

# Council's Roughton, Habitat for Humanity, Lowe's Team Up for Women Build Week

JURUPA VALLEY — Jurupa Valley City Council member Laura Roughton volunteered alongside women volunteers including Lowe's Heroes employee volunteers, on a Habitat for Humanity Riverside construction site in recognition of National Women Build Week, May 3-11.

Now in its seventh year, National Women Build Week challenges women to devote at least one day to help build affordable housing in their local communities.

The week also spotlights the homeownership challenges faced by women.

The volunteers worked to rehabilitate a home in Rubidoux.

For her third year in a row, Roughton joined the Lowe's Women Build team to renovate a home in Jurupa Valley. Joining the Women Build team was Maria Lazaro, Habitat partner family who recently purchased a Habitat home one block away and still enjoys volunteering her time revitalize her neighborhood.

Volunteers deconstructed a kitchen to prepare the home new cabinets, countertops and Energy Star appliances. They repaired stucco, replaced exterior trim, and sealed windows with caulk for energy ef-



Laura Roughton enjoying building a home for a Rubidoux family.

iciency.

Lowe's helped launch National Women Build Week in 2008 and each year provides the support of Lowe's Heroes and conducts how-to clinics at stores to teach volunteers construction skills.

Lowe's donated \$1.75 million to this year's National Women Build Week, including a \$5,000 store gift card to Habitat for Humanity Riverside, as part of a new five-year partnership with Habitat that will bring Lowe's total contributions to more than \$63 million since 2003.

In celebration of this renewed partnership, Lowe's and Habitat launched Hammers for Habitat, a volunteer initiative inviting men and women across America to give one day to help make the dream of homeownership a reality for a family in their community. To learn more, visit [Habitat.org/Lowe's](http://Habitat.org/Lowe's).

"As part of National Women Build Week, we're encouraging women across America to raise a hammer to help create safe and affordable housing in partnership with local families," said Joan Higginbotham, Lowe's director of community relations. "We thank our Lowe's Heroes and the thousands of volunteers who will help strengthen communities throughout the country this week."

The U.S. Census Bureau reports more than 16.1 million children are living in poverty in the United States. Nearly 24 percent of chil-

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dren reside with women heads-of-household. In Riverside County more than 30% of families are in need of affordable housing.

Habitat's Women Build program recruits, educates and inspires women to build and advocate for simple, decent and affordable homes in their communities. Since the program was created in 1998, more than 2,200 homes have been built in partnership with low-income families using Women Build crews. More than 52,000 women from all 50 states have volunteered at the six previous Women Build Week events.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program, and to learn about Women Build projects in communities across the U.S., visit [Habitat.org/wb](http://Habitat.org/wb) or the National Women Build Week tab on [www.facebook.com/habitat](http://www.facebook.com/habitat).

Habitat for Humanity Riverside is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization. Habitat for Humanity Riverside is dedicated to eliminate substandard housing in Riverside, Corona, Moreno Valley and Jurupa Valley through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

Habitat for Humanity Riverside was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.



Maria Lazaro (Habitat Partner Family); Jenna Holmes (Habitat AmeriCorps Member); Laura Roughton; Tracy Smith (Store Manager, Lowe's); Kathy Michalak (Habitat Executive Director); Jeff George (Lowe's Volunteer); Tabitha Hart (Lowe's Volunteer); Sylvia Hernandez (Lowe's Volunteer); Leon Guerrero (Lowe's Volunteer); Kammi Bett (Lowe's Volunteer)