

# ROSS Program Update

Mark Killen, ROSS Coordinator

February kicked off the second ROSS class. Excited to start, students Mark Raia, Selena Harper, Tabitha Kilmer, Donald Misner, JoAnn Misner, Sherma Ferdinand, and Desarae Martin learned how to build relationships, work together and were even excited to begin learning about the dreaded “M” word...Math!



Since the ROSS program is focused on giving folks real world, work related skills; the students find themselves very busy getting sore muscles from building houses with Habitat for Humanity. As you can see the students are learning how to frame a house and raise the walls for the home of the next Habitat Home Owner.

But don't think the students are just free labor for Habitat. First they are helping improve our community and second, they receive all sorts of incentives for participating and continuing in the program. Yes, they receive financial incentives, but they also receive special incentives just for showing up to class to risk learning something new! Here are some of the students and a few of the items they have received for excellent attendance.



Items they have received for attendance include: a tape measure, hammer, screwdriver set, toolbelt, socket set, and a set of pliers just to name a few.

While we spend time “out in the field” doing some hands on learning, we also spend time in the classroom. But even in the classroom, the learning isn't that hard either. We spend time on academics of course but we also learn by doing as well. Here you see Desarae learning how to solder copper pipe...could she be a plumber in the making?

While the students have been busy in the classroom and at the Habitat House, they are also being kept busy by learning important woodshop skills at our Huntington School of Fine Woodworking. Currently the students are working hard on building benches to be sold at upcoming craft shows. When they are completed we'll let you see the excellent quality of their work!



Sherma Ferdinand current ROSS Student, says "I didn't know what to expect when I started this program. I wasn't sure it was for me, with all of this building stuff, but I have learned so much about myself and how *I* have the power to change my life. The ROSS program is changing my life everyday...I can't help but be excited to get up in the morning to discover what else I will learn!"