

## **Kathryn Cassidy**

“Women empowering women” were among her first thoughts when Kathryn Cassidy learned a group of women were embarking on a mission to sponsor and build a house for a family in Newark. The Women Build initiative coincided with the end of her 40 year teaching career in the Newark school system. She started volunteering on construction of the first Women Build House. Initially, she worked once a week, then twice and sometimes three times a week—essentially embarking upon a second career. Through Habitat, and more specifically Women Build, Kathryn was able to continue helping the children of Newark by building homes for some, and by example, showing women and girls of all ages the power they possess. With her newly acquired building skills she became a team leader, showing small groups not only how to use their tools, but also to believe in themselves, to ask for help when needed, and to work to solve problems which they encountered.



Kathryn’s spirit of volunteerism extends beyond building with HFHN. She leads a discussion group at her church, St. Joseph’s in Maplewood, and is a leader in Women Build’s fund - raising efforts. Last fall she attended Habitat International’s first Women Build Construction Leadership training. There she and about two dozen other women volunteers learned both building and leadership skills as they built a new home for a woman and her family in Citronelle, Alabama. She also joined the HFHN teams that went to New Orleans in January 2007 and April 2008 to build in Musician’s Village.