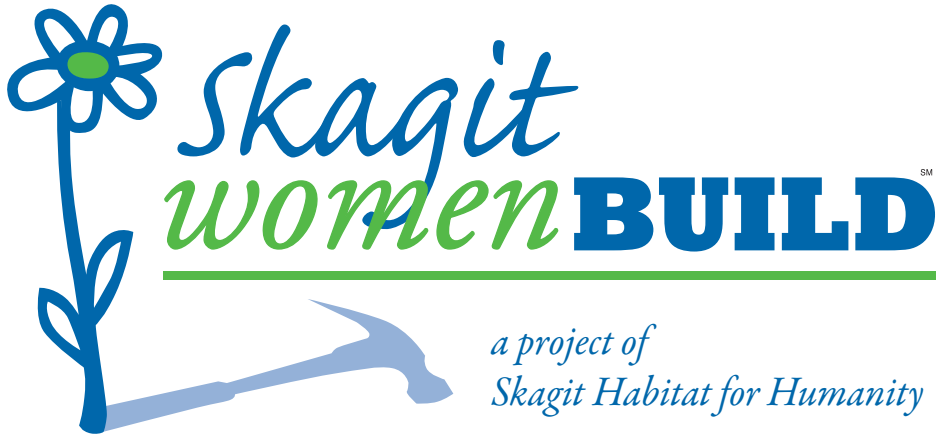


Each winter in Skagit County women and children go without heat because they don't have enough to pay the rent and the bills

Nearly 13% of women live on incomes below the poverty line.

In 2005 the Concrete School District estimated that nearly 24% of their students lived at or below the poverty line.



Woman Build Leadership

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Skagit Women Build Project is the First North of Seattle

Since the first meeting held in April, Skagit Habitat for Humanity's Women Build project is off to a strong start with more than 100 women signed up to work on the project.

In 1991, a group of women in Charlotte, N.C., completed the first women-built Habitat for Humanity house. With this, the seeds for Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program were planted. Since then nearly 1,000 homes have been built by women crews around the world.

Now Skagit Habitat for Humanity is launching the first project of this type north of Seattle.

Currently in the planning and fund raising stages, the group has formed a board of directors, named officers and is in the process building committees.

"We've been thrilled by the interest expressed in this project by women from throughout the county," said Board President, Stephanie Wood of Fisher & Sons, "It has been wonderful to see the range of talent and experience coming together to make this happen."

Women Commit to Leadership Gifts to Get the Project Underway

Though the labor on the Women Build project will be performed by volunteer women crews, money needs to be raised for the materials and land. The Women Build Board is working to raise nearly \$130,000 over the next 12 months to pay for the project. These funds may come as cash donations, or in the form of in-kind gifts of materials or services given by businesses and individuals.

To date 4 women have stepped

forward to make \$5,000 leadership gifts, either personally or through their businesses. Lisa Janicki of Janicki Industries; Chris Thompson and Nancy Williams of Seven Sisters and Cheryl Bishop of Skagit State Bank have committed to this project. Along with these women, Boeing Employees Credit Union, First Horizon Home Loans and Fisher & Sons, Inc. have also pledged \$5,000 to the project.

We need your help! Find out how you can join and make Women Build a success



Ways you can participate:

The ways you can participate are as diverse as the woman who make up Skagit County. If you would like to join one of the committees, please contact one of the chairpersons by e-mail, or call the Habitat office at 428-9402 and leave your contact information.

The committees are:

Fund raising

In-Kind Donations

Publicity

Site Coordination

Special Events

Volunteer Coordination

Refreshments

Events

If committee work isn't your cup of tea you can help by:

- coordinating refreshments
- preparing mailings
- calling people to get involved
- writing articles for the newsletter
- building a photo album
- updating the web site
- writing grants
- teaching construction skills
- donating money
- praying

Skills we need:

equipment operators
drywall finishers
plumbers
roofers
all carpentry
electrical & plumbing

Things we need:

Property
Trusses
Roofing
Siding
Windows and Doors
Drywall
Floor Coverings
Cabinets and Fixtures

FAQs of Skagit Women Build

Women have always been involved with Habitat, though many haven't felt they had the skills for working on a construction site. Now this will change...

What if I don't know how to swing a hammer? Women Build will sponsor on-site training, teaching the skills needed to construct decent, affordable housing. Look for information in the next month on when training sessions are scheduled.

What is the time line for the Women Build Project? Currently we are organizing committees and fund raising with the expectation of breaking ground in spring of 2008, completing the project before winter.

Can my daughter be involved? Children may be involved with you in support work such as special events and refreshments. To work on the job site,

children must be at least 14. A waiver must be signed by all volunteers on the job site.

What is the greatest need?

A building lot-- either donated or sold at below market price is a priority. Talk to your friends and neighbors, perhaps there is a lot that you know of, just waiting to be home to a habitat family. Beyond the building lot, donations of cash and commitments in-kind gifts of materials and services are needed. Projects such as this take a bit to get rolling, please be pro-active and get involved where you are interested.

So... How Much Does it Cost to Build a House in Skagit County?

Until you've built a home, you can't quite believe what goes into it...

Building Lot: \$60,000

Lumber Package: \$12,000

Siding: \$4,500

Roofing: \$2,750

Concrete: \$1,300

Doors: \$600

Windows: \$2,500

Plumbing: \$2,000

Electrical: \$2,000

Dry Wall: \$6,000

Lighting: \$750

Cabinets: \$10,000

Misc.: \$25,600

Total: \$130,000

