Group to begin building Keowee home for injured vet

BY CARLOS GALARZA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Homes for Our Troops is set to begin construction of a Lake Keowee home for a retired Marine injured in Iraq.

Volunteers are preparing for a three-day "Build Brigade" at the construction site, a lot at 114 Maplewood Court in Seneca, beginning Jan. 14.

Homes for Our Troops, a nonprofit organization founded in 2004, has been building homes for veterans injured in the line of duty at no cost to them.

The Lake Keowee home, when completed, is to be presented to Jeffrey Pcola. The retired Marine suffered spinal and internal injuries, as well as a broken neck when the convoy in which his vehicle was driving came under enemy fire in Iraq on March 27, 2003.



Pcola

Pcola resides in Pennsylvania.

Tom Markovich of Markovich Homes is the project's general contractor.

Volunteers will hold an opening ceremony and raise the first wall.

Homes for Our Troops is putting out a call for framers, roofers and siding crews to join the effort. To see a list of materials that could be donated for the project go to www.homesforourtroops.org and follow the links to projects in South Carolina.

In conjunction with its sponsorship of Homes for Our Troops, Fujifilm's SeeHere.com is seeking budding photojournalists — ages 13 to 16 — to chronicle the project and compete for a $5,000 prize.

The deadline for entering the contest is Dec. 28. Interested candidates should go to www.seehere.com and click the "Kids for our Troops" link on the lower right hand corner of the page. Candidates can submit their entry by providing their contact information and answering the question: What does community service mean to you?

carlos@dailyjm.com | (864) 973-6685