

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **FHSU Students Head to Louisiana to Help Build a Home**

Hays, KS – Giving up part of their winter break, 21 students and Chandra Daffer, faculty sponsor, left the campus of Fort Hays State University Sunday, January 3 to travel to Slidell, LA. Collegiate volunteers will participate in Alternative Winter Break by working with Habitat for Humanity at St. Tammany West to build homes for families.

Hosted by FHSU's Tigers in Service, students will spend three days working to build two homes from the foundation up as well as help restock shelves in the Restore facility. "We are definitely learning the meaning of teamwork here," said Amanda Herrman, director of Tigers in Service, after spending her first day hammering boards together to frame the exterior walls. "We have a great group and are learning tons of new skills," Herrman stated.

The two homes they are currently working on have not been assigned to families at this time. Once a family is assigned to the home, they must complete many volunteer hours working on their home or another's home in addition to taking financial classes and a course on home maintenance. "Since Habitat has been in this area, crime has gone down 53%," stated Jillian Tatum, college volunteer and junior from Burden, KS. "Home recipients have a greater appreciation for the area since they have invested their own time and labor into it right along side the volunteers."

While in Slidell students are staying at Peace Lutheran Church. Tigers in Service is one of many groups that will benefit from the church's new facility. "It's great to see the appreciation that the church members have for our service," stated Chandra Daffer, director of Center for Student Involvement, "It's also nice to have a meal prepared after a hard days work." Daffer volunteered to accompany the students on the trip, giving up part of her break as well.

Students will return to Hays January 9 in time to start classes next week. Lodging during travel is being provided by St. Matthew's church in Longview, TX.

For more information about Tigers in Service, contact Chantelle Arnold at [www.fhsu.edu/tigersinservice](http://www.fhsu.edu/tigersinservice) or 785-628-5592.

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