

# Habitat combats poor living conditions

By LORETTA GRANTHAM  
Staff Writer

Orange County Habitat for Humanity uses both hearts and hands to improve poor living conditions in Chapel Hill and surrounding areas.

The Orange County chapter is part of Habitat for Humanity Inc., a non-profit Christian housing ministry dedicated to helping poor people improve their living conditions.

The group contains volunteers from a variety of religious denominations, said the Rev. David Stanford, Habitat member and associate rector for Cam-

pus Ministry at Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church.

"We work to obtain loans or donations for less fortunate families, and we also select rehabilitation projects as well as build new, affordable housing," he said.

A former Binkley Baptist Church associate minister first envisioned the chapter, now in its second year. Its largest coordinated effort thus far began Saturday at a condemned house, located off N.C. 86, which is scheduled to be destroyed because of Interstate 40 construction. The group received permission to remove the large roof beams from the house so that they can be used in future building projects.

"The trusses are very expensive," Stanford said. "By using these we can save several thousand dollars when we get ready to build another house."

Habitat for Humanity Inc. originated 15 years ago, he explained, when workers at a farm in Americus, Ga., formed a group to address housing concerns. Since then, various chapters have sponsored projects all over the world, Stanford said, adding that former President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter are currently helping with the program.

Overwhelming student demand for

housing makes finding economical housing in the Orange County area a more difficult task for poor families than most people realize, he said.

"Many dwellings aren't bad, just overcrowded," Stanford said. "The marginal poor, those who have been working for 20 years and still only make \$5 an hour, for example, often have several families living together in one small place."

The Orange County chapter has received 20 to 30 inquiries from needy families, Stanford said. The group's Family Selection Committee uses specific guidelines to decide which families the group can help.

"People need to have a first-hand experience with poverty to see its impact. You can't understand it from afar," Stanford said. "Habitat doesn't remove people's responsibility, integrity or sense of pride — we work as a partnership to help others help themselves."

Alice Miller, volunteer coordinator for the chapter, said she became interested in Habitat when she visited Americus with the Binkley Baptist youth group three years ago.

"I like the physical labor better than the organizational work," she said. "It makes me feel lucky to have what I do."

George Loveland heard about the Interstate 40 project through Chapel of the Cross.

"I'm really amazed at the amount of money saved through doing this," he said. "I'm a grad student, so I work in the mind all day. It's important to know that there are other ways of serving Christ than with your mental talents. Habitat's a good reminder that you can serve with a hammer as well as with a pen."



Neal Cheek of Habitat for Humanity removes roof frames from house.

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**Campus Calendar**  
**Wednesday**

1 p.m. International Health Forum and Christian Medical Society, talk: "Changing Face of Medical Missions" by Howard Seale, director of Community Health Programs, MAP International.

3 p.m. Trends in the Job Market workshop in 209 Hanes.

4:00 p.m. Carolina Environmental Essay for 1984: "The Strength of the Evidence Relating Air Pollutants and Adverse Health Effects" by Dr. David Bates in Rosenau Hall Auditorium. Field Hockey Club practice on Ehaus Field.

4:30 p.m. Industrial Relations Association talk: Rackett Willis on Democratic Management in the Union.

5 p.m. Association of International Students meeting at the International Center. Students Older Than Average, meeting, Y Lounge.

5:15 p.m. Lutheran Campus Ministry Communion and Fellowship Dinner at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Rosemary Street. Call 942-2677.

6 p.m. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers organizational meeting in 218 Union.

7 p.m. Outing Club meeting in the Union. Alpha Chi Sigma's Chemistry and Sciences Honorary Society Fall Rush in 224 Union.

7:30 p.m. Carolina Gay Association meeting to discuss name change and bylaw amendments in the Union. African/Afro-American Studies, "A Meeting of Minds and Hearts," student-faculty poetry reading in 205 Union.

8:30 p.m. Students for Mondale/Ferraro organizational meeting in 208 Union. Eight people are needed to debate GOPs.

10 p.m. Anglican Student Fellowship service of Holy Communion at Chapel of the Cross. STV weekly show with Happy Hours at Purdy's, He's Not Here, Gatti's, and Four Corners.

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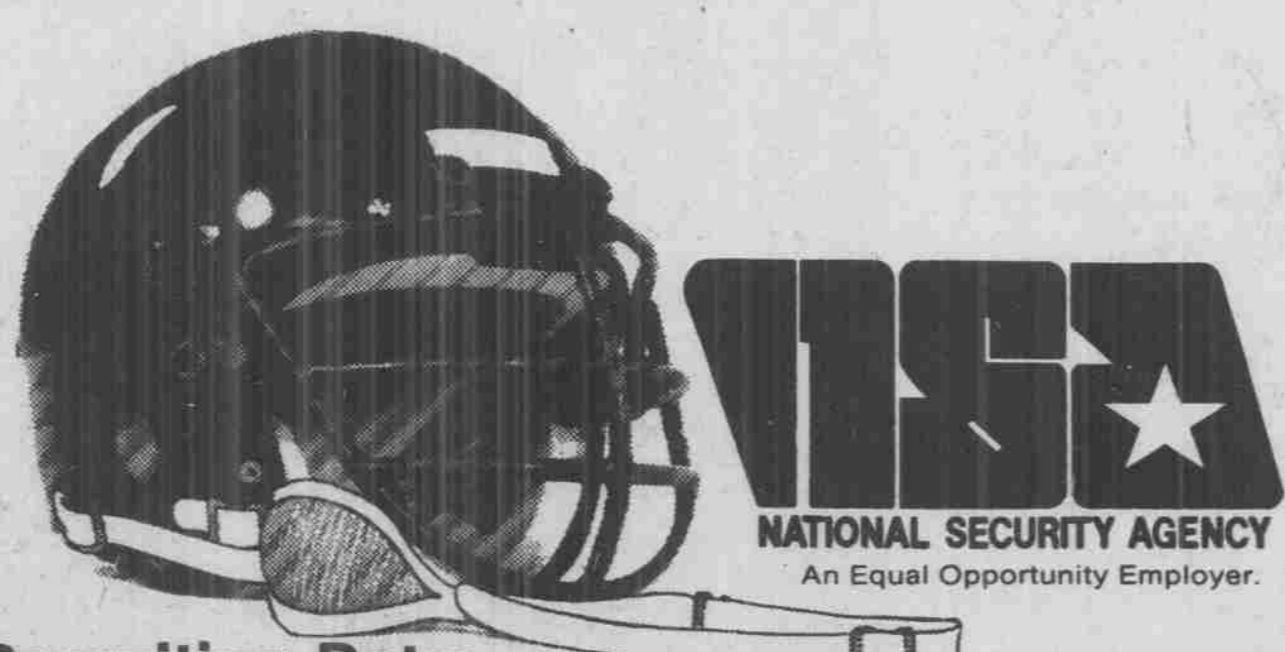
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