

# Angels volunteer for Habitat for Humanity

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Staff Writer

Members of the Meredith Christian Association (MCA) performed a good deed Saturday, February 19 at Rosalynn Place in Raleigh, when they volunteered with Habitat for Humanity to help build a new home for an underprivileged family. Habitat for Humanity International, nonprofit Christian housing ministry, seeks to eliminate poor housing conditions by building affordable and safe housing worldwide.

The Wake County branch of Habitat has a very straightforward and thorough mission: "Habitat for Humanity of Wake County develops partnerships to build healthy, affordable homes, with and for God's people in need; promotes self-reliance through homeownership; affirms the dignity of the family; and creates sustainable communities."

MCA volunteered their labor services on Febru-

ary 19 at Lot 6 in Rosalynn Place, a community exclusive to Habitat built homes. Volunteers arrived at the site at 8:30 a.m., worked until 4 p.m., and received a free dinner rewarding their efforts. MCA volunteers for Habitat on a monthly basis, and helps in the building of a home at least once a semester. In addition to building homes, Habitat for Humanity has other volunteer opportunities such as working on a deconstruction crew or at a Re-Use center. The deconstruction crew helps disassemble houses that are being demolished. The crew then salvages materials that can be used for future homes or sold to the public through the Re-Use center. Volunteer work in the Re-Use center includes greeting customers, stocking shelves and assisting with loading materials. The profits raised by the Re-Use center are used to help build future homes.

In addition to volunteering their labor with the Habitat for Humanity of Wake



Photo courtesy of Chris Smith

Meredith student helps build a house for Habitat for Humanity

County, MCA sponsors an annual Spring Break mission trip to St. Petersburg, FL in which each student donates \$100 to the cause. MCA Habitat Chair, Marquita McCoy says that while the turnout for volunteering is not always very big, MCA does have some faithful workers. Commenting on her own experience vol-

unteering, McCoy says, "I know that just volunteering my time is making a whole world of difference in someone else's life. I can hold my head up high and say that I did something in which there wasn't a gain for me. I just want to help a family that has only substandard living."

Statistics for Wake County show that at least 4,300 fam-

ilies live in substandard (unsafe, overcrowded) housing, and over 43,000 households get by on a total annual income of less than \$30,000. Habitat for Humanity focuses on helping these people. To learn more about Habitat for Humanity of Wake County or to volunteer your services, visit [www.habitat-wake.org](http://www.habitat-wake.org) or contact MCA.

## Meredith Performs presents *NINE*

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Being that Meredith women are such well rounded students, I am sure that there are many of you out there who have had the interesting, testing, and rewarding experience of being in some sort of play or production. Maybe you had the privilege of being a turkey or pilgrim in the annual school Thanksgiving play. Perhaps you gave a stunning performance as the Virgin Mary in your church's Christmas pageant. If so, you certainly remember the pressure of learning lines, the first time you put on that pilgrim hat and collar, and finally, the anxiety and plea-

sure you felt at being able to present what you'd toiled on for long hours to your expectant family and friends.

However, for those of you out there who've never had the opportunity of being in a play, I'd like to provide a description of the amount of effort, rehearsal, and sheer man power that it takes to put on a production.

First, imagine an empty stage, its wide expanse painted all in black. No lights, no scenery, no actors. Now imagine you're handed a script. It's about 70 pages long, and is accompanied by a book of music. Imagine it is your responsibility to audition and find a cast of people who can sing, act, and dance, to design and build

a set, make or find costumes for a cast of 20 people, create lighting sequences and dance numbers, and hire a handful of musicians to learn and play the music for the show. Now imagine your show must be ready to open in 5 weeks. Feeling a little overwhelmed?

Of course in a real production, these jobs don't all rest on one person's shoulders. These jobs are filled by a director, a cast, a set designer, a crew, a costume designer, a choreographer and a music director. As you can now see, a play is put on with as much teamwork as it takes for Duke's basketball team to win the ACC Championship, as much study and research as any lab at NC State,

and about 10 times the hard work and dedication it takes for our freshman to memorize their Chaucer lines.

On February 24th through the 27th, Meredith Performs will be presenting a show of a somewhat larger proportion, and certainly a more risqué subject matter, then your past Christmas pageant or Thanksgiving play. This show, complete with singing and dancing, is a tale artfully spun with psychological confusion, affairs, love, lust, and finally a coming to terms with self that will entertain you, your family, and friends more than even the cutest kid dressed as a stuffed turkey. Don't let all the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of our fellow

students, and staff, go unnoticed. Come on out and support your favorite local players as they present, for your viewing pleasure, "NINE".

NINE  
February 24th-27th,  
2005  
Thursday-Saturday 8pm  
Sunday 2pm

\$8 Adults  
\$6 Seniors  
\$6 Students  
Meredith Students Free