

NJ Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Lori Grifa, Habitat for Humanity Newark and Lowe's team up for National Women Build Week

Local female volunteers answer call to help eliminate poverty housing

WEST ORANGE, N.J. – May 18, 2011 – Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Lori Grifa and more than 30 other female volunteers worked on a new home in West Orange for two Habitat for Humanity Newark partner families. The event was part of National Women Build Week, sponsored by Lowe's, which provided Habitat for Humanity Newark a \$5,000 Lowe's store gift card, as well as in-store volunteer training, in support of this one-day build.



To celebrate National Women Build Week, Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Lori Grifa worked on a new home for two Habitat for Humanity Newark partner families in West Orange.

The Commissioner and other volunteers installed windows and cleared debris and overgrowth from the property of the quickly-rising structure. Habitat Newark has built homes for more than 72 hard-working, low-income families in Newark, including three homes sponsored and built by the Women Build Committee. The two-family house in West Orange is Habitat Newark's first construction site outside of Newark.

“The National Women Build Week initiative is such a worthwhile project. It challenges women to devote at least one day to the effort to eliminate poverty housing and it demonstrates that women can make a difference in their communities by building homes and raising awareness of local housing needs,” said Commissioner Grifa. “I’m proud to partner with Habitat Newark and the Women Build Initiative to bring attention to staggering number of those in need of adequate housing.”

Lowe's, the underwriter of Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program, awarded more than \$1.3 million to over 250 Habitat affiliates across the United States during National Women Build Week. Approximately 10,000 female volunteers worked at Habitat for Humanity construction sites during this time.

Habitat's National Women Build program recruits, educates and inspires women to build decent and affordable homes for low-income families in their communities. For more details please visit www.habitatnewark.org/women_build/.