

Human Faces

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WTCA Member Contributes to Fastest Habitat Home Ever Built by Libby Maurer

Habitat for Humanity set a new world record for the fastest home ever built, just in time for the Bonnie Faye Lilly family to enjoy the 2002 Christmas holiday. The home, erected in Shelby County, AL, was completed on December 17 with the record-setting time of three hours, 26 minutes and 34 seconds.

Habitat for Humanity can thank WTCA member Wheeler's in Rome, GA for contributing materials to the record-breaking event. According to Michael Bryan, Wheeler's plant manager, they donated the roof trusses and wall panels for the Shelby County project.

Bryan commented that Wheeler's is no stranger to community service. "We are very fortunate have management that is so supportive of community outreach projects. Our controller sits on the Habitat for Humanity board of directors here in Rome and one of our owners led the project." Wheeler's has also donated components for two similar Habitat projects in the Rome community in recent years. "Quite a few volunteers from our plant helped out on the jobsite for a project we did in 2002."

The success of the Lilly's new home was no doubt attributed to the generosity of many volunteers, including the Wheeler's gang, but one cannot forget the valuable contribution to this project that was provided by the wall panels and roof trusses. Without them, the record would not have been possible.

According to Bryan, in addition to the structural components' ability to accommodate accelerated installation, another huge benefit is in the quality of components as compared to conventional stick framing. "You are able to build a better quality, more consistent product when the manufacturing is done in a 100% controlled environment." Bryan also noted that the manufacture of wall panels and roof trusses in a factory setting reduces the volume of skilled labor required on the jobsite, therefore decreasing the risk of liability and injury. "Providing skilled labor in the field is much more expensive than coming up with plant labor," he said.

In summarizing the advantages of using components in residential construction applications, he stated, "That's the beauty of using structural components—it allows us to minimize time, labor and liability on site. You certainly can't say the same about stick framing."

Hats off to Bryan and his team of dedicated, community service-minded volunteers at Wheeler's for contributing to the success of this and other Habitat projects. Thank you for helping to put a

“human face” on the structural building components industry.

To download a video of the construction of the home or for more information about the Habitat for Humanity project, visit www.habitat.org

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