

## Service Project – Cisco and NWN Corporation



On April 22, 2009, the eastern North Carolina sales teams for NWN Corporation and Cisco Systems volunteered service hours at the Habitat for Humanity construction project at Falcone Pointe in Cary, North Carolina. Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian Housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. These goals are accomplished by inviting people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. The NWN and Cisco teams found it very rewarding to participate in this project. “I was very pleased to give my time to help build a community of hope and one with affordable mortgages,” said Shannon Ludwig, Eastern North Carolina Sales Manager for NWN Corporation. “It doesn’t involve a lot of skill, just time and dedication,” said Molly Hildebrandt, Eastern North Carolina Senior Account Executive for NWN.

Falcone Pointe will be a community consisting of seven town homes in Cary, North Carolina. The construction project broke ground in late January 2009 and has an expected completion date sometime in July 2009. Falcone Pointe’s team leader, Hugh Johnson, is a member of AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for the National and Community Services. They provide opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. Hugh stated, “Falcone Pointe is a community that participates in the Habitat home ownership program which includes hands-on “sweat equity” construction. Home ownership for this community requires 250 “sweat equity” hours which are hours given by one of the future home owners to their future home or another home.” In addition future home owners for this community need to have good credit, cannot have owned a home in the last three years, and have shown a significant need. These town homes require a down payment of \$1,200.00 and the homeowners pays on a no interest mortgage for 20 years.



The NWN and Cisco teams were fortunate enough to work with one of the future home owners, Anthony Jenkins, located in the picture to the left – center red shirt. Anthony suffered a traumatic brain injury resulting from a car accident in 1998. After years of rehabilitation, he was recommended to move out of community living to living on his own. He is very excited and hopes to move into his new home sometime in August, 2009. Anthony is currently employed at the YMCA and he continues to put “sweat equity” hours into his future home when he isn’t working. He enjoys having input as to what his future home will look like.

“It’s great having both NWN and Cisco working together as a team to give back to the community,” says Steve Fitzhenry, NWN Regional Vice President NC East. The day was so rewarding and the stories from the sales team are so inspiring that many other NWN employees want to participate in an event like this in the future. With the overwhelming positive response to this project, NWN plans to participate in more Habitat for Humanity projects.