

SITE OF THOUSAND ISLANDS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S NEXT HOME



MEGAN GILLIS/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Workers from Rod's Forming in Mallorytown pour the foundation at Habitat for Humanity's latest home on County Road 5 in Athens Monday.

Volunteers are foundation of home

By MEGAN GILLIS
Staff Writer

ATHENS — The Stevens house will be built on a solid foundation — of compassion as much as concrete.

"I'm always amazed by the dedication of the volunteers who come out of nowhere to get involved and make the thing happen," said Tony Carty, chairman of the Habitat for Humanity building committee.

"There's always challenges to overcome. In the end, things get done and you end up with a home for someone who couldn't have one. They're so thankful."

Carty stood in mud and torrential rain as workers from Rod's Forming poured the footings. The Mallorytown firm stepped in at the last minute to fill the gap when an initial donor backed out, leaving vol-

unteers with material donated by Thousand Islands Concrete but no one to pour it.

Nor is a week of rain slowing the project down, building committee member Henry Smid said. With the footings in place, the framing should go quickly on the donated County Road 5 site. Tracy and Tracy Stevens and sons Gregory and Johnathan should be able to move in this fall.

"We're ahead of what we planned," Smid said. "We didn't expect to be along this far. It's coming together good."

Habitat for Humanity volunteers still have building materials — and willing hands — to find.

Local Habitat for Humanity volunteers have secured donations of concrete, drywall, carpets, blinds, paint, siding and a host of other things for their third home.

The Stevenses will earn their modest bungalow through 500 hours of "sweat equity" and by paying off an interest free mortgage to Habitat. The aim is give low-income families whom banks wouldn't take a chance on an opportunity for the pride and stability of home ownership.

Volunteers still have many things to find, Carty said.

They need lots of clean fill because the house is raised above the low-lying site. Many more volunteers are needed to help with the framing and landscaping, among other tasks. And a new set of windows is needed badly. Otherwise it will be a costly purchase for Habitat — and the Stevenses' mortgage.

"We look for donations of materials and services and for actual, physical volunteer labour," Carty said.