

Kelley HVLS Industrial Fans Help Build in Comfort at Habitat for Humanity

Company:

Comal County Habitat for Humanity (HFH)

Challenge:

Keeping the ReStore cool in the hot Texas summers without an HVAC system.

Solution:

Kelley® FUSION™ HVLS Industrial Fan

Industry:

Non-profit/Building

Geography:

New Braunfels, Texas

“With our constantly changing inventory of discounted items, many customers like to stop in often to check out the new products and our Kelley fan has allowed us to provide them an a more comfortable experience and keeps them shopping, and buying longer.”

- Kandace Tornquist, Executive Director for Comal County affiliate

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Located in the heart of Hill Country in New Braunfels, Texas, Comal County Habitat for Humanity (HFH) is staying true to the mission first developed in 1976 by Habitat's founders Millard and Linda Fuller by addressing the issues of poverty housing that were, and are still affecting millions of Americans.

Habitat for Humanity today is known worldwide for helping thousands of low-income families find new hope in the form of quality, affordable housing. Community groups have joined together to successfully tackle a significant social problem, decent housing for all just as the Fullers set out to do more than 35 years ago. To date, Habitat affiliates have built more than 500,000 homes, sheltering almost 2.5 million people around the globe.

And Comal County HFH is no exception. Since being incorporated in the state of Texas in 1993, they have successfully built twenty-eight homes in the county that are held by two-parent and single-parent families and parents of handicapped children.

“The community is really responding to the needs of the less fortunate by donating land, building materials and funds,” said Kandace Tornquist, Executive Director for Comal County affiliate. “Without the generosity of our neighbors and friends and the proceeds we receive from the ReStore, constructing these homes would just



not be possible,” she added.

The ReStore, located next to the main offices, sells building supplies donated by individuals as well as commercial and residential builders. This small retail store front, which has been in its current location since 2009, offers products such as light fixtures, electrical components and flooring materials to the community at discounted and surplus pricing. All the proceeds from the ReStore are used to finance the completion of houses for community members in need.

As a traditional non-profit, Comal County HFH and its ReStore operate on very tight budgets. And unfortunately, that budget did not include the addition of an HVAC system for the ReStore even with it being located in central Texas where the summer heat easily creeps daily into the triple digits. “The stagnant, hot air was really a problem in the ReStore, said Tornquist. “It made it difficult for customers to come

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in and shop and almost unbearable for our volunteers to work in the summer,” she added.

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“We knew we needed to do something about the heat while still remaining within our budget, that’s why we looked into multiple options,” mentioned Tornquist. The first option they looked into was to add a central air conditioning unit, but for an older warehouse with holes in the walls and overhead doors constantly open, it just wasn’t a cost effective solution. Next, they considered adding exhaust fans in the warehouse. However, this involved cutting additional holes in the building with no guarantee that the fans would be effective.

Finally, the Board of Directors considered installing an HVLS fan. And, after consulting with their local Kelley distributor, Miner Corporation, they elected to install a Kelley FUSION HVLS fan inside the ReStore to ensure a comfortable, productive work environment at a lower cost investment than an HVAC system in the heat of the Texas summers.

“We opted to install the Kelley fan for a number of reasons,” said Tornquist. “We liked the fan’s ability to help with heating and cooling the building, how quiet it is when running, that we didn’t need to do any construction, but mostly because it was such a cost effective option that works,” she added.

The Kelley FUSION HVLS fan is designed to create a comfortable environment while maintaining an energy efficient facility. While Comal



County HFH opted for the largest, 24 feet diameter fan, they are available in a large selection of sizes and power configurations that are suitable for a variety of environments. The lightweight, high grade anodized single piece aluminum blades of the Kelley fans produce a massive column of air that flows down toward the floor and outward in all directions before it is pulled back vertically toward the blades to create what is known as a horizontal floor jet. It is this floor jet that produces the circulation that provides the benefits Kelley industrial fans have become known for over the years.

By creating this slow moving breeze at 2 to 3 miles per hour, many facilities have reported a reduction in perceived temperature equivalent to 7 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit. And the Comal County Habitat ReStore is certainly experiencing that increased comfort too. “Our customers are always telling me how much more pleasurable their shopping experience has become,” mentioned Tornquist. “With our constantly changing inventory of discounted items, many customers like to stop in often to check out the new products and our Kelley fan has allowed us to provide them a more

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comfortable experience and keep them shopping, and buying longer.” she said.

The Kelley FUSION fan has been a great addition to Comal County HFH in place of an HVAC system to increase energy efficiency. It has helped to regulate the facility’s temperature year-round from floor to ceiling preventing them from realizing extreme temperature changes either hot or cold. Managing the internal temperature of the building creates the opportunity for energy savings of up to 4 percent per degree change. That is savings that can really add up for the constrained budget of this non-profit.

In addition to increasing energy efficiency and keeping customers and employees comfortable, the air circulation created by the floor jet of the Kelley fan assists in protecting non-perishables by keeping them dry. The fan has also been able to increase the air quality inside the ReStore since the slow moving column of air does not kick up dirt and debris in the aisles.

When it comes to creating a superior environment, Kelley HVLS fans are a cost effective, energy efficient addition to any large facility or warehouse including the Comal County Habitat for Humanity. It has made working conditions cooler, more comfortable and most importantly, safer for volunteers in the hot summer months.



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