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2016

## Katherine Esquivel, Student Spotlight

University of Nebraska at Omaha

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# Katherine Esquivel

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**Thank you for all you do for your community!**

Community engagement and service are fundamental components of UNO's identity.

Katherine Esquivel exemplifies UNO's commitment to community engagement.

## Additional Resources

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Katherine Esquivel cares deeply about serving others. She founded the Habitat for Humanity UNO Student Chapter.

## Social Justice | Housing

Nearly two years ago, Katherine Esquivel and a group of Project Achieve students began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity of Omaha as a means to give back through community service. It was through this experience Katherine became inspired to start the The Habitat for Humanity UNO Student Chapter.

Katherine has led the organization in building seven homes and continues to work on three to four houses a year. The organization has raised \$1,000 and volunteered approximately 2,500 hours in support of the Habitat for Humanity cause. Serving as its President, she started the UNO Student Chapter because she wanted other students to have an opportunity to be more involved with what Habitat for Humanity was doing. "Getting involved as a student has a lot of benefits – as students we are more committed to our school and in the community."



Project Achieve Student Habitat for Humanity Partners with UNO Athletics

Katherine says that for her giving back to the community is both an obligation and something to be proud of. Katherine credits her mother for setting an example: She remembers watching her mother give food every day to an old man who lived under a bridge near their house.

Katherine also says that being involved with the UNO Student Chapter has impacted her

college experience a lot. "I never felt that I was never part of anything, and as soon as I got involved I felt the power of it because you are more involved with your school work, your school and your community." The joy she gets from seeing the reactions of the people, watching her classmates grow and seeing how grateful the families are have been extremely rewarding. At a recent Habitat for Humanity Omaha event, the organization's Executive Director spoke of a 14-year-old who was so impressed by the UNO students helping to build her home that she now plans to attend UNO.

## Habitat for Humanity Omaha

### Share Your Story:

Did you organize or participate in a community-oriented project or service? UNO wants to hear from you!

UNO is committed to community engagement in its broadest form, and wants to feature your community service story.

[Click here](#) to share your story.

This year the Habitat for Humanity UNO Student Chapter was recipient of the 2015-16 UNO Outstanding Student Organization Award. In the upcoming year, the Chapter hopes to host a Rock the Block event with all UNO students. Rock the Block is a one-day community beautification event that helps transform the face of a neighborhood.

Katherine, who now serves as the organization's Secretary, majors in Aviation Administration and minors in German. After graduating she hopes to work for an airport.

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