

EKU Homeland Security's Honor Society (Order of the Sword and Shield) Volunteer at Madison County Habitat for Humanity Construction Site



It was wet, rainy, and early, but that did not stop Eastern's Homeland Security Honor Society students from heading out into the morning to help build Habitat for Humanity's latest addition to the Madison Co. Community. The Order of the Sword and Shield (OSS) consists of the top academic performers from the homeland security program, whether students are pursuing a bachelor's, minor, or certificate. While it is their academic rigor that brings them together- the most importantly shared characteristic is a drive to better their community.

On this particular April day, community and work was shared between the volunteers hoping to make a difference in the lives of this family. Jacob Peoples, OSS vice president, stated that, "Although the individual effort on the house was small, the collective effect was significant". By the end of their shift, the OSS crew had seen the raising of three exterior walls, as well as the majority of the interior walls. Braces were being removed as the home was finally beginning to be able to support itself.

OSS Secretary, Christina Burns, reflected that she was excited to have learned a new skill through the construction, but even more importantly, she was amazed by, "Everyone's eagerness to serve a family they may have never met before." It was this sense of community and response that they will carry with them into their homeland security careers.