

## MEDICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS VOLUNTEER AT FOOD CONNECTION, IOA

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# Putting up walls



## *Husband does not want marriage*

**DEAR ABBY:** Just months before our 30th wedding anniversary, my husband told me he doesn't love me and never wanted to marry me. I am beyond devastated. I feel I have wasted the best years of my life. We have two beautiful daughters who are my everything.

When he revealed this news to me, it turned my life upside down. I don't know how to process it or what to do. I have spent years begging him to be more affectionate and loving. I always assumed he just didn't know how to show love. It never crossed my mind that he has never loved me. I feel naive, betrayed and robbed. —**HOPELESS IN THE MIDWEST**

**DEAR HOPELESS:** When your husband handed you that "bouquet," was he angry or inebri-



TOM SHERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

**BLOUNT COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** volunteers raise a wall for the 2019 Women Build house on West Franklin Street on Thursday in Alcoa.

## Habitat for Humanity seeks volunteers for latest Alcoa build

BY MELANIE TUCKER  
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The Habitat for Humanity volunteer crew at the West Franklin Street build in Alcoa looks a little different than most, but not because of Roxy's visit.

Roxy the dog is construction assistant and worksite companion. She's been a part of several builds, a common sight for years.

The uncommon team on the current build is the Blount County nonprofit's Women Build, an effort to get more women interested in joining the team. On any other Habitat build, the ratio of construction volunteers is 10% women and 90% men.

The Women Build is done every two years in Blount County, said Vanessa Sparks, development director for Habitat for Humanity. This year there are 24 women on the Women Build Committee who have been working for months on fundraising and team development.

They include Tracy Queen, Amanda Horn, Ann Drake, Beth Pyle, Andrea Knight, Breanna Endsley, Crystal Burns, Donnelle Collins, Jennifer Price, Joy Eargle, Katherine Kroll, Karen Stiles, Kelly Forster, Laura Burchfield, Lynda Blakenship, Mary



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### MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 2019 Women Build for Blount County Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers to work on the home, located on West Franklin Street in Alcoa. To sign up or for more information, call the office at 865-982-8717 or visit the website, blountthabitat.org. The organization also has a Facebook page, Blount Habitat for Humanity.

close first, the Altar'd State home and then this one," Jenkins said.

Completing a home ranges from three to six months.

When the homes are complete, dedications are held as Habitat hands over the keys to the new homeowners.

They have gone through budgeting training and problem solving and work on their homes and other Habitat builds.

They are given affordable mortgages.

Many of the Habitat homeowners are single moms, like Miranda Van Hoy, who took possession of her home in Alcoa back in April. She has two daughters who are 11 and 13.

Then there is Nyadeng Kuot, a refugee from Sudan.

never loved me. I feel naive, betrayed and robbed. — **HOPELESS IN THE MIDWEST**

**DEAR HOPELESS:** When your husband handed you that "bouquet," was he angry or inebriated? It is hard to believe that a man would stay married for 30 years to someone he didn't love and didn't want to marry in the first place.



**DEAR ABBY**

(Shotgun weddings are long out of style.)

Revisit that conversation with him, and if he tells you he meant what he said, you are justified in feeling the way you describe. The questions then become are you better with him or without him, and what are your legal rights in the state in which you and this man live. (Not referring to him as your "husband" was not an oversight.)

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently left my job and flew across the country for an internship on a small farm to learn about sustainable farming. I have been here a week. I have met some awesome people and have been having some fun with them in my free time. However, I'm now having second thoughts.

This is hard, physical labor, and my living conditions are a lot more rustic and communal than I was led to believe. There is no electricity in our quarters, and we cook our meals outside on a propane stove. Also, the internship is unpaid, and I'll have to pay to take a summer class. While I feel I am benefiting from this experience, I miss my old job (which I can get back) and the more comfortable lifestyle. Do you think I need to

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On Thursday, under overcast skies, women committed to the build worked at the site and had at least one wall up by midmorning. Doug Jenkins, construction supervisor and owner of Roxy, said if things go well and there are no weather delays, the house will be move-in ready by mid-September.

Fundraising consisted of a luncheon last year and one held just recently. Sparks said the two events raised almost \$50,000.

"Today is really a PR day for us," she said onsite Thursday. "We want to get other women in the community to come out and build."

As for who can volunteer, Sparks said practically anyone; there is no experience necessary and you don't have to have your own tools. "You need to come with closed-toe shoes and a can-do attitude," Sparks said. "We supply the tools and knowledge."



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**WORK IS UNDERWAY AT** the Habitat for Humanity 2019 Women Build home on West Franklin Street in Alcoa.

It wasn't a women-only team onsite Thursday. Sparks said it's called the Women Build to empower more women to take part. Men are also welcome to help on this one.

### TIME TO SIGN UP

On upcoming work details, about 10 to 12 volunteers are needed each day, Sparks said. People can sign up as individuals or get their church fellowship together and participate. The Women's Build is different in another way as well. It's not sponsored by a business that would typically fill those work days. Hence, more volunteers are being

sought.

Jenkins said there are three Habitat houses under construction. One is being built by Maryville First United Methodist Church in honor of longtime volunteer Bill Mueller, who is 91. The other is sponsored by Altar'd State, a business whose headquarters is located in Maryville. Altar'd State built a home last year in the community, using employees who volunteered.

Mueller got involved with Habitat back in 1994 and has worked on more than 100 builds. His current build is located on Bessie Harvey Avenue in Alcoa.

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Then there is Nyadeng Kuot, a refugee from Sudan. She shares her Habitat for Humanity home on Wright Road in Alcoa, which was last year's Altar'd State build, with her daughter. A total of 1,000 hours of volunteer service by Altar'd State associates went into the home.

According to Habitat for Humanity, more than 16,000 people in Blount County live in poverty; 5,328 of the 16,000-plus people are children or the elderly. Blount County Habitat for Humanity has been in existence for 25 years.

The Women Build represents its 163rd home. Kathy Jackson serves as Habitat's executive director and Sarah Hooks, as program director.

Amanda Horn and Nancy Zambell, members of the Women Build Committee, were there on Thursday morning, getting the walls up. Horn is a mortgage lender and Zambell is in the real estate business.

The two said they love the Habitat model of providing affordable housing for those willing to partner with the agency.

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### —ACROSS THE COUNTRY

**DEAR ACROSS:** You signed on for the internship for a good reason — to learn. Having done that, it will be not only educational but also character-building to see it through until the end of the summer. This isn't forever, and the lessons you learn may last a lifetime.

**DEAR ABBY:** My 15-year-old son has difficulty expressing himself and keeps things bottled up. You often advise people to seek counseling. Could you please advise me about how to begin that process and how to find the right fit and person for one's individual needs? —**INVOLVED PARENT IN VIRGINIA**

**DEAR PARENT:** Start by asking your doctor to refer you to a specialist who works with adolescents. The company that provides your health insurance can also give you some referrals. After you and your son meet the candidates, it is simply a matter of choosing a therapist your son feels comfortable talking with.

**CONTACT DEAR Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.