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Almost home

After 108 hours, Blitz Build is now complete

By Blair Koch
 Times-News correspondent
 BUHL — They beat the clock.

In 4 1/2 days, Magic Valley Habitat for Humanity finished building a home by 7 p.m. Friday at 905 Fair St. in Buhl.

With a whirlwind spirit of community and camaraderie 200 volunteers built Marco and Angela Oviedo's home. They were joined by Habitat volunteers in an effort to build more than 400 homes this week nationwide.

"I hope everyone did as well as we did," said Gordon Saffrey, Magic Valley affiliate president. "It has been over a year in planning and worth every day. The willingness of the construction companies and everyone to pull together was amazing."

Sixty-five Magic Valley businesses came together, giving money, skill and supplies.

Down to the last nail, 100 percent of the home's cost was donated for the build. That means more than \$100,000 will flow into Habitat's coffers — providing funding for even more homes to be built.

Money aside, Habitat's primary goal is to provide decent, affordable housing.

"We are a nonprofit organization and ultimately we just want to give people the opportunity to better their lives," Saffrey said. "We are definitely looking at doing another Blitz Build next year."

Participating in Habitat's program, which requires families to invest 500 hours of sweat equity, has definitely benefitted his family, Marco Oviedo said.

"This has been such a good experience," he said. "This week I learned that when good people come together and organize that things can get done really fast. We are so grateful."

The couple and their seven children are anxious to move in but are excited to share their home in this year's Magic Valley Builders Association's Parade of Homes.

"After the parade and closing we will be packing up and moving in," he said.

Blair Koch lives in Buhl. She can be reached by

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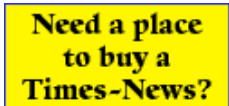
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