slab foundation in front of them, and by Saturday morning the entire home will be completed and ready for the family to move in. "We are going to build an entire home in one week," said AU men's soccer coach Ken Hassler, who serves as the Habitat for Humanity chapter advisor on campus. "This will open up a new future for a family that six months ago probably never believed that they could have a home of their own." Hassler, a Henniker, NH, native, has been involved with the program for three years. He realizes that the group is in for a week of very hard work, but that experience is worth the sacrifice. "We get the opportunity to truly impact people's lives beyond the Alfred University campus," Hassler said. "We begin the week trying to give as much of ourselves as we possibly can, but by the time we pack up the vans for the ride home, we have gotten more out of the experience than we could have given." Hassler also notes that the AU Habitat for Humanity chapter isn't alone in the effort to change people's lives. "The entire Alfred community has been tremendous in its support of our efforts," Hassler said. "We couldn't do this without the help of President Edward G. Coll, local businesses and support from the student body." Alfred University students participating in this year's project are: Dawn Ayling (Middletown, NY/Middletown), Erin Baer (Gouverneur, NY/Gouverneur), April Brown (West Coxsackie, NY/Coxsackie-Athens), Joe Camacho (Bronx, NY/Walton), Carolyn Corrado (Hicksville, NY/Hicksville), Guy Desir (Queensville, NY/Springfield Gardens), Jessica Dunbar (Hagaman, NY/Galway), Peter Fiddner (New Milford, CT/New Milford), Fred Foster (Angelica, NY/Genesee Valley), Jason Garry (Brooklyn, NY/Brooklyn Friends), Gennie Gilliland (Homer, NY/Homer), Kristin Grillo (Byron, NY/Byron-Bergen), Kylie Hancock (Carthage, NY/Carthage) and Andy Heeks (Spencerport, NY/Spencerport). Also, Jason Horesco (Kings Park, NY/Kings Park), Alyson Johnson (Webster, NY/Webster), Kelly Johnston (Manlius, NY/Fayetteville-Manlius), Jessica Lellock (Punxsutawney, PA/Punxsutawney), Cindy Lewis (Rexville, NY/Whitesville), Kevin McGee (Seaford, NY/St. Anthony's), Melissa Meissner (Orchard Park, NY/Hamburg), Allison Norton (Buffalo, NY/Mount Mercy), Danielle Ohlson (Buffalo, NY/City Honors), Dave Osborne (Salamanca, NY/Salamanca), Terry Pologa (West Sand Lake, NY/Columbia), Jessica Rossi (West Caldwell, NJ/James Caldwell), Mara Serafin (Canandaigua, NY/Canandaigua), Jennifer Wilson (Dolgeville, NY/Little Falls), Shonna Wilson (Brillion, WI/Brillion). Collegiate Challenge: Spring Break '99, is an event coordinated by the Campus Chapters and Youth Programs department of Habitat for Humanity International, and will run from Feb. 14 through April 10. The Collegiate Challenge program offers construction experiences to students at affiliates around the country. While the Collegiate Challenge has traditionally been held during spring break, the Campus Chapters and Youth Programs department provides ongoing service opportunities for students throughout the year with Habitat for Humanity. The success of the Collegiate Challenge is measured in the newly constructed homes, the community relationships formed, and the deepened commitment to eliminating poverty housing from the world. The service program is designed to help empower communities and to create environments where exchange and interaction can take place. Through hands-on construction, participants lay the foundation for a better community. This year more than 6,300 Collegiate Challenge participants will travel to more than 140 host affiliate sites. Approximately \$620,000 will be contributed to the Habitat for Humanity for house-building work at these locations. In its 22nd year, Habitat for Humanity International is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide. Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people in need to build simple, decent, affordable houses. The houses then are sold to the partner families at no profit through no-interest loans. To date, the organization has built over 60,000 homes worldwide. The Campus Chapters and Youth Programs department was formed in 1987 and has provided thousands of students opportunities to become a significant part of Habitat for Humanity's work. For more information about Collegiate Challenge, call or write: Campus Chapters, Habitat for Humanity International, 121 Habitat Street, Americus, GA, 31709-3498 or call (912) 924-6935 ext, 2410, 2200 or 2215.