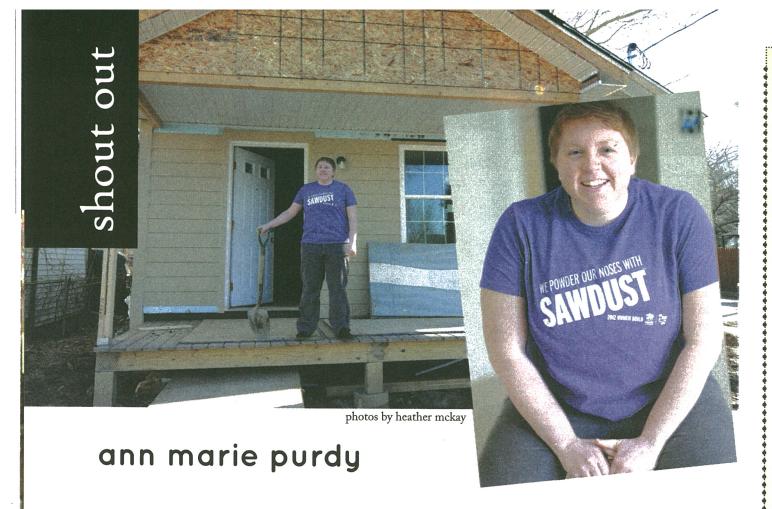


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I know as a non-profit sometimes we get a little biased about our favorite volunteers, but I wanted to share with you one of my favorites, Ann Marie Purdy.

Ann Marie has been a Habitat volunteer since she was a student at SUNY Brockport. The South Wedge homeowner is part of our Women Build program and for the past three years has helped raise \$75,000, along with other Rochester women, to build a house with a low-income family. She then (along with her Women Build teammates) comes out to BUILD the house - swinging a

hammer, placing concrete, and even getting up on that roof to lay shingles. Ann Marie literally helps build neighborhoods in areas of our city that aren't as strong and stable as the South Wedge but have the potential to be someday.

Ann Marie has done this alongside her mother, Donna Bour-Purdy, which is extra special; seeing a mother daughter team come out to support a family working to achieve the American Dream. Habitat families work 450 hours of sweat-equity as down payment and they pay a zero-interest

mortgage on their home - fundraisers and volunteers like Ann Marie make those opportunities possible.

Ann Marie's work with the Women Build program is inspiring, empowering other women to break the cycle of poverty by providing a "hand up, not a hand out" right here in Rochester one family, one home, one neighborhood at a time. She's pretty darn awesome. - Deanna Varble / Habitat for Humanity

thanks dave!

I want to publicly thank Dave Mc-Bride, the owner of the Stanley Steemer on South Ave for being a good business neighbor to South Wedge homeowners.

My husband and I live on Gregory St, and our backyard backs up to the side of the Stanley Steemer building.

Dave took down a piece of fencing on his property, because it was broken and inadvertently gave the public access to our backyards. My neighbors and my husband and I have seen an uptick in trespassers (and had 2 cars broken into that were parked behind our houses, even though we both have motion-detector lights on our houses.)

I called Dave this week to ask him if he could put that piece of fencing back up; he called me back within 20 minutes and had the fence back up within hours (even though it was incredibly cold out yesterday.)

He was incredibly responsive and friendly. Thanks Dave! - *Karen Vitale*

Want to give a SHOUT OUT to someone in the neighborhood who you think deserves it? Send your "shouts" to editor@southwedge.com



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