

It's a house that women built

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Saskatoon Express

When the home at 234 Coad Manor in Hampton Village is complete, it will be the fourth home built by women in Saskatoon for families in need. The Habitat for Humanity 2011 Cameco Women Build began on July 18 and will finish on Aug. 20. At that time, a mother and her two children will officially have a place to call their own.

"It's a real tangible way that we can make a difference in our community and help one family at a time," said Theresa Kirkpatrick, manager of Internal Business Communications at Cameco. "We actually had the

mother and her two kids at the house and we got to meet them. When you put that human face onto what you're doing it's really powerful."

Jayne Horachek has been on the board of Habitat for Humanity since the '90s and initiated the first women-built home in Saskatoon.

"They had one in Calgary and I said we should do one in Saskatoon," explained Horachek. "It was so successful and it's grown so much."

Horachek says she is proud to be a part of the project because it helps families who are trying to help themselves.

"It helps people who are already work-

ing and don't qualify for a regular mortgage. These are people who could slip through the cracks . . . they just need a little hand-up and their lives change after that."

Horachek says the women involved in the build also benefit greatly. "For one thing I think women are more comfortable working and learning with other women," said Horachek. "They can take these skills away and use them wherever they are. It's just getting women out the first time and then they can do what they want with what they've learned."

Betty-Ann Heggie, former senior vice-president of PotashCorp, has volunteered at all four Cameco women build projects and has done everything from building fences to

sanding ceilings. "I like celebrating anything that brings women together," said Heggie. "I think whenever women get together and do anything like this there's a great feeling of 'We can do a lot more than we think we can do.' "

On the site it is clear the women are determined to get the job done, asking questions and organizing themselves into efficiently run teams. "The way that when they do a Cameco Women Build they use more nails because the women are more thorough," said Heggie jokingly. "It's just a really fun project where you feel like you're doing something worthwhile."

For more information on Cameco Women Build visit www.habitatsaskatoon.ca