

# B'town family gets new Habitat home

[BY GREG OLSON](#)

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Despite cloudy skies, Sunday was a bright day in the life of Brigitte Boyce of Beardstown.

After a brief ceremony, Boyce and her daughters, Misty Chamberlain and Erica Boyce, moved into their recently completed Habitat for Humanity home at the corner of Second and Clay streets in Beardstown.

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“It’s my dream come true,” Boyce said. “It’s like winning the house lottery. It’s mine and nobody can tell me I have to move out.”

The one-story, three-bedroom home took about a year to complete, according to Walt Stephenson of Littleton, president of Habitat for Humanity of Cass and Schuyler Counties.

“We build high-quality homes,” Stephenson said. “Probably over the past year about 100 volunteers and

about 20 professionals worked on the house,” which has vinyl siding and is heated by natural gas and cooled by a central air-conditioning system.

The walls of the home were assembled by prisoners at the Western Illinois Correctional Center in Mount Sterling and erected at the home site in one day.

The Boyce home is the third built by the Habitat for Humanity chapter in Cass and Schuyler counties. The first house was built at Sixth and Monroe streets in Beardstown in 2005 and the second dwelling was completed in 2007 on East Avenue Court in Rushville.

“We’re trying to help people who need housing, and we’re very lucky we’re able to help people,” said Brad Heaton of Rushville, vice president of the Cass and Schuyler chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Stephenson added that the chapter welcomes more workers. “We constantly need more volunteers,” he said. “We need people to serve on the board of directors and on the family selection committee.”

And Boyce said she is grateful the organization chose her. She spent more than 400 hours working on her new home and even got to make some construction decisions.

“It’s the way I wanted it,” Boyce said. Boyce is buying the house from Habitat for Humanity at a price that includes no profit and an interest-free mortgage.

About 35 people attended the ceremony dedicating the home. During the ceremony, Boyce received a Bible, three donated quilts, as well as the keys to her new house.