Clemson Habitat chapter tools up to build house

Annual project on Bowman Field signals start of homecoming

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CLEMSON — Energized by an August home-building trip to Guatemala, students in Clemson University's Habitat for Humanity chapter donned tool belts and picked up hammers Wednesday to start their traditional homecoming build.

This is the 16th year and 17th Habitat house being built on Clemson's Bowman Field as part of homecoming festivities, said the Rev. Chris Heavner, chapter advisor. In all, this will be the 29th house built by Clemson students for Pickens County families.

Houses are built on Bowman Field and later transported to permanent sites. The house will be under construction on Bowman Field through Homecoming on Oct. 31 and then will be moved to Quail Circle in Central, Heavner said.

The Clemson chapter won $20,000 for the week-long trip to build Habitat houses in Guatemala last year when it was named Campus Chapter of the Year by Habitat for Humanity International.

Old hands and new faces converged on Bowman Field to help construct the newest homecoming house Wednesday.

"Everyone seems to have so much fun doing it and it's for a good cause," said Clemson sophomore Alex Musarra, who was enjoying her first Habitat experience. "I'm learning a lot," the food science and nutrition major said.

The house was designed with energy-saving features, including shorter hot water runs to minimize heat loss, and sized to maximize the use of lumber and other materials and minimize waste, Heavner said.

New this year, the Bowman Field construction site will include a display designed by Clemson's Landscape Architecture Club that demonstrates use of native plants and other water-saving landscape practices.