

# Shaw Family Housing volunteers give back to Sumter community



PHOTOS BY TREVOR BAUKNIGHT / THE SUMTER ITEM

From left, Lauren Davis, Micha Ambrose and Herb Simmons cut vinyl siding for one of the two Sumter Habitat For Humanity homes going up in the Fuller Gardens neighborhood off Red Bay Road. The three were representing Shaw Family Housing, which oversees housing at Shaw Air Force Base, taking advantage of the opportunity to volunteer on Wednesday.

## 2 new Habitat for Humanity homes being finished

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GPS instructions for finding Habitat Drive, which winds through Fuller Gardens, a neighborhood of 46 homes built by Sumter Habitat For Humanity, direct visitors to a pitted gravel emergency exit beyond the end of the street that connects to Boulevard Road. The attractive main entrance off Red Bay Road, at the other end of the street, is more befitting of the tidy row of homes, presently getting two new additions.

The homes are Sumter Habitat for Humanity's 120th and 121st since the organization's inception 30 years ago, according to construction leader Bob Brown, and Wednesday's group volunteer day was a bustle of activity as volunteers from Shaw Family Housing came out to pitch in and give back to the community.

According to Kiara Davis, resident relations specialist for Shaw Family Housing, every member of her team came out as part of a corporate initiative called Hunt Helping Hands Day, sponsored by Hunt Companies, a military contractor

that handles base housing, to install vinyl siding and do whatever needed to be done as the homes near completion. Sumter Habitat for Humanity hopes to have families moved into both homes by December, according to a news release from Shaw Family Housing.

"It's corporate-wide," said Davis, who helps plan volunteer efforts as part of her duties. "All of our military communities pick a certain day to go and help out in our local community. This year, we decided to do Habitat for Humanity so we could get out and get our hands dirty. We love that they have a corporate day so we could bring all of our team out and get everybody in one accord.

"It's a day when we can shut down the whole office and all of our operations and come out and do community service," she said. "It's giving back. It's voluntary, and the whole team came out to give their time."

Davis said Wednesday's volunteer day was typical of the things her company does to foster good relationships between



Shaw Family Housing maintenance technician Quinton Medina installs vinyl siding trimwork on one of the two new Sumter Habitat For Humanity houses going up in the Fuller Gardens neighborhood off Red Bay Road.

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