

LOCAL NEWS 

## Olympic medalist builds homes in Oakland

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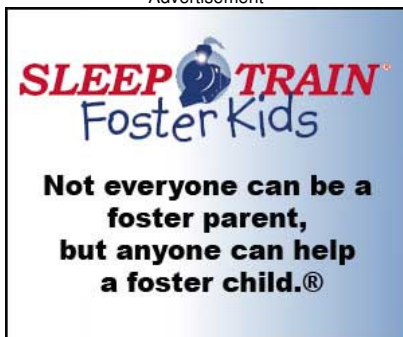
**OAKLAND, CA -- Julie Foudy, an Olympic gold medalist and former captain of the U.S. women's soccer team, was in Oakland Thursday to help build affordable homes for low-income East Bay families.**

For the second summer in a row, Foudy brought 20 girls enrolled in her Sports Leadership Academy to Oakland to help build homes with Habitat for Humanity East Bay during a special "Women Build" event.

This year marks Habitat for Humanity East Bay's 20th anniversary, the completion of its 200th home, and the start of a campaign to build another 200 homes in five years.

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Lowe's Home Improvement is the national underwriter of the Habitat for Humanity Women Build program and will help launch that campaign by sponsoring the construction of a home at the 54-home development on Edes Avenue.

Event organizers said the home will be built almost entirely by women volunteers.

Lowe's previously sponsored a Women Build home in Livermore in 2005 at the 22-home Freeda Court development.

More than 150 girls from 10 states, who are between the ages of 12 and 18, attend Foudy's Sports Leadership Academy at St. Mary's College in Moraga.

The academy teaches girls leadership skills on the sports field, in the school, and in the community.

Habitat for Humanity East Bay was founded in 1988 as an independent affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Its mission is to create homeownership opportunities for families with limited incomes by building sustainable housing and revitalizing neighborhoods.

Foudy recently retired as captain of the U.S. women's national soccer team, having served as team captain for 13 of her 18 years on the team.

She participated in all four Women's World Cups and three Olympics for the U.S. team.

Foudy is a two-time World Cup champion and she is also a 1996 Olympic gold medalist, a 2000 Olympic silver medalist and 2004 Olympic gold medalist.

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