

# I am a Solid Rock Carpenter



Name	Keith	Wally	Matt
Age	53	48	30s
Day job	Insurance Agent	Salesman	I work at a computer all day and answer phones, working with our consultant with a not for profit association.
Carpentry experience	Two summers as a carpenter's helper during college	I have installed ceramic tile in several rooms in my home.	I did carpentry for about 3 months after I graduated High School - 20 years ago.
Why I volunteered for SRC duty	Desire to be the hands and feet	I thought it would be a fun way to give a little of my time and as I figured get more back in return.	I thought it would be a fun time and be able to help out those who need it.
My favorite work assignment	Putting up walls and setting trusses	Filling Mario's tool belt with all my left over nails at the end of each day.	I like to roof the house
Defining moment as a SRC	Presenting the house key to the homeowner	Working with my kids, ages 10, 9, and 7, at Framing Days and seeing them hammering nails with such enthusiasm.	On the last day of the trip the owner of the house we were building came by, listening to her story and seeing the joy in her eyes made it all worth while. I'll be back.
Biggest stretch assignment	Learning to use power tools that I hadn't used before: nail gun, Sawzall; getting my roof legs back	Trying to sleep with the plethora of snoring from 30 of my new best buddies.	
Favorite SRC food	Po Boys	Any of Marlyne's desserts.	Scott's Grits

Name	Brad	Leah	Steve
Age	40	21	Almost 50
Day job	Responsible for all assets exceeding a set amount for a not for profit organization.	College student	I talk on the phone and push papers
Carpentry experience	I built my first fort (with wood and no sofa cushions) behind my parent's house.	I've volunteered with Habitat for Humanity before	I've tried a lot of small projects around the house but I don't have any official training
Why I volunteered for SRC duty	For many years, I've wanted to volunteer for a Habitat for Humanity project. I just never took the initiative. I was always busy and thought I did not have anything to offer. I really wish I had volunteered many years ago.	The opportunity arose to spend my spring break doing something that mattered, something that made a difference to other people. A lot of people that week thanked our group for "sacrificing" our vacation, but I considered it an investment- in others and in myself.	I love to build things but I need supervision and training
My favorite work assignment	What I really like is being assigned a task that I have never done before.	Siding holds a special place in my heart, but I have a new favorite: (and new skill!) dry-walling, and of course I love anything that lets me use a power-tool. ☺	Walking the top of the walls to position the roof trusses
Defining moment	On my first trip, we worked on two houses in	Our group was at the Winn-Dixie picking	Driving away from our first project knowing

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as a SRC	Farrell, Mississippi. There were two homes next to our worksite and they were in appalling condition. The roofs had holes, some of the windows did not have any glass, and both homes had dirt floors. As the work began, I noticed an older lady was spending a lot of time at the worksite. As I observed this woman, I found she spent her time picking up debris and throwing it into a nearby dumpster. As I watched this frail looking woman, I learned something about myself. In the past, when asked, what can I do to help? I wrote a check. Something I learned from my father. Now I realize that I can do more than write a check.	up some snacks. We were dirty, dusty, and gross- we had spent the morning gutting houses and looked like it. An elderly man came up to us, totally out of the blue, and thanked us for coming down to help. He shook each of our hands and said "Thank you. We could never recover without you."	that there was nothing there when we started
Biggest stretch assignment	This last year, I spent the better part of one afternoon in the crawlspace of the one of the homes. Two other volunteers and I worked on fixing a problem with the floor trusses and the main support beam. To be honest, I really thought I was in over my head, no joke intended. In the end, it took the three of us several hours on our knees to get the problem fixed. While I have bad knees that hurt with little provocation, they did not bother me that day.	Outdoor showers	Supervising a roofing crew of 10
Favorite SRC food	After a long day at the worksite, everything looks good. Well, maybe not green beans and mushrooms.	Homemade biscuits and gravy	Anything that Marlyne makes

Name	Andy	Louise	Will
Age	48	Am I really 46?	18
Day job	Architect	By day, I work with professional and trade associations. Around the clock, I'm Mom to three girls.	Student/lifeguard
Carpentry experience	Worked one college summer as a framing carpenter. Home improvement on multiple homes.	Laborer for my "Handy Man" husband and I watch home improvement shows on TV.	I've helped build houses in Mexico
Why I volunteered for SRC duty	I wanted to be a part of what sounded like a great experience and an opportunity to help	I've always wanted to do something like this but didn't know how to get involved	Because my dad and uncles were doing it and I wanted to help people in New Orleans after

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	people in a tangible way. It was a far greater experience than I thought possible.	and I was afraid that physically I wouldn't be able to keep up. The opportunity to join in with the SRC's came along and I decided the time was right. Now, I'm hooked!	seeing the aftermath of Katrina.
My favorite work assignment	Setting the roof trusses	Mixing concrete!	Working with the nailgun putting up the walls.
Defining moment as a SRC	Having the future homeowner give me and all of the others the most remarkable, passionate and grateful hug imaginable. I will never forget that moment.	Touring the devastation in the 9 <sup>th</sup> Ward. That's why we do it.	Going through the 9 <sup>th</sup> ward and seeing all the devastation
Biggest stretch assignment	Power nailing roof sheathing at the edge of the roof.	Mixing concrete!	Sleeping through all the snoring
Favorite SRC food	Everything tastes great especially after a day of hard work	French Toast	The spaghetti and meatballs

Name	Willy	Jill	Anna
Age	50s	14	26
Day job	Consultant	Student	Human Resources and Immigration. I help current and future employees obtain work authorization (visas) and apply for their green card.
Carpentry experience	Absolutely none. I'm in decent shape (round IS a shape!) so I knew I could make up in enthusiasm what I lacked in skill or talent. It's hard work, but I have learned a great deal and my confidence about the work grows EVERY day we are on a site.	Very little, I helped when I was needed	My dad showed me how to do some things throughout my childhood. I guess he still shows me how to do things!
Why I volunteered for SRC duty	There's a bit of adventure involved in going to these sites in some really poor areas and seeing how we can make a difference. Plus the fellows that have organized this over the last several years I have the greatest respect for them and their organizational skills, even though I know they have been making it up as they go along!	My dad wanted to go down to New Orleans after Katrina, and I decided that I would want to go with.	It's always been something I wanted to do; I thought it would be a good bonding experience with my dad; I was able to take time off work.
My favorite work assignment	Every day has been a little different and I have enjoyed them all. Perhaps it's the one's where you look at a pile of wood and they tell you we are going to do something you can't even envision how we'll do that – and by the	I like to tear down drywall	I like putting on the termite shields and securing the hurricane strips.

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	end of the day – there it is.		
Defining moment as a SRC	In Mississippi one year, the local Habitat supporters hosted a pitch-in dinner at a black church. The food was wonderful – I had never had hog maul before (don't ask) and the people were so warm and embracing. The a cappella hymns they chose to sing were so beautiful and inspiring. I also met someone who played with Muddy Waters!	The first trip, I was walking through a house that had not been cleaned out yet. When I saw that everything that one person owned was destroyed, it made me think how these things on earth are temporary and we should have eternal faith in God.	Discovering muscles in my forearms that I never knew I had. On a more sentimental note: It was incredible to meet other SRC-ers as strangers and really connect over a matter of days.
Biggest stretch assignment	Working on roofs. I am not that comfortable with heights and standing on 2X4's 20+ feet in the air or leaning over shingling a roof. It's amazing how you can adapt and grow confident. You are never asked or prodded to do something you are NOT comfortable with.	Working for Habitat, because I was unable to do that much, because I was not supposed to be at the worksite because I was too young	The task to lift the first roof truss with the plywood on it from the ground to the top of the house.
Favorite SRC food	LUNCH – I don't care what it is, I am usually ready to take a break so that's just as important. They do feed you well.	Biscuits and Gravy	Jambalaya
	It isn't easy but jump in a do what you can – everyone and everything helps. Make the leap!	Going into the French Quarters for my first time ever. And eating muffalettas and beignets.	

Name	Kevin	Stephen	Phyllis
Age	47	17	53
Day job	Business Consultant	Student	“Jobs In Jobs” Previously worked in footwear business in design and product development.
Carpentry experience	Helped my Dad build some sheds for cattle and remodeled our kitchen when I was a kid. Have done some remodeling and handyman work on our current house.	Helped out on a Kentucky missions trip and helped my dad around the house.	No actual hands-on experience. I “watched” my own house being built years ago and was intrigued by the process.
Why I volunteered for SRC duty	My wife and I went to help on Framing Days and really felt called to volunteer to go to Slidell and help finish them off.	Because the people are great to spend time with and it's nice to help people out. Most rewarding experience of my life!	The first year, family members were going so I thought I would tag along. It was such a good experience that the second year I took along some nieces so they could share in it as well.
My favorite work assignment	Building gable ladders with my wife. (I had no idea what a gable ladder was before we were ‘volunteered’ for the job).	Building a roof, I actually got to stand on the wooden frame it was one of the most interesting experiences of my life	Gutting was pretty interesting.
Defining moment	Seeing the tears of joy of a future homeowner	Lots but it boils down to two. One was the	Seeing a statue, at St Louis Cathedral in the

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as a SRC	on one of the Habitat houses.	v-show at the end of the week seeing everyone come together and bond, then working for a woman named Claudia and seeing her open up to us as the week progressed, to the point were she was stuffing our faces with candy and thank you's.	French Quarter, of the Lord Jesus with His arms outstretched. What a picture of Jesus inviting the people of New Orleans to come to Him! And He invites us also - to serve Him by serving them.
Biggest stretch assignment	Having to sleep in a room of snoring men ☺.	Waking up at 6 in the morning everything else is downhill from their.	(as one <i>hopelessly helpless</i> in the kitchen) Trying not to do too much damage to the evening meal while on kitchen duty.
Favorite SRC food	Anything Marlyne (our resident cook on the trip we went on) makes.	Biscuits and gravy	Everything tastes good after a "hard" days work.....and the Brady's cooking is always wonderful.

Name	Patsy	Jim	Erin
Age	53	42	34
Day job	Substitute teacher	Banker	Unemployed
Carpentry experience	1 week with Solid Rock Carpenters!	Does hanging pictures count?	I was purely an observer of the many home improvement projects my dad used to do.
Why I volunteered for SRC duty	It was haunting me that Katrina victims needed so much more help. I needed to do my part.	A desire to do more to help those truly in need, and to step out of the comfort zone of just providing for my family and my local community.	A friend invited me to go on the trip to Slidell. He told me it would be a great experience, but I totally underestimated the impact it would have on me.
My favorite work assignment	Hmmm. Maybe roofing but my back would only let me do it for a few hours!	Does hanging hurricane straps count?	Mixing concrete.
Defining moment as a SRC	Pushing myself out of my comfort zone to pick up a hammer; going w/out knowing a soul.	Meeting the woman who would live in one of the houses we were building. I knew right away that she would make it a great home for her and her granddaughter.	Observing the devastation in the New Orleans area and then meeting the woman who would be living in the house where I helped shingle the roof.
Biggest stretch assignment	Being asked to prepare doorways to be a certain height so the doors could be hung. Measured, cut and hammered in wood pieces. MYSELF	Ignoring my fear of heights to nail shingles on the roof.	Shingling a roof. I am (or was!) terribly afraid of heights.
Favorite SRC food	Anything Marlyne makes!	The Pasta	French toast.

Name	Tim	Marcia	Rick
Age	44	Over 50	48
Day job	Investor	Administrator for neonatal nurses and	Regional Service Rep/Trainer for Toshiba

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		neuroscience nurses associations	
Carpentry experience	Prior to SRC work, simply small projects on my house.	None!	Yep and then some.
Why I volunteered for SRC duty	I was looking for a “hands on” way to help others.	I had thought of doing this type of trip for years, but had never taken the leap. I also wanted to help rebuild New Orleans in some small way.	It’s the best way to use your vacation time.
My favorite work assignment	Anything with a hammer	painting	Vinyl Siding
Defining moment as a SRC	Receiving a Thanksgiving day “thank you” from a family we helped months prior	When we wrote messages in the door frames of the house we were working on. It was very moving to read everyone’s wishes for the family, and even more moving to see the homeowner’s reaction.	Helping set up the warehouse with LuAnn and hearing her story why she volunteered for H4H.
Biggest stretch assignment	Joining the group and not knowing anyone involved. I found the people in the group very accepting and inspiring.	Tiling a kitchen floor	Laying out a wall.
Favorite SRC food	Biscuits and gravy	It’s all good!	Red Beans and Rice made by the Brady’s