



September 29, 2009

'Women Build' project offering training sessions

From Staff Reports

Women volunteers will raise the walls of a Habitat for Humanity house for the Little family in Lansing as part of Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program.

The build is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 9-10, at 100 Breed Road in Lansing. It's underwritten by Lowe's.

Two training sessions for Women Build are scheduled at Lowe's in Ithaca. Session one is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, and will teach proper and safe hand and power tool use.

The second session, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, will focus on framing skills. All women are welcome to attend. Please check www.tchabitat.com for additional training dates in this series.

This is the first Women Build project taken on by Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties, according to a press release from the organization.

"Women have the capability and determination necessary to build Habitat for Humanity houses," Christy Voytko, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties, said in the release. "We are eager to bring this project to our community so women can address the problem of substandard housing in a concrete way and can become advocates for families to have safe and decent homes."

Nationally, women make up 50 percent of Habitat's volunteer force, yet women account for only 15 percent of volunteers actively doing construction. By involving more women in construction, Women Build projects enable Habitat to build more homes with families in need, the release said.

Like all Habitat homeowners, the Little family will buy their house through low payments on a zero-interest mortgage. They will also contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity" by working on their home alongside volunteers, the release said.

Volunteers of all skill levels are encouraged to sign up for the Women Build Wall Raising at www.tchabitat.com or by calling 898-4148. Men are welcome to sign up to be on site to assist the women during these two days and are encouraged to bring baked goods.
