

Habitat hosts housing session

By DAVID POLLARD dpollard@sanfordherald.com Sep 4, 2021



Freedom, ownership and being tired of renting were just a few of the reasons residents attended a meeting Thursday seeking an opportunity.

About a dozen people, mostly women, met that afternoon at Brick Capital, 403 Makepeace St., for Habitat for Humanity of the Sanford area's informational meeting on how to get a new house.

Habitat for Humanity of the Sanford Area builds and renovates homes every year and gives them to residents who qualify. The meeting was to show those in attendance how the process starts.

Lakisha Salley, 37, came out because she was tired of renting and needed more space and wanted a place she could call her own.

"It's not my house and I'm tired of renting," she said. "I have six kids and two grandchildren. "We can't do what we want to do, can't decorate the way I want to live free."

Kimberly Rau, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of the Sanford Area, told the group they all have opportunity to be homeowners. She told the group what they needed to do and fielded questions from them as well.

Those who apply would have to fall into certain income guidelines, provide proof of income, credit report, the ability to pay closing costs and other requirements. Another requirement is that those who apply have to put in at least 100 hours of sweat equity.

That could be from working at the Habitat for Humanity store, help with the building of other Habitat homes and other duties.

“This takes a lot of hard work, but that shows me your willingness to partner,” she said.

She said the first person to get their paperwork in along with volunteering their hours may be the person selected for the home.

“We want them to come to the information so they understand what they are getting into,” she said.

Rau said the process will take about 18 months from turning in applications, screening them to selecting the applicant and working on the house.

“We will build based on what you need,” she said.

The organization has one house that is close to completion and eight lots ready for future construction. She said sweat equity, supporting the organization’s store and people volunteering their time is the way they can keep costs low, buy more land and pass the savings along to the new homeowners.

Ivy Youngblood, 36, hopes that she will be get the opportunity to be a homeowner.

“I would love to own a home,” she said. “It’s time for me to become a homeowner. I rent an apartment and that’s not enough for a mother of six.”

“I want to have my children outdoors instead of in the house playing video games,” she said.

Rau said the more who volunteer the better and is looking for surveyor to volunteer their time.

Those interested in helping Habitat for Humanity of the Sanford Area or applying for the chance of getting a habitat home call 919-774-7779.

