

## ONU Students Make a Difference at Habitat for Humanity



*Volunteering at the ReStore:  
Changing Lives and Making  
Connections*

What can happen when you come to volunteer at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lima? Well, here is a story about three volunteers:

Ohio Northern University has a Habitat for Humanity Student Chapter that has partnered with the Lima Area Habitat for Humanity. On the week before classes started, two Habitat officers gathered almost 50 ONU students to give generously of their time and volunteer at the ReStore, as well as with our Habitat Repair Program. These students came to work Monday-Friday, August 13-17 for 6 hours every day.

The two ONU Habitat Chapter Officers are Megan Torbeck (Workday Coordinator) and Jillian Sugden (Fundraising Chair). They are both sophomores majoring in Pharmacy and Business, respectively. The two officers met a year ago when they, as first year students, came to volunteer at the ReStore. At Habitat for Humanity they started what developed into a strong friendship together with a third friend, Hannah Smith, also a sophomore majoring in Business Management and Law. Two of them now room together and the other is just down the hall. You can see the close bond they have as they interact with each other.

All three see the volunteer process as a way to make a difference. Jillian commented that she “loves volunteering and helping people. Right now time is easier to give when other resources aren’t as plentiful.” Megan talked about the joy of seeing a tangible difference. She loved, for example, how a piece of furniture that she helped build was put on the showroom floor and then sold the very next day. And Hannah stated how “it is a blessing to see all the ONU students partner together.”

Interestingly, three first year students commented how glad they were to be volunteering at the ReStore. Not only is the work helpful to those in need, but now they know other students and have made new friends. And the cycle continues.

So, volunteers at Habitat do change the lives of people needing decent, affordable homes. For example, volunteering at the ReStore helps raise fund that then go to help build a new home. But the lives of the volunteers are changed as well, creating a better and broader community. It has been a joy to see the work of these wonderful young people! Their energy, commitment to their work, polite attitude and generous gift of time and effort has been greatly appreciated. They really changed the ReStore (and the people) in just one short week.

