

Voices unite for extreme homebuilding effort

By Natasha Carter
Staff writer

FELLSMERE - When Pamela Jefferson and Martha Rainey sat in their dilapidated homes on State Street in Fellsmere they had no idea how generous the community around them was.

They will soon receive new homes, thanks to a health department program, community members and a community choir.

The Indian River County Health Department's Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence program started in early August, addressing the problems of the predominately black neighborhood.

Now, One Voice an Indian River Countywide Choir will sing praises to raise money for little things the families will need.

"We hope the money can help with building materials and the leftover money can go towards groceries for each family or medical expenses," said Allyson Childress, co-coordinator for the Extreme Challenge Gospel Fest.

Mrs. Jefferson 40, lived in a 19- year -old home, which was poorly constructed and had received damage from hurricanes. Mrs. Rainey 63, a lifelong Fellsmere resident lived in a mobile home that had also seen better days.

Community members have always jumped in to lend a helping hand, but the county stepped in and demolished both homes and plan to rebuild them in one day on Nov. 10.

Regatta Homes, along with many other donors, will be assisting in the one-day home build known as the Extreme Challenge.

One Voice, a countywide choir will be hosting the Extreme Challenge Gospel Fest to raise money for the forgotten things.

The choir is about a year old and consists of people throughout Indian River County regardless of denomination.

"We bring a diversified group together. When things of this nature come up we come together and represent the county," said Maya Ingram, coordinator of the Extreme Challenge Gospel Fest.

"We've invited groups to participate in and outside the county. Dance groups, duets and choirs can all come to support these families in helping them get the things needed," Mrs. Ingram said.

Currently, five groups have confirmed and Mrs. Ingram is expecting about eight groups to participate in two to three hours of singing.

"The sky is the limit. The more the better," she said.

"Hopefully we will be able to branch out and help other communities in the future. For this event, I want people to come out and see the love of God in our people," Mrs. Childress said.

"Always when the spirit of the Lord is there, it is great. The community will be effected by the word of God," Mrs. Ingram said.

The choir has only two more rehearsals, but directors, sound technicians and singers are still welcomed.

The rehearsals will be Friday, Oct. 26 at Wabasso Church of God on 8710 64th Ave., Wabasso and Friday, Nov. 2 at New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal at 1056 Lincoln St., Fellsmere. Both rehearsals will be at 7 p.m.

The Extreme Gospel Fest will take place on Sat., Nov. 3 at 3 p.m.