



'I thank God for this. I thank everyone who worked on it.'

KATRINA TULLIS, new homeowner



Staff Photos by VADA MOSSAVAT

Wiljun Kirkland, 10, peers through the window of his bedroom in the Habitat for Humanity house he and his mother, Katrina Tullis, will share in Fort Pierce.

High school students learn Humanity

By SARAH PROHASKA
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

FORT PIERCE — When school started last year, 16-year-old Jamie Clark wasn't expecting he'd know how to put siding on a house by the time summer vacation arrived.

Between classes, he and other classmates also learned the correct ways to paint a house, do electrical work and attach a door to its hinges.

"A lot of us had never done something like this before," said Clark, an upcoming junior at John Carroll High School. "I think we all learned a lot."

And as he stood outside the home he helped build, Clark said he was thankful to be able to give something back the community — and to learn a few new construction skills along the way.

The light yellow house with blue trim on Avenue I was the Catholic high school's first



The dedication of the Habitat for Humanity house on Avenue I in Fort Pierce Saturday was attended by officials from John Carroll High School. The school's students helped build the house for Katrina Tullis and her 10-year-old son.

Habitat for Humanity project, and its principal said he hopes it won't be the last. School representatives were at the home Saturday morning as its new owner accepted the keys.

"Our students will do this again," Principal Ben Hopper said. "The kids just came alive

when they worked on this. It showed them there's more to learning than what you get in textbooks."

Juniors and seniors built the home's frame on the school's campus in late January before

See HABITAT, 5C ▶

Second house will hold 4 generations

► HABITAT *from 1C*

it was transported to the lot on Avenue I, Hopper said. Throughout the year, teachers brought over groups of freshmen and sophomores to work on it.

Al Rivett, executive director of St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity Inc., said it was "truly a God thing" when explaining how the project came together.

Rivett said he happened to run into John Carroll teacher Dominick Scotto one day at St. Lucie Battery and Tire in Fort Pierce. Scotto mentioned that the students wanted to do a community project and he thought a Hab-

itat home would be a good one. The two began working together when Joey Miller, owner of battery and tire store, also agreed to sponsor the project.

"My real hat is off to all these wonderful students," Miller said Saturday. "Maybe one or two will decide they want to be a contractor or an electrician. Practical experience is a wonderful thing."

The new homeowner, Katrina Tullis, said she and her 10-year-old son, Wiljun Kirkland, plan to move in during the week.

"I thank God for this," said Tullis, a Fort Pierce and dietary aide at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and

Heart Institute. "I thank everyone who worked on it."

Tullis wasn't the only person on the Treasure Coast to receive keys Saturday to a new Habitat for Humanity home.

In Indiantown, Rebecca Cabrera, a single mother of three who works for a lawn service company, also celebrated the completion of her new home.

That home was built with the help of Stuart Jet Center employees. Four generations of women in her family will live in the four-bedroom home, including her mother, granddaughter and two of her three daughters.

©sarah_prohaska@pbpost.com