

76-year-old Habitat for Humanity volunteer calling it quits

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Hundreds of volunteers helped in the Amazing Blitz. We met one in particular who has been doing this for more than 14 years.

But he has decided it's time to take things a bit easier.

"I got into it rather than my wife doing it. My wife plays piano and her congregation was doing this and she didn't want to do it so I did it for her. It was just a matter of keeping peace at home," Pat Eckelberry said.

"I've been doing it almost every year since '96. I did miss a couple years, but I've been doing Habitat work in some way since 1996," Eckelberry said.

"Seems like we're always working in the heat. We've worked in Covington, Louisiana. We've worked in Wichita, and now here and it really wears on you and makes it harder to continue the hour after hour of work," Eckelberry said.

"I feel this will be my last blitz build. I'm 76 and I'm the oldest person in this group. That was one of my goals: to keep working until I'm the oldest person. It will be my last build like this where we're working very heavily for a period of 8 days," Eckelberry said.

"At 76 I feel it a lot more than I did at 1996. It takes me a few days after I get home before I feel like doing any sort of activity," Eckelberry said.

"He's quiet, he gets in there and he gets a job and stays there all day. Not that it takes him all day to a job but he stays there 'til it's done," Bill Bauck said.

"It's been very important to me. It's not just the work but the friends that you meet and the other people that are doing it. The people who do this and donate their time, they're good people," Eckelberry said.

"I think it's time to quit while I can still contribute something. It's very rewarding and building houses for people and participating. It is a lot of fun doing this," Eckelberry said.



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