

If You Had a Hammer...

A different way to celebrate women's history month.



HARD-HAT HAPPY
Women volunteers nail down the roof of the 2007 Women Build home in Golden.

The Organization: Habitat for Humanity's Women Build

The Idea: Each year, about 480 volunteers build a Habitat house from scratch in the Denver area. The twist? Every volunteer—including the supervisor—is a woman.

The Story: By the early '90s, Habitat for Humanity had been building homes around the globe for nearly two decades. When a few city affiliates, including Denver, noticed that women were sometimes hesitant to volunteer on co-ed sites, the group started organizing women-only projects. The first Women Build house in the Denver area went up in 1995. Since then, the group has built 16 more homes and has become one of the top Women Build programs in the country.

Who It's Helping: Each parent living in substandard housing logs at least 250 sweat-equity hours working on their home alongside the Women Build volunteers

before receiving a no-interest home loan from Habitat for Humanity.

What They're Saying: "We don't expect you to come out here with skills. If you have them—great. If not, we'll teach you," says Judy Browne, Women Build committee chairwoman.

Why They Do It: "We don't just touch the lives of the people who move into our homes," says Lori Vaclavik, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver's executive director. "The wonderful byproduct of how we build houses is that everyone is touched in the process."

How to Help: To build just one house, the Women Build committee must raise at least \$85,000. Help by volunteering on the construction site, serving on the committee, donating money, or spending \$2,500 to adopt the site for a day. Call 303-534-2929 or visit www.habitatmetrodenver.org.

—Natasha Gardner



Do-Gooder Buy of the Month

Made in sweatshop-free factories with low-impact dyes and screen-printed locally, Boulder-based **Tees for Change** are designed to inspire. For every shirt you buy full-price online, the company donates to American Forests' Global ReLeaf, which uses the funds to plant trees. With phrases like "today matters," the shirts are cute in a yogi kind of way. Available at Stapleton Health and Wellness, Devil's Thumb Ranch, or www.teesforchange.com.

ONE-HOUR PHILANTHROPIST

Two Easy Ways to Give in March

DCPA's 28th Annual Saturday Night Alive, March 1

Scoop: One of the biggest nights on Denver's social calendar features dinner, a silent auction, and music by headliners Michael Buble, Frankie Valli, and Tony Bennett to benefit the Denver Center for the Performing Arts' educational programs. \$375 and up. **More Info:** www.denvercenter.org

2008 Avs' Better Halves Fashion Show and Luncheon, March 2

Scoop: The wives and girlfriends of Colorado Avalanche players partner with the Children's Hospital to present this annual benefit brunch and fashion show. The models—past and present patients at Children's—are escorted down the catwalk by Avs players and coaches. \$250. **More Info:** www.thechildrenshospital.org