Northern Colorado Home Builders Association Foundation builds bed frames to donate to NoCo kids in need

The charitable arm of the NOCO HBA spent Thursday building bed frames to be donated



LOVELAND, CO – Aug. 12, 2021: Jane Spencer, treasurer for the Northern Colorado Home Builders Association Foundation as well as a local RE/MAX agent, works on several pieces of wood during a bed building project in north Loveland Aug. 12, 2021. The NOCO HBA Foundation and several local volunteers put together bed frames to be donated to those in need across northern Colorado. (Austin Fleskes / Loveland Reporter-Herald)

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In north Loveland Thursday afternoon, one could hear the sounds of music playing from underneath the hum of saws, drills and sanders as the Northern Colorado Home Builders Association Foundation and several local volunteers spent the morning preparing bed frames to be constructed and donated to those in need.

The NOCO HBA Foundation is considered the "charitable arm" of the association and operates as a nonprofit to help those in need.

Kristie Schoellerman, chair of the foundation's board, said while the foundation has been around for many years it received new energy last November, launching new projects across the area.

She said that in learning about the need for beds for many in the county, the board discussed the idea of making and donating bed frames along with mattresses, pillows and sheets to those who need them. She said board members agreed the idea was a "slam dunk."

"It just seemed natural that a group of builders would build something," she said Thursday morning.

The foundation then got in touch with the Loveland chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a national organization of volunteers dedicated to "building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need," according to their website.

Ray Bradford, co-president of the Loveland chapter, says they work across northern Colorado to supply beds to those who need them through an online application system. The beds are then brought to the home and constructed from prepared pieces on site.

"It is an unseen need," he said. "Many kids can go about their day with everything else met and have no place to sleep, have no real place to call their own."



LOVELAND, CO – Aug. 12, 2021: Shannon McDermott of Baessler Homes, left, and Northern Colorado House Builder Association Foundation board member Shellie Trierweiler, right, work on pieces of wood during a bed building project in north Loveland Aug. 12, 2021. Bed frame construction took place throughout the morning of Aug. 12, with volunteers working in different teams. (Austin Fleskes / Loveland Reporter-Herald)

After several months of planning, fundraising and purchasing, the foundation got together Thursday morning to put together the bed frames. Volunteers from across Northern Colorado met in a parking lot donated by a Loveland business to put together the bed frames to be given away.

Volunteers spent the afternoon milling around an impromptu work-space, providing space for saws to cut wood into pieces, place them all together, stain them and hang them to dry.

Deb Alles, a volunteer from south Fort Collins, said she has volunteered a lot throughout her life.

"Being involved in the community is a priority," she said.

Several HBA and HBA foundation members were also out Thursday morning to help prepare beds.

"It's always important to give back to our community," said Cassy Torres, board chair for the NOCO HBA. "And that is the goal here."

Jane Spencer, treasurer for the foundation as well as local RE/MAX agent said it is important for the foundation to give back to the community in a meaningful way."

Schoellerman said that while they had planned to build 50 bed frames, they were on track to build around 70. She said the entire plan is something that could make a deep difference in the community.

"We all agreed as a group that this was a really important thing," Schoellerman said.

"This helps fill not only a bed, but for a lot of these kids it gives them their own personal space they can be safe in," Bradford said.