

Community Spirit: NKBA Lends a Hand for Habitat For Humanity National Kitchen & Bath Association volunteers spent a day helping the Warren County Habitat for Humanity during the construction of a project house in New Jersey.



(From left to right, Chris Motzenbecker, Nicole Banfield and Bill Darcy.

On a beautiful Thursday afternoon this fall, the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) came to aid Warren County Habitat for Humanity on the construction of its 16th home, currently being built in Harmony Township, N.J. A dozen people came out to help, worked diligently throughout the day — and had a lot of fun doing so.

Bill Darcy, NKBA CEO (pictured at left), and the rest of his team generously helped out and made great progress on the new home.

“NKBA is proud to participate in this worthy project, providing winning kitchen and bathroom designs from our student competition, as well as lending a helping hand for part of the build,” said Darcy. “It’s heartwarming to see so many volunteers coming together to help others, and it’s a tremendous opportunity for our student designers to see their creations become a reality.”

As Melissa Flynn, operations manager for Warren County Habitat for Humanity, said, “It was great to see everyone working hand-in-hand with the partner family to achieve a common goal that was for something bigger than themselves.”

The partner family — mom Nicole Banfield and two children — hopes to move into their new home in the spring, when they will receive a hand-crafted housewarming gift — a storage unit made by NKBA staffers for the laundry room — at the house dedication ceremony. Overall, it was a joyous, fun-filled day that showcased the true spirit of community within the NKBA organization.

NKBA partnered with Warren County Habitat for Humanity for its annual Student Design Competition in 2017. Jasmine Dorman, a second-year student at Spokane Falls Community College in Spokane, Wash., and a member of NKBA’s Palouse Chapter, won first-place for her kitchen design, while Kelly Writer, a student in Arapahoe Community College’s kitchen and bath program in Littleton, Colo., took home honors for her bathroom design.

The competition required students to design a kitchen with seating for four to six people within a budget of \$16,000, and a bathroom with a budget of \$4,000. The students knew the parameters of the space, and needed to specify surfaces by Wilsonart — the sponsor of the competition — but beyond those requirements, the creativity and ingenuity was left up to the aspiring designers. Cabinets were donated by Green Forest Cabinetry.

The winning students will also join the team, along with celebrity designers and HGTV stars Jennifer Bertrand and Chip Wade, when they come to install the kitchen and bathroom.

With the generous help of NKBA, the partner family will have a beautiful, safe and functional kitchen and bathroom for years to come.



Warren County Habitat for Humanity is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, International and has served Warren County since 1999. An accredited 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, Habitat's mission: Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. You can learn more about WCHFH on www.warrenhabitat.org.

About the National Kitchen & Bath Association and the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show

The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) is the not-for-profit trade association that owns the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show® (KBIS), as part of Design & Construction Week® (DCW). With nearly 14,000 member companies representing tens of thousands of members in all segments of the kitchen and bath industry, the NKBA has educated and led the industry since the association's founding in 1963. The NKBA envisions a world where everyone enjoys safe, beautiful and functional kitchen and bath spaces. The mission of the NKBA is to inspire, lead and empower the kitchen and bath industry through the creations of certifications, marketplaces and networks. For more information, visit NKBA.org or call 1-800-THE-NKBA (843-6522). NKBA® and KBIS® are registered trademarks of the National Kitchen & Bath Association.