

MAHWAH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CLUB HOSTS FUNDRAISER

Club Hopes to Raise Money to Build Home for Bergen County Family



Seniors in the Habitat for Humanity club at Mahwah High School (L to R: Max Ingerman, Carleigh May, Bobby Politis and Noor Sikka) are requesting donations from businesses and corporations to reach their \$140,000 goal for materials to build a new home for a Bergen County family.



Members of the Habitat for Humanity club (L to R: Rory Boris, Kaelyn Brisby and Samantha Boris) at Mahwah High School volunteered during snowstorms to shovel snow for senior citizens. Affectionately dubbed Snow Angels, the group raised funds for materials to build a home for a Bergen County family.



Rendering: This is an artist's rendering of the house which will be built in Oradell.

Seniors in the Mahwah Township High School Habitat for Humanity Club set a lofty goal to raise \$140,000 to help build a home for a Bergen County family before they graduate in June. From shoveling snow to seeking corporate donations, the students have worked tirelessly toward the goal.

The seniors have already raised \$5,500 of the \$140,000 goal to build a home for a less fortunate Bergen County family. For their next fundraiser, students in the club will host a Volleyball Celebration at the high school football field on June 17 and are seeking corporate donations from area businesses.

The seniors in the community service club proposed raising \$140,000 to fund the cost of supplies to build a home for a less fortunate Bergen County family. The students have raised money by shoveling snow for senior citizens through the club's Snow Angels Program, tutoring and other fundraisers. They are also planning a Volleyball Celebration on June 17 and are seeking corporate donations from area businesses.

Mahwah High School Assistant Principal Craig Jandoli said this year's seniors "are a very special group of students who want to give back like no other group has done before."

The students have already earned their service hours, but still volunteer their time to help others, he said.

Club President Carleigh May and Vice President Noor Sikka approached Club Advisor Sarah Guzinski and Jandoli about the idea for a special senior sendoff for a community-wide project to help a local family. The students already have several special senior activities like the prom but wanted to

do something significant to make a difference for an area family. "They first proposed raising \$5,000, but then thought, 'why not go bigger?' and decided to raise enough money to fund the building supplies for a single-family home," Jandoli said.

"They have the heart, willpower, and dedication to do this," Guzinski said. "These seniors love giving back to the community."

May, the club president, said she was excited to kick off this project before graduation. "As it is time for me to move on now, I am really excited to give back to the community that has given me so much and I hope this continues for many years."

Vice President Noor Sikka agreed. "We cannot wait to not only help a family in need, but to bring the community together for a good cause," she said.

The June 17 Volleyball Celebration, which begins at 7 p.m., will be a community-wide event featuring matches with students and staff from several district schools as well as alumni. The members of the high school volleyball team will serve as referees. Funds will be raised through ticket sales (which are \$5 each) and concessions. There will be food trucks, music and more.

Teri Capparelli, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County, commended the high school and the club for their efforts. "When Sarah and Craig informed me that the students want to raise \$140,000, I was absolutely overwhelmed with joyous tears," she said. "And three days before graduation, they are hosting an event to give back to the community. This says an awful lot about Mahwah that the young men and women are coming together to do something remarkable to help the people in need. I think it is pretty spectacular."

The students in the club are also working with Capparelli to seek corporate donations and are asking individual donors and businesses to make donations using the QR code below.

Once \$140,000 is raised to fund the cost of supplies, Capparelli said she will work with volunteers and the nonprofit's crew to construct the home. She is working with Oradell to secure a deed for the property where the home will be built. Habitat for Humanity will purchase the property for \$1.