



brought their children – Andy, free-hour framing of the Habitat into this summer. Photo courtesy of

of Habitat for Humanity International, as well as Charlotte's chapter of the nonprofit affordable homebuilder and the Habitat volunteers employed by Lowe's Home Improvement stores.

But the way Habitat Charlotte spokesman Phil Prince tells it, the volunteers who framed a Habitat home in the parking lot of the Lowes in Charlotte's University City district were so good at what they do that the work was done by 11:30 a.m.

"Beverly Earle of the 101st state House district wanted to come by and help, and we had to call her to tell her that she had better hurry up if she wanted to swing a hammer," Prince said.

Earle, a Democrat, got to participate, thanks to a little maneuvering.

"We had (the volunteers) build two or three extra sheds – we put a shed behind every house we build."

The event was part of a nationwide effort by "Lowe's Heroes" employee-volunteers and Habitat International to try to recruit 100,000 new Habitat volunteers with what amounts to a worthy stunt.

In addition to Charlotte, Habitat's profes-

Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Seattle, St. Louis and Baton Rouge, La.

In New York, however, Habitat raised two-by-fours in the middle of Times Square.

The beginnings of the houses are now being moved to the neighborhoods where they will eventually be sold below market value and with interest-free mortgages to people who could not otherwise afford a home of their own.

In the case of Charlotte's hurried house, Prince explained, the framed sections of the house were put together with screws so they could be taken apart, moved to a neighborhood near the U.S. National Whitewater Center in west Charlotte, reassembled on a foundation and finished.

In addition to trying to raise awareness, the parking-lot builds also celebrated the Mooresville-based Lowe's latest financial contribution to Habitat International: \$23.5 million over the next five years. That brings the home-improvement giant's contributions to Habitat since 2003 to \$63 million.

— Tony Brown

Health's Charlotte market, said in the release. "With a shift from traditional inpatient medicine to multidisciplinary outpatient treatment, it's our responsibility as health care providers to make sure that every touch point along the journey is easy for our patients to access. That's what this facility is all about; creating connections and improving the health care experience."

The lengthy wait to break ground is because Novant still needs to raise about \$50 million in its capital campaign, the release said. The John M. Belk family pledged a total of \$10 million for the future facility, which will be called the Novant Health John M. and Claudia W. Belk Heart & Vascular Institute.

"Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center's vision to provide a single point of care for cardiac patients will help improve life outcomes for many people across our community," Mary Claudia Belk Pilon, the Belks' daughter, said in the release. "They continue to lead the way in health care solutions and we are honored to continue our long-standing partnership and

support this transformative vision."
— Payton Guion

Realtors to assist with home repairs

Mark your calendars for the sixth annual Realtors Care Day on April 11. The all-day home-repair event will benefit 17 deserving homeowners in the Mecklenburg and Iredell counties.

Sponsored by the Housing Opportunity Foundation, the charitable arm of the Charlotte Regional Realtor Association, the event is geared to help area elderly or disabled homeowners in need of exterior home repairs or adaptive safety modifications. Armed with hammers, paintbrushes and good will, volunteer teams will fan out to repair roofs and gutters, replace windows, paint siding and build wheelchair ramps.

"Realtors and the foundation are committed to do our part to help sustain a strong and thriving community by lifting up our neighbors in need," said Todd Long, the chair of the 2014

Realtors Care Day committee. Among this year's recipients of some home repair are two needy families in Mecklenburg and Iredell counties. Realtor and Habitat Charlotte volunteers will rehab a house that was damaged by fire at 1109 Opal St. in Charlotte. In Mooresville, Realtors will work in partnership with Central United Methodist's "One Block" project to fix up a house at 412 Patterson Ave.

Over the past five years, about 3,000 real estate professionals have participated in the Realtors Care Day event, providing assistance to 130 families and a community financial impact of more than \$800,000, according to the CRRA. Nearly 100 local businesses are pitching in with financial sponsorships and in-kind donations this year. Lowe's Home Improvement is helping by organizing and managing the delivery of construction materials to all 17 sites.

Eight local nonprofits have helped the Housing Opportunity Foundation identify the needy homeowners who will benefit from the volunteer effort.

— Graziella Steele