

## Frustration

The trip to Rushford, MN the week of November 17<sup>th</sup> marks my fourth work camp experience. I have noticed on every trip that a common theme ends up running through the week. This trip was no different. From the title of this article it should be easy to guess the theme of this particular week.....FRUSTRATION! Our team experienced all types throughout the week.

It started on Monday morning when the windows didn't show up. This meant a crew couldn't close up the house they were working on and get some portable heat going. That delay initiated the frustration at trying to keep warm while working in temperatures that ranged from 6 to 30 degrees. To further compound matters, work completed during the week needed to be reworked due to not meeting MN code. Therefore, siding had to be pulled down and windows needed to be reset to make certain they passed inspections. How very frustrating!!

The group of volunteers I was working with had a totally different set of circumstances. Our team was finishing drywall. We had the benefit of heat at this site to hurry along the process. When I say heat, I mean, HEAT! After dressing for the conditions outside, we arrived to 80-90 degrees indoors. The job of sanding off drywall compound that was poorly applied is frustrating enough; add to that the dust and heat and we sometimes wished for an outside job. During the week we all experienced frustrations like learning a new skill, running a piece of machinery that we were unfamiliar with, reading confusing blueprints or reaching local contractors for help.

So you may wonder why we put ourselves through all this frustration. It only takes one visit from a displaced family to see why we do it. Imagine *their* frustration at watching their home inundated by water? Imagine *their* frustration at living in a FEMA trailer for months and months on end? Imagine not having a place to call home? Our frustration during one short week can in no way compare to the families we are helping.

In addition, we have the joy of spending quality time with our fellow church members. We learned to know them in a way you can never achieve sitting next to them in a pew. We met wonderful camp leaders who coordinate the ever changing flow of work and volunteers. We made new friends from a far away town and from churches on the other side of our state. So, *frustration* aside; that is why we do it.

Submitted by: Lucy Maghan

Work camp members: George Snavely, Galen Kopp, Herb High, Walt Moyer, Luke Muston, Al Sollenberger plus 10 members of the Western PA. District.  
Leaders: Jim & Lois Kime (Manheim), Cliff & Arlene Kindy (IN)