

Students Use Fall Break to Give Back

Instead of spending fall break catching up on sleep, 37 **Butler University** students traveled eight hours to Neon, Ky. to do community service work with H.O.M.E.S. Inc., as part of Fall Alternative Break (FAB). H.O.M.E.S., which is an acronym for Housing Oriented Ministries Established for Service, works to rebuild homes in impoverished communities.

While FAB participants have been going to Neon for more than 10 years, the projects have been different every time. On this particular trip, students split into groups and worked an average of eight hours a day building roofs and wheelchair ramps, and doing landscaping.

"It was nice to break into groups because we got to work on a smaller level and complete a lot of different projects at once," FAB Co-President Jacqui Mahuren said.

Co-President Katy Kaesebier said the group was able to interact with the community and meet some of the residents of the homes they helped renovate.

"One day we were building one of the ramps and the guy came out and told us his life story," Kaesebier said. "He sat down right next to us and told us all about the house he lived in."

Mahuren said in comparison with previous years, this group of students was much more close-knit. She attributed the closeness to intense preparation meetings and activities before the trip.

"By the time we were there, everyone knew each other and was having a good time," Mahuren said. "I really liked how people interacted."

The students were also able to go on hikes and play games. And of course, there was still time for homework.