



## Around the Courts



### Habitat for Humanity

by Lynn Fuchs

On a beautiful Wednesday morning in June, several District Court judges and staff got dressed and went to work just like any other morning. Only on that day, their wardrobe consisted of sturdy footwear, jeans, Habitat for Humanity t-shirts (courtesy of Judge Larson) and tool belts. Work was a Habitat for Humanity house under construction on the 800 block of Magnolia Street in St Paul. The house was sponsored by the MN Bar Association.

"It's all about quality, not speed", we were told by Dave, the site supervisor. After some quick but detailed instructions, the group broke into teams and began working. The future homeowner was on site to work and to supervise. The homeowner has to contribute 400 hours of work on his own house and pays approximately 2/3



Laurie Kusek and Judge Gary Larson blow insulation into the attic while . . .

of the market value for the house. He receives an interest free loan for the purchase price from Habitat for Humanity.

Judge Larson and Laurie Kusek volunteered to climb into the third floor attic space to blow in insula-

tion. Jodi Stanislawski, Deb Bowser and Mary Regan kept them well supplied by emptying bags of insulation into the hopper of the blower. It was a hot and messy job!

Judge Sommerville volunteered to dig holes for the posts of the front steps. He was slowed down a bit by some large rocks but finished the job in record time. Word was he had had a lot of practice digging holes over the weekend at his own house.

Judge Pihlaja, Jim Wehri and Hans Larson climbed scaffolding to the second floor. Their task was to finish installing the siding. I was their ground crew cutting

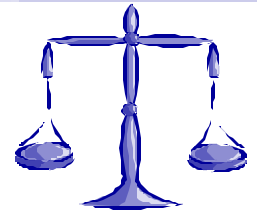


. . . Mary Regan, Jodi Stanislawski and Deb Bowser keep the hopper full of insulation

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Jim Wehri, Judges Larson, Pihlaja and Sommerville hard at work

subway sandwiches hit the spot after a morning of hard work and then it was back to work. By the time it started to rain at 3:00 PM, the group had finished the insulation, the second floor siding and all the mudding and taping that could be done that day. The site was clean and the tools safely stored away for the next crew. It was time to go home satisfied with the quality of our work.

lengths of siding to their exact measurements - sometimes several times.

The rest of the group had the opportunity to practice their drywalling skills. Ruth Keller, Phil Saice, Corine Morales, Mary Zilka, Mary Gagne, Gena Evans and Carole Mannheim taped joints and applied drywall compound to walls and ceilings on both the first and second floor. It's hard work but Carole really appreciated the lessons. She was going to go home and start dry walling her garage right away!!

Our thanks to Patty Botes and Jill Orenstein for coordinating and delivering our lunch orders. The



Ruth Keller and Phil Saice showing off some of their "mudding" skills