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App builds a home project initiates with Habitat for Humanity
by Harley Nefe

Watauga County Habitat for Humanity is partnering with the Appalachian State community to build a Habitat house for a family in need. This working project is called App Builds a Home.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit housing ministry that “partners with communities all over the world to help build and improve affordable homes,” the App Builds a Home planning committee said in a presentation during a kick-off celebration Nov. 1. “Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With this support, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.”

Watauga County Habitat for Humanity’s vision is “a world where everyone has a decent place to live,” according to their website. They currently build one house per year due to high budgeting costs.

The App Builds a Home project can allow for there to be an additional house built each year.

“Affordable housing is a major problem in Watauga County, and we want to fix that one house at a time,” the App Builds a Home planning committee said.

62.2 percent of residents live below the poverty level in Boone.

“The App State project is a really cool opportunity for the school and the community, because it is bringing Habitat to the forefront of App State’s focus,” sophomore Kayla McDougale said. McDougale is the president of App State’s Habitat for Humanity club and is a part of the App Builds a Home planning committee. “It’s also opening up the school’s mind to

what's going on outside our little bubble. I feel like a lot of students are unaware of the state of Watauga County; It definitely needs a lot of help.”

The difference between a regular home build and the App Builds a Home project is that the project is going to be assisted by App State through various clubs and organizations coming together.

“App State is going to be fundraising for at least half of the cost of the home and will be providing all of the volunteers for the project,” McDougle said. “Watauga County will still be supervising the project to make sure we are doing everything correctly, but App State is going to be more heavily supporting it.”

The App Builds a Home planning committee is hoping to start building in the summer of 2019 and have the construction pick up in the fall.

“I am personally an action type of person, so I attended the interest meeting and got really excited about the project,” senior Megan Laws said.

The current step is to spread the word and begin fundraising for the project.

There is a fundraising workshop Nov. 29 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Solarium at the Plemmons Student Union.

“We definitely have an impact on the community,” McDougle said. “This project is a great way for us to give back and say, “Thanks for welcoming us, and we are here to help you guys.””