

New Haven Register

Hike-4-Humanity event will help Habitat rehab Hamden farmhouse

Thursday, September 29, 2011

By Brittany Montague
Special to the Register

HAMDEN — Sleeping Giant Build will hold a Hike-4-Humanity Saturday to raise money to help refurbish the old Maselli farmhouse on Gilbert Avenue.

Habitat for Humanity gives low-income families the chance to own their own homes, and Sleeping Giant Build assists Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven in its building projects.

Habitat of Greater New Haven recently purchased the old farmhouse from the town for \$15,000.

Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the foot of castle trail at Sleeping Giant State Park. The hike will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. up Tower Trail. The public is encouraged to come hike, as teams or alone.

After the hike, awards will be given to the top three fundraising teams. The picnic area will be open during the hike, and people can bring food.

"I feel strongly about volunteering at Habitat because it is not a giveaway program," said hike organizer Mike Healy, a member of Sleeping Giant Build. "We are taking a vacant lot or unwanted piece of property in our local community and converting it into a home for some family."

The family that is chosen to live in a Habitat home also has to work to build the home, Healy said.

"In fact they have a 400-hour commitment to do so — we call it 'sweat equity.' In the end, they do not have a free house. They buy it from Habitat and have to pay a mortgage," said Healy. "It is a zero interest mortgage and much lower than a typical mortgage, but I think that is what makes Habitat so satisfying. It is really more about neighbors helping neighbors," said Healy.

Brittany Montague is a Register intern.

URL: <http://www.newhavenregister.com/articles/2011/09/29/news/metro/doc4e85298a0942c039717293.prt>

© 2011 nhregister.com, a **Journal Register** Property